

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE

REPORT 5-2010

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee held on Tuesday, July 13, 2010 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Chair, Brian Baty; Dave Hunt, Pat Maloney, Paul Pattison, Frank Pravitz, John Swart, Freewheelers, Tom Whitelaw

Staff: Phil Bergen, Public Works, Ken Forgeron, Integrated Community Planning, Penny Pitt, Administrative Assistant, Clerk's Department.

Regrets: Scott Elliott, Wade Smith

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

77. The agenda was adopted with the addition of Items for Information:
- Three foot bill passing
 - Hot Mix Program
 - NGTA PIC
 - "Heat" for Cycling

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

78. Report 4-2010

The minutes of the RNBC meeting of June 1, 2010 were approved with the following amendment on Page 25, Action Item 32 to add "The owner of the Trillium Railway is not in favour of a bicycle/pedestrian bridge **on their property**....."

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS ITEMS AND BUSINESS ARISING

79. Action Item 3 – Thorold/Fonthill Spur

The Waterfront Trust has been asked to resubmit an application and their request for provincial funding is being reconsidered.

Action Item 6 – 2012 Heritage Bicycle Route Brochure/Route

Bob Romanuk will be asked to forward his map/route to John Docker. This action item will be moved to a new action item entitled “New Tourism Provider”

Action Item 18 – St. David’s Road EA

Nothing new to report.

Action Item 24 – Hamilton to Niagara Falls Routes

Pat Maloney will be asked to forward his routes to John Docker. This action item will be moved to a new action item entitled “New Tourism Provider”

Action Item 28 – Laminated Bicycle Maps

This action item will be move to a new action item entitled “New Tourism Provider”

Action Item 32 – Hwy 406 – Port Robinson Rd to East Main St. Improvements

This item amended to read “The owner of the Trillium Railway is not in favour of a bicycle/pedestrian bridge **on their property**

Action Item 35 – Proposed Bicycle Policies

This action item is completed and will be removed. The local policies portion will be moved to another action item entitled “Proposed Bicycle Policies for Municipalities”.

Action item 59 – Volunteers for RNBC Task Forces

This action item is completed and will be removed.

Action Item 66 – NRBSWFPP STUDY

A meeting was held to identify route and location of signs. Waiting to hear from the Ministry on costing assistance.

Action Item 67 – Update RNBC Information on website

Phil Bergen to revamp outdated home page on the RNBC regional website and remove Ken Forgeron as the contact.

NEW Action Item 68 – New Tourism Provider

Action Items 6, 24, and 28 have been incorporated in this new action item.

New Action Item #69 - Proposed Bicycle Policies for Municipalities

This new Action Item has been separated from Action Item #35 Proposed Bicycle Policies.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

80. There were no Items for Consideration to report.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

81. **Engineering/Network Task Force**

- South Niagara East West Corridor Study

Phase 1 and 2 of the study has been completed and the recommend next steps (Phases 3 and 4) will be presented to the Public Works Committee on July 26, 2010.

**Moved by Paul Pattison
Seconded by Pat Maloney**

That the RNBC recommends that the Public Works Committee and Regional Council support a request to the Ministry of Transportation recommending bicycle facilities at the Mountain Road/QEW interchange supporting existing bicycle facilities along Mountain Road.

Carried

- Niagara Region Bicycle Signage and Way Finding Pilot Project

As reported under Action Item 66, a meeting was held to identify a route and location of signs. Currently the defining of costs and costing assistance is under discussion with the Ministry.

With funds from the TDM and the matching Regional contribution, signage from Jordan to St. Davids could be accomplished (approximately 40 signs). Frank Pravitz provided the committee with samples of signs that were consistent with traffic signs. Where there were no paved shoulders "Share the Road" signs could be posted. The committee discussed the cost and installation of signs and Phil Bergen will provide verification.

John Swart suggested to the committee the use of numbered routes instead of place names as used all over Holland. These signs would take up less space and cost less. These types of signs would accommodate tourists by allowing them to decide where they would like to go. Mr. Swart will bring in photos and provide a presentation at the September 14, 2010 RNBC meeting.

82. **Education and Encouragement Task Force**

- The Great Waterfront Trail Adventure Ride

Ken Forgeron reported to the committee that the now completed Great Waterfront Trail Adventure Ride had a wonderful start at Fort George with lots of press in attendance. Chair Baty and Councillor Burroughs assisted with the ribbon “cutting”. He was surprised at the age demographics being of an older group with quite a range in the quality of bikes.

- 3rd Edition of Bicycle Map

As yet there has been no further progress on the 3rd edition of the bicycle map. This item will be placed on the agenda for September 14th to discuss various options and routes to be included.

83. **Policy Task Force**

- Draft Model Municipal Bicycle Policies

The task force has met twice and provided the committee with Draft #5 of the document. They will meet with the Area Planners next week to review the document. Committee members are urged review and provide comment. The Draft #5 policies will also be sent to the Active Transportation, GCAST and the Freewheelers for comment. The next draft will be electronically sent to committee members a week before the Summer Social meeting where further discussion will be held.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

84. Pedestrian Bridge Over the Welland Recreational Canal

Councillor Baty provided the committee with an update, however the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) are in the final stages of bridge design and will not be considering accommodating pedestrians with a separate passage at this time.

85. GranFondo

Following a recent meeting, it was established that the GNCR would not be a suitable venue to hold the upcoming GranFondo Race. Since a minimum of three metres is required it has been decided to use regular roads instead including the Garden City Skyway and Provincial permission to close one lane is being pursued.

Phil Bergen has also received an email from Graham Fraser regarding the launch of a North American Cycling series for the masses in 2011. Centurion Cycling Events would like to include Niagara in the event. Mr. Fraser was referred to Jim Zeoli of the region's

Permits and Approvals Section and Betsy Foster of the Niagara Economic Development Corporation for additional tourism related information.

86. Niagara Hamilton Burlington 2010 Joint Cycling Meeting

Tom Whitelaw provided the committee with minutes of the May 15, 2010 Meeting held at the Burlington Seniors' Centre.

87. Grand Opening of the Bob Howse Trail

A former Niagara-on-the-Lake town councillor was honoured at the official opening of the Bob Howse Trail. Howse served as a councillor from 2000 until his passing in August of 2008. On Sunday, June 27th his memory was honoured with the recreational trail that extends between East and West Line and Line 1 Road being named after him was opened. Mr. Howse was the driving force on council behind multi-use trail.

88. Private Member's Bill 74 (Safe Bicycle Passing) 2010

Dave Hunt provided a synopsis of correspondence he received from the Ministry of Transportation in answer to his inquiry regarding the Private Member's Bill 74, Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Safe Bicycle Passing) 2010. He was advised that the debate on the bill will be closely followed. The Ministry already advises motorists to allow at least one metre between their cars and cyclists when passing. Under Section 148(4) of the *Highway Traffic Act*, it is an offence to pass a cyclist without providing sufficient room. The Ministry recognizes cycling as an important alternative mode of transportation with both health and environmental benefits. The Ministry continues to promote safe cycling and believe that public education is the key. Cross-curriculum resources have been developed for teachers. Regional Road Safety Planners work closely with stakeholders at the community level. The Ministry continues to ensure that bicycle policy reflects current provincial priorities.

www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/pubs/cycling-guide/index.shtml

89. Hot Mix Program

Beginning next week the following roads are scheduled for resurfacing:

- Netherby and Forkes Road – no bike lanes
- Canboro to Gee to the Community Centre in Wellandport – with bike lanes
- Taylor to Homer – with bike lanes

90. NGTA PIC #4

A Public Information Centre regarding Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study was held on June 17, 21, and 23, 2010. The purpose of the study is to provide additional transportation capacity within the Niagara to GTA Corridor. All travel modes are being considered: transit, road, rail, marine, and

air. The purpose of the PIC was to present the draft Transportation Development Strategy for public review and comment. A flyer and DVD were provided to the committee.

91. “HEAT” for Cycling

Ken Forgeron provided the committee with an explanation of “HEAT” Health Economic Assessment Tool, for cycling and commented that while it would require further investigation for local use regarding data availability to inform parameters, it appears it is possible to calculate economic savings associated with cycling.

The World Health Organization Health Economic Assessment Tool for Cycling (HEAT for cycling) estimates the economic savings resulting from reduced mortality due to cycling. It will help to answer the following question: If x people cycle y distance on most days, what is the value of the health benefits that occur as a result of the reduction in mortality due to their increased physical activity? HEAT for cycling is based on best available evidence, with parameters that HEAT for cycling can be applied in many situations, for example:

- when planning a piece of new cycle infrastructure
- to value the mortality benefits from current levels of cycling
- to provide input into more comprehensive cost-benefit analyses or prospective health impact assessments

Learn more at www.euro.who.int

92. City of Thorold Council Meeting

Chair Baty accepted an invitation to attend the City of Thorold’s Council Meeting being held on July 20th. He will provide an overview of the RNBC and to explain the positive effects of cycling and bicycle trails. The City of Thorold also asked for the committee’s support in recommending the Region of Niagara to fund a portion of the Municipal Bike Master Plan studies.

ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION

93. The following items were distributed to committee members:

- Correspondence and Bike Train Guide from Peter Lipscombe, Marketing Manager, Bike Train Initiative
- Library of Scenic Bicycle Routes in Niagara
- Article with photos and speaking notes from the official opening on June 3, 2010 of the Bike Parking Structure at the Campbell East entrance
- Joint Meeting of Bicycling Committees minutes
- RNBC Draft 5 (July 6, 2010) Model Municipal Bicycle Transportation Policies
- NGTA Public Information Centre #4 brochure from June 17-23, 2010 and DVD

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

94. At the next RNBC Summer Social Meeting, the only item for discussion will be the Model Municipal Transportation Policies.

ADJOURNMENT

The committee meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, August 24th at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Phil Bergen, 7 Vine Street, Virgil, Ontario.

Brain Baty
Chair

Penny Pitt
Administrative Assistant
Clerk's Department