

**REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE**  
**Regional Headquarters - Cafeteria**

**THURSDAY, May 21, 2009 - MEETING NOTES**

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**ATTENDANCE**

Brian Baty	Regional Councillor (Chair)
Phil Bergen	Niagara Region Public Works
Dianne Coppola	Niagara Region Public Health/ICP
Ken Forgeron	Niagara Region ICP
Marc Hansen	Public-at-Large
Dave Hunt	Public-at-Large
Ben Lyon	Brock University
Gary Murphy	Garden City Alliance for Sustainable Transportation
Paul Pattison	Public-at-Large
Penny Pitt	Administrative Assistant
Frank Pravitz	Public-at-Large, MTO
Bob Romanuk	Public-at-Large/N.F.Trails & Bikeways Committee
Tom Whitelaw	Public-at-Large

Regrets – Peter Davies, Wade Smith, Scott Elliott, Dave Evans

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

*That the Agenda be adopted with the addition under Items for Information –  
Public Health Representation.*

**Carried.**

**2. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES OF APRIL 1, 2009**

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

*That the Meeting Notes of April 1, 2009 be adopted as revised with the  
correction of minor typographical errors.*

**Carried.**

### **3. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS**

#### **ACTION ITEM 3**

The portion regarding a meeting with Mayors of Pelham and Thorold was completed and deleted.

#### **ACTION ITEM 16**

Policing and an ambassador program for the East Side Trail was progressing through the GNCR. Completed and removed

#### **ACTION ITEM 17**

The installation of the bicycle shelter will occur in mid June according to Regional facilities staff.

#### **ACTION ITEM 23**

Phil Bergen has made arrangements to speak with Brent Gallagher next week.

#### **ACTION ITEM 38**

Chair Baty had a brief discussion with the CAO and will meet next week with him to discuss the significant cost areas for RNBC initiatives. i.e. 3<sup>rd</sup> printing and lamination of the map also bicycle road signage.

#### **ACTION ITEM 48**

Tom Whitelaw and Marc Hansen, RNBC candidate members, introduced themselves and provided the committee with their backgrounds and interest in becoming members of the RNBC. A motion was made to accept Tom Whitelaw, Marc Hansen and Dave Evans as RNBC members and can be found on Page 5 of these notes. The action item was completed and removed.

### **4. BUSINESS ARISING**

None to report.

### **5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **Workplan for Regional Signage and Wayfinding**

Frank Pravitz provided the committee with a draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Regional Niagara Bicycle Network Signage and Wayfinding Plan and a map depicting the proposed sight for locating signage. The purpose of the initiative is to develop guidelines and a plan for the implementation of bicycle signage and wayfinding across the Niagara Region in compliance with the Regional Niagara Bikeways Master Plan. The objectives of the initiative are to primarily provide cyclists in the Niagara Region appropriate directional signage and road markings and secondarily to provide cyclists with a greater presence among vehicular drivers and general population. Public Works

staff and RNBC members will review the Terms of Reference and provide comments directly to Frank Pravitz. Over the next few years, approximately \$100,000 would be required for such signage.

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

***That the RNBC supports the initiation of a signage and wayfinding program to be developed through a design stage and the review of existing and proposed on-road facilities and off-road trails and that this design phase be completed through consultant and/or co-op student support. Following this design phase that an implementation plan be developed for a multi-year program that will provide common standards for signage in all municipalities in Niagara.***

***Carried.***

Gary Murphy from GCAST, noted the following roads that are to be provided with bicycling facilities. Some have been completed while others are pending. Some are roads Regional Roads within St Catharines which are not on the Regional Bike Network. A colour map also was provided and will be distributed at the next meeting.  
**(NEW ACTION ITEM 49)**

Completed Roads or about to be:

- Scott St to be finished this year from Lake to Niagara
- Vine, From Scott to Carlton to be completed this year
- Welland, Dieppe to Cushman
- Carlisle, The Parkway to King
- St Paul, Ontario to Court, (Sharrows)
- Bunting, Lakeshore to Roehampton
- Pelham, Glendale to St Paul West
- Linwell, Bunting to Geneva
- Vine, Scott to Parnell
- Sharrows on Oakdale and Geneva
- Lakeport, Ontario to Lake

Future Years:

- Lake, Lakeshore to Ontario
- Geneva, Lakeshore to Church
- Vine, Lakeshore to Niagara
- Grantham, Linwell to Welland
- Welland Canal Parkway, Bunting to Thorold limit
- Hartzel, Queenston to Oakdale
- Merritt, Oakdale to Thorold limit
- 1<sup>st</sup> Louth/Erion, Pelham to Martindale

- Eastchester, Queenston to Bunting
- Queenston, Geneva to Eastchester
- Church, Queenston to Ontario (Sharrows)
- St Paul, Ontario to Geneva (Sharrows)
- King, Ontario to Church (Sharrows)
- James, St Paul to Lake (Sharrows)
- Carlisle, Church to McGuire
- 3 St Louth 8<sup>th</sup> Louth to Lakeshore,
- 3 Ave Louth, 1<sup>st</sup> Louth, to 7<sup>th</sup> St. Louth

Regional Roads:

- Welland , QEW to 406
- 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Louth 406 to 1<sup>st</sup> Louth
- Carlton, Lake to Ontario
- Ontario, Carlton to Westchester
- Main Street into Port Dalhousie
- Queenston, the railway to St Paul
- St Paul from Ontario to 1 St Louth (Sharrows where necessary)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> St Louth, Lakeshore to 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Louth
- Martindale, Lakeshore to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Louth
- Louth, Pelham to 4th Ave Louth
- Glendale, 406 to QEW
- Westchester
- St Paul, Glenridge East
- Glenridge, Lockhart to Brock, (probably Sharrows)

The focus has been on roads that require little or no structural change, mostly line painting and signs or road diets; sharrows where extensive rework is required. Bike lanes to be continued through intersections. St Catharines has endorsed these requests and will look after removing parking on municipal streets only.

Proposed Policy Plan Amendment: Revised Bicycling Policies

Ken Forgeron provided the committee with a copy of the revised Proposed Policy Plan Amendment. The revisions were reviewed amongst the committee and will be included with the report going to the ICP-PWC and TSSC in mid June.

***Moved by Bob Romanuk***

***Seconded by Dave Hunt***

***That the proposed revisions to the bicycle transportation policies be supported for inclusion in proposed Policy Plan Amendment 5-2009.***

***Carried***

### Joint Meeting of Bicycling Committees

Ken Forgeron reminded the committee of the upcoming Annual Joint Meeting of Bicycling Committees on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 a.m. sharp. It is the RNBC's turn to host this meeting. Representatives from Hamilton, Burlington, Halton, Waterloo, Guelph and Haldimand County have been invited. Peter Leyser will be coordinating the event. Funds for refreshments were needed and a motion was made in favour of that request. Ken indicated that he would invite Mayor Brian McMullan and Minister Jim Bradley (MTO) to attend.

The event will take place at St. Catharines City Hall at the corner of Church and James streets. The meeting will run from 9 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch at a local restaurant and then a bicycle ride (about 2 hours long) to showcase some of our local/Regional projects. Submissions from each committee of their highest priority agenda items were requested.

***Moved by Paul Pattison  
Seconded by Bob Romanuk***

***That up to \$100.00 be provided by the Regional Public Works for refreshments at the Annual Joint Meeting of Bicycling Committees.***

**Carried.**

### 2008 Bicycle Collision Statistics/Assessments

Phil Bergen reported that Transportation Department is able to produce various collision reports from the new system. Bike related collisions which have occurred on municipal roads may be extracted as well. Requests for collision summary reports should be made to Petar Vujic, Traffic Studies Supervisor. Scott Elliott will be informed so that some analysis can be conducted this year. **(NEW ACTION ITEM 50)**

### New RNBC Members – Request for Consideration

As reported in the updated Action Item 48, following bios provided by Tom Whitelaw and Marc Hansen, the following motion was made:

***Move by Bob Romanuk  
Seconded by Dave Hunt***

***That the RNBC formally accept Tom Whitelaw, Marc Hansen and Dave Evans as members of the RNBC.***

***Carried***

### Management and future directions of the RNBC Website

Bob Romanuk and Ken Forgeron apprised the committee that Paul Taylor from the Region's IT department would be assisting in discussions and work on reconfiguring the RNBC website. Links to bike shops cannot be included on the website because it contravenes the Regional Policy. A task force is needed to create an RNBC website. A list of volunteers will be sent to Bob Romanuk to arrange a meeting at the earliest possible time. The initial list of possible members will include Bob Romanuk, as lead, Chair Baty, Paul Taylor, Dave Evans, Scott Elliott, James Profetti and John Docker. A status report will be prepared. **(NEW ACTION ITEM 51)**

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

***That a RNBC Website Ad Hoc Task Force be formed to discuss the reconfiguration of the RNBC and Regional Bicycling websites. .***

***Carried***

## **6. TASK FORCE REPORTS**

### Engineering Task Force

Phil Bergen advised the committee that the Transportation Environmental Study Report for Highway 406 improvements that describes the preferred design and changes to the original EA approved (1985) was completed. For a 30 day period starting May 20 until June 18, 2009 the report would be available at specific locations noted, for review and comment.

Report PWP 24-2009, Project Activity Report, Transportation Services, is available for review of the status of active projects and studies.

### Education and Enforcement Task Force

There was nothing to report as of this date. Dianne Coppola urged members to become involved before it would be necessary for a full recruitment procedure.

### Policy Task Force

Ken Forgeron reported that in the fall model local bicycling policies would be developed by the Policy Task Force for use in local Official Plans **(NEW ACTION ITEM 52)**

## **7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### Progress on Revising RNBC Terms of Reference

Dianne Coppola reported that to date there had been two meetings for revisions to the TOR. A rough draft was close to completion and would be soon finalized to send out to the RNBC members for review.

### Final Strategic RNBC Priority Actions

The finalized edition of Identified Priorities for 2009 and Suggested Priorities for 2010-2011 was distributed amongst the committee. This final version will be sent to the ICP-PWC for approval and then proceed to Regional Council for ratification. **(NEW ACTION ITEM 53)**

### RNBC Budget Discussions

As reported in the updated Action Item 38, Chair Baty had discussion with the CAO to be followed by a meeting next week to discuss a budget needed to facilitate RNBC initiatives.

### Bob Howse Trail

The committee was provided with a copy of a newspaper article announcing the final phase of construction between Concession 4 and Line 1 with a completion date of 2010. A commemorative plaque recognizing Councillor Bob Howse's commitment to the recreational trail along Niagara Stone Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake has been recommended as part of a rest area in front of the Niagara United Mennonite Church.

### Bike Train and Go Train

Ken Forgeron reported that a limited number (approximately 2-4 bikes per car) would be allowed on the GO Train. Pilot projects are finalized for service to the Windsor and Cornwall areas. Ambassadors at these locations will be helpful with directions. A request was made for the RNBC and Freewheelers support at the Niagara Falls and St. Catharines stations donning Bike Train T-Shirts. The Region will be installing directional signs from Niagara Falls Station, Niagara River Recreation Trail and the Waterfront Trail. Marc Hansen will post this information on the Short Hills Cycling Club forum. **This initiative will enhance, not replace, the very successful Bike Train Project.**

### Thorold/Fonthill Spur Trail Proposal

The application for funding of the Thorold/Fonthill Spur Trail has been sent to the Waterfront Trust. This will be part of a thirty project application under a federal infrastructure stimulus program (Recreational Infrastructure Canada).

### Trails by Rails

Frank Pravitz informed the committee of a vision to plan for, pursue and ultimately construct (in stages) a high quality paved trail with appropriate lighting and landscaping similar to the Welland Canal Trail. It would run possibly from Thorold / Welland Canal to Port Dalhousie using a combination of parks (decommissioned and existing), rail corridors and the old canal corridor. This specific portion of the trail provides opportunities to connect the Welland Canal trail to central St. Catharines, and would provide trail connections across Clifford Creek Park, Glengarry Park, Mountain Locks Park, Valley View Park, Trapper Leo Park, and old Merritton. This opportunity can exist and even be funded largely from upper tier governments, but there must be a plan and City of St. Catharines backing. He stated his view is that there is a real opportunity for a win-win situation, if the City / GCAST / the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee can express a vision for this corridor to redevelop it using the 'Trails with Rails' concept.

The 'Trails with Rails' concept is similar to the Rails to Trails concept, but that instead, a trail runs along side an active railway corridor. Railway corridors, even if they are active, make great connective corridors.

The first reaction by most people is in regards to safety. A trail along side a railway is much safer than cycling on a road because you don't interact with traffic. Safety can be enhanced by an appropriate chain linked fence. For the railway, although it attracts pedestrian and cyclist users, an official trail provides legitimate 'eyes' on the corridor (joggers, walkers, cyclists). This keeps the sort of people who perpetrated arson at the Abbot Street trestle away to a remote area. Building a trail alongside the railway can also enhance long-term protection of the corridor, for both recreational and economic purposes. The key to success and safety is a well design, paved trail system. Two links were provided to demonstrate the safety issues.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/luton/sets/72157604060901425/>

[http://www.kelowna.ca/iNews/scripts/nws002.cfm?News\\_ID=1210&Category=CURRENT](http://www.kelowna.ca/iNews/scripts/nws002.cfm?News_ID=1210&Category=CURRENT)

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

***That the City of St. Catharines incorporate consideration for linear multiuse trails along active and decommissioned rail corridors and parklands within their long and short term transportation strategy and plans.***

***Carried***

#### Public Health Representation

Dianne Coppola informed the committee that she would be stepping down as the Public Health (PH) staff representative for the RNBC effective immediately in light of her secondment to Integrated Community Planning and the nature of her work in that department. She noted she would like the opportunity to join the Policy Task Force as it aligned more specifically with some of her work. Dianne and Councillor Baty met with Ellen Wodchis, Director for the Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention Division to discuss the level of PH support required/expected and there was recognition that alternate ways of providing targeted and relevant support to the RNBC needed to be considered. Councillor Baty commented on the importance of assessing staff support for the various regional committees given the workload associated both with committee work and their other duties/assignments.

Dianne noted that Ellen was consulting with the CDIP managers about how CDIP can continue to support the RNBC and that PH support may be directed to Task Force level initiatives rather than the committee as a whole; however no decision had been made yet and she had no indication when that decision might be made. As one example, Dianne noted that PH could offer some limited consultation services on volunteer recruitment (e.g. a short presentation of methods/tools and limited consultation advice) if that would be of help when RNBC is ready to undertake a recruitment drive for new members (both committee level and task force level).

Dave indicated Dianne's expertise would be welcome on the Policy Task Force. Councillor Baty thanked Dianne for her work on the committee over the past few years, particularly regarding the strategic planning process.

#### **8. INFORMATION FOR DISTRIBUTION**

The following items were distributed to the committee:

1. "Bob Howse Trail" –Niagara Advance article
2. "Cycling Mistakes" –St. Catharines Standard Article
3. "GO Trains coming to Niagara Falls"
4. "A Bike Rack for every GO Bus"
5. "Weekend GO Trains coming to St. Catharines and Niagara Falls" – St. Catharines Standard article
6. "How to build a better city: It's child's play" – Toronto Star article

7. "Message to muggers: "These are our trails"" – St. Catharines Standard article
8. "Shoppers on bikes good for business" – Star article
9. "Mobility at the Human Scale" – Urban Leadership Meeting
10. Bike Train 2009 Schedule

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**10. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

1. Map of Proposed On –Road Bicycle Route enhancements in St. Catharines  
- provided by G. Murphy of GCAST
2. RNBC Terms of Reference
3. Regional Bikeways Master Plan – Review

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

June 25, 2009 -Regional Niagara Headquarters - Committee Room 4 – 7:00 p.m.  
(Possible Summer Social Meeting)

Meeting Adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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Brian Baty  
Chair

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Penny Pitt  
Administrative Assistant  
Clerk's Department