

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE
Regional Headquarters -Committee Room 4

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009 - MEETING NOTES

ATTENDANCE

Brian Baty	Regional Councillor (Chair)
Phil Bergen	Niagara Region Public Works
Ken Forgeron	Niagara Region Integrated Community Planning
Dianne Coppola	Niagara Region Public Health/ICP
Dave Hunt	Public-at-Large
Paul Pattison	Public-at-Large
Scott Elliott	Niagara Region Police Service
Tom Whitelaw	Guest
Wendy Joyner	Guest
Wade Smith	Shorthills Cycling Club
Penny Pitt	Administrative Assistant

Regrets – Eric Flora, Bob Romanuk, Dave Evans, Peter Davies, Frank Pravitz, Lucy DeFazio

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Dave Hunt
Seconded by Paul Pattison

To adopt the agenda with the addition of RNBC Website and Statistics under the Engineering/Network Task force.

Carried

2. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2009

Moved by Paul Pattison
Seconded by Dave Hunt

To approve the meeting notes with the following amendments: Page 4 -Action Item 38 “Councillor Baty will meet”, instead of “met”.

Carried

3. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEM 3

Councillors Baty, Gabriel, and Timms, Mayors Dave Augustyn (Pelham) and Henry D'Angela (Thorold), Eric Flora, Adele Arbour, Ken Forgeron and Drew Semple attended a meeting on March 27, 2009 regarding the Thorold-Fonthill spur. Ken Forgeron has kept the RNBC informed over time about the Waterfront Trust's efforts to obtain funding under the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Program. The Thorold-Fonthill Spur project was seen as a high priority for potential inclusion. There is money in the GNCR Budget to go forward with this project. Bridges may be currently owned by OPG but once repaired they could be turned over to the municipalities. Mayor D'Angela (Thorold) will check with his Public Works Department to confirm who owns the bridges now. Mayor Dave Augustyn (Pelham) will explore with his Public Works Department how to link the trail to the Steve Bauer Trail and estimated costs. Drew Semple will prepare a memo to Committee and Council regarding this project. Councillor Baty will explore funding from the NPCA.

***Moved by Paul Pattison
Seconded by Dave Hunt***

That the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee endorses the building of the Thorold/Fonthill Spur Trail pending funding from Federal, Provincial, Regional and other source.

Carried

ACTION ITEM 5

Project to be deferred. Items removed.

ACTION ITEM 6

Possible third loop to be developed for the 2012 Heritage Bicycle Route.

ACTION ITEM 16

Policing and an ambassador program of the East Side Trail are progressing through the GNCR Committee.

ACTION ITEM 18

The Ministry of Transportation Liaison Committee was advised that the City of St. Catharines is unofficially developing a strategy to move forward with the St. David's Road EA and associated multi-use trail.

ACTION ITEM 23

Phil Bergen to follow up with a meeting with NFBC before May.

ACTION ITEM 24

The development of two routes from Hamilton to Niagara Falls is in progress via Peter Davies and the Niagara Freewheelers.

ACTION ITEM 27

John Rizzo has been contacted regarding the Hot Mix Program Part II. Completed and removed.

ACTION ITEM 32

MTO will provide funding for Hwy 406 – Port Robinson Road to East Main Street improvements.

ACTION ITEM 33

Completed and removed.

ACTION ITEM 34

Further updates will be provided after funding announcements are made.

ACTION ITEM 35

Proposed Bicycle Policies completed. The step involves the Planning Act process where the RNBC will be asked to participate in support.

ACTION ITEM 36

The facts sheets were produced “in house” and distributed at the Bike Show. Completed and removed.

ACTION ITEM 37

Completed and removed.

ACTION ITEM 39

Scott Elliott advised the committee that precise information was needed in order to obtain the information regarding bicycle accidents from the Traffic Encoder. Ken Forgeron stated that statistics should include where and how the accidents occurred.

ACTION ITEM 41

Ken Forgeron provided comments to the Venture Niagara’s proposed bicycle route map. Completed and removed.

ACTION ITEMS 42 AND 43

A letter has been sent to the MTO following Regional Council’s approval. Completed and removed from list.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

None to report.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- **RNBC Strategic Plan and Priority Actions**

Dianne Coppola presented the committee with a summary document that outlines the Identified Priorities for 2009 and suggested priorities for 2010-2011 for their approval. The committee collectively reviewed the priorities and suggested a few minor amendments in verbiage which will be completed. The Terms of Reference will need updating to align with the new strategic directions and task force structure. Dianne has offered to work on the revisions and Ken, Frank and Dave offered to assist. Some consolidation of priorities will occur in the coming weeks.

***Moved by Dave Hunt
Seconded by Paul Pattison***

That the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee supports the finalization of the RNBC Task Force Priorities for 2009-2011 as amended.

Carried.

In light of the committee's approval of the Task Force priorities for 2009-2010, Dianne proposed a change in task force structure to align with the priority areas. There was some discussion about the importance of "enforcement" as part of a comprehensive approach that supports/encourages cycling. It was noted that the RNBC will continue to advocate for the need for adequate and appropriate enforcement but does not have the ability to undertake enforcement as a committee function. The link between Education and Encouragement was noted as a strength and would enable the committee to more effectively mobilize its volunteers under this proposed structural change. After further discussion the following motion was made.

***Moved by Dave Hunt
Seconded by Paul Pattison***

That the RNBC approve the merger of the Education and Enforcement, and the Encouragement Task Forces into one Task Force called the "Education and Encouragement" Task Force which will be responsible for overseeing the task and priorities identified under Objective 3 of the Strategic Plan.

Carried.

It was noted that the Terms of Reference for the RNBC will need updating to align with the new strategic directions and task force structure. Dianne has offered to work on the revisions and Ken, Frank and Dave offered to assist. This group will bring a revised draft for committee review at the May meeting. **(NEW ACTION ITEM 46)**

- RNBC Budget (ACTION ITEM 38)

Councillor Baty will report on this at the next meeting on May, 14, 2009.

- Niagara hosts Joint Meeting of Bicycling Committees – May 30, 2009

Niagara will host the Joint Annual Meeting with Hamilton, Burlington, Haldimand County, Waterloo and the City of Guelph which will be held on May 30, 2009. The venue has yet to be determined but several have been suggested such as St. Catharines, Wainfleet, and possibly the Lock 3 Museum. Approximately 20 people will be in attendance. Web based mapping tools such as the Niagara Scenic Loop Rides Inventory and the 1812 Routes developed by Bob Romanuk will be showcased. A team is needed to organize the meeting, an agenda needs to be prepared and a bike route planned for the afternoon activity. Ideas from the committee are welcomed. **(NEW ACTION ITEM 47)**

- Candidate RNBC Members

Candidate RNBC Members Lucy DeFazio, Tom Whitelaw, Marc Hansen and Wade Smith were encouraged to submit a letter to the Chair Baty requesting membership on the RNBC Committee. **(NEW ACTION ITEM 48)**

6. TASK FORCE REPORTS

Engineering /Network Task Force

- Phil Bergen informed the committee that staff was preparing a report that would include findings and recommendations regarding Bicycle Route Development in St. Catharines. The report will go to the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee and then to the Integrated Community Planning and Public Works Committee for their approval. The report will be reviewed by the Network Task Force before approval.
- A consultant has been hired to undertake the study of the Hartzel Road/Merritt Street Operational and Safety Review Class EA – City of St. Catharines.
- AECOM has been hired to undertake the study of the Niagara Falls Transportation Master Plan. The Project Initiation meeting will take place on April 27, 2009 but a completion date has not been determined.
- O'Reilly's Bridge (PWA 22-2009) will remain closed until the bridge can be replaced with a new structure.
- Ken Forgeron provided the committee with a copy of the Niagara Regional website statistics which included the activity directly for the RNBC website. A meeting is scheduled with Corporate Communications to discuss what can/cannot be hosted on the RNBC website.

- Phil Bergen reported on a study that Marshal Macklin Monaghan is doing for MTO to assess issues where Provincial highways cross local and Regional bicycling networks. As results become available they will be reported to the Committee. This is significant across southern Ontario particularly at interchange locations.

Education and Enforcement Task Force

None to report.

Policy Task Force

- Niagara to GTA Corridor reply from RNBC to MTO

With comments from members, Dave Hunt prepared an extensive reply to the Ministry of Transportation in follow up to their presentation to the RNBC on February 19, 2009. A memorandum (dated March 24, 2009) Item PWC 16-2009, respecting Niagara to GTA Corridor, Planning and EA Study – Phase 1 Incorporating Active Transportation and Cycling (Appendix 1 and 2), was received and the recommendations approved at the March 25, 2009 meeting of the ICP-PWC and then ratified at Council on March 26, 2009. The letter and attached recommendations was then sent to the MTO.

- Wine Country Policies and Regional Bicycling Policies

Comments have been provided on the Wine Country Policies. Ken Forgeron reported that Drew Semple recently attended a meeting in which Niagara-on-the-Lake was not supportive of portions of the Wine Country Policies. They would like the policy to reference that cycling and agriculture activity to be respectful of each other. This point should be kept in mind as we finalize the new Regional Bicycling Policies.

- Ken Forgeron reported on a meeting with Quartek consultants who are doing preliminary work for Brock University on bicycling master plan. Ken and Eric provided information on the Regional network, issues of access to Brock (e.g. St. David's Road EA), proposals for bike racks on busses, trail connections via 12 Mile Creek Valley, etc. When further details are available they will be reported to the RNBC.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Toronto International Bicycle Show

Members who attended the Toronto International Bike Show stated the weather was much better and the show much busier than last year with Saturday morning being the busiest time period. It appeared that there were fewer non-profit groups in attendance but the retail section was busy as always. Although attendance was down on Sunday, there was a steady stream of people and map sales reached \$900.00. The map was well liked, although the display needs updating, and the laptop proved to be very useful and beneficial to show the interactive web-based mapping of routes to many interested people.

There was a lot of interest in the Bike Train as well as the off road trail information. The one page handout sheet that was produced in house was well received. Ken thanked all of the volunteers for their assistance in this very successful outing.

- TDM Grant

The committee was apprised that Haliburton County with the help of the Ontario Transportation Demand Management Municipal Grant Program will launch a “Share the Road” campaign to promote commuter cycling and safety among both cyclists and drivers. Haliburton is one of thirteen municipalities across the province to receive funding. This program was created to promote greener transportation alternatives, help get people out of their cars and onto the bikes, and encourage safety for everyone who shares the road. The expected long term impacts will include improved public health through increased physical activity, reduction in short vehicle trips and improved quality of life for all.

8. INFORMATION FOR DISTRIBUTION

The following items were distributed amongst the committee:

- Niagara Region website statistics sheet – mapping very popular
- Toronto to Niagara Bike Train Guide 2009
- Great Lake to Lake Classic 50 km Mountain Bike Event – Sunday, June 21, 2009
- Race the Hood Race Course Venue – August 2, 2009
- Magazine Article – “Legal Paper – On Your Bike” – Municipal responsibility
- Canadian Press article – “Health Reporter” – Health benefits of cycling
- Pedal Magazine article – “Cycling Tour”
- Welland Tribune article – “Niagara Peddles Pedalling”
- Greater Niagara Circle Route flyer – “Niagara is for cyclists” – Pedal magazine article
- Niagara Freewheelers – Public Information Meeting Apr 9, 2009 – all welcome

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Items for Consideration

- Workplan in draft for signage and wayfing
- Draft Terms of Reference

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Pat Maloney has taken a leave of absence for this year with hopes of returning in 2010.
- May 28, 2009 – Toronto Bike Summit

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 14, 2009 - Regional Niagara Headquarters - Committee Room 4

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Brian Baty
Chair

Penny Pitt
Administrative Assistant
Clerk's Department