

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE

REPORT 2-2010

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Chair, Brian Baty; Mark Hansen, Dave Hunt, , Paul Pattison, Frank Pravitz, Bob Romanuk, Wade Smith, Tom Whitelaw

Staff: Phil Bergen, Public Works Department, Scott Elliott, Niagara Regional Police Services, Ken Forgeron, Integrated Community Planning, Penny Pitt, Administrative Assistant, Clerk's Department.

Regrets: Peter Davies, Niagara Freewheelers, Dave Evans, Pat Maloney

Guests: Janice Makepeace, Town of Lincoln, Tom McDonough, Short Hill Cycling Club; Jeff Tweedy, Grimsby Green, Niagara West Circle Route

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

19. The Agenda was adopted with the addition of items under Items for Consideration:
- Mountain Road Roundabout
 - RNBC Website
 - Complete Streets Forum

Also additions under Items for Information:

- 2010 Bike Show
- Partnership possibilities

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

20. The minutes of the January 19, 2010 meeting Report 1-2010, were approved as recorded.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS ITEMS AND BUSINESS ARISING

21. Action Item 3 – Thorold/Fonthill Spur

In early 2010, the Province announced that no funding would be provided. However, the Waterfront Trust (D. Crombie) will be meeting with the Premier to reconsider this decision.

Action Item 6 – 2012 Heritage Bicycle Route Brochure/Route

The final route and cue sheet to be incorporated on web based route mapping tool.

Action Item 17 – Proposed Bicycle/Transit Shelter

A graphic is being designed and printed.

Action Item 35 – Proposed Bicycle Policies

This Action Item has been reinstated as the local policy development portion is not completed.

Action Item 51 – RNBC Website

Bob Romanuk reported on the status of website reconfiguration and expenditure issues.

Action Item 57 – Feeder Canal Road Bike Lanes

A staff report is to be prepared regarding the Feeder Canal Road bike lane funding request by Wainfleet.

Action Item 59 – Volunteers for RNBC Task Forces

An updated list will be sent out again to all members.

PRESENTATION

22. Niagara West Circle Route (NWCR)

Niagara West Circle Route is a subcommittee of the Grimsby Green Committee. Jeff Tweedy, Cycling and Route Advisor of this committee provided the RNBC committee with a presentation. The presentation showcased the development of two new routes in west Niagara that would connect with the smaller trail systems in Grimsby and be at least 100 miles in length. The E-W loop would travel over to Port Weller, south to Thorold, Short Hills and Smithville. The N-S loop would travel west of the Welland Canal.

Following the presentation the advantages of routes tying in with the Bicycle Master Plan was discussed. With the E-W and N-S loops, a very large area would be covered and the routes could be included on the library of scenic bicycle routes. Some “bailout” options needed to be added along with connections to Hamilton and the War of 1812 celebrations.

Mr. Tweedy expressed the NWCR committee's desire to have a representative of Niagara Region's municipalities participate in future meetings that are held the second Tuesday of every month. The RNBC committee suggested that since Pat Maloney resided in the Grimsby area he would be a good choice. Mr. Tweedy was provided with Mr. Maloney's contact inform and also a copy of the Proposed Wayfinding and Signage Program.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

23. Welland Avenue, St. Catharines PIC

A Public Information Centre #3 will be held on March 3, 2010 from 5-7 p.m. at the St. Catharines City Hall. Although not ideal for cycling, a 4.25 shared use lane and 3.75 centre turning lane will be constructed between Niagara Street and the Q.E.W. Landscaping will be prohibitive unless the boulevard is narrowed. Paul Pattison would like a dashed bike lane and one lane in either direction which will allow cars to pass on the right if cars are turning left into commercial areas.

24. Mountain Road/Mewburn Road Roundabout

A roundabout at the Mountain Road/Mewburn Road intersection will be constructed in the Spring of 2011. Traffic is slowed to an average 42 km/h through roundabouts and bicycling in them will require education. In the past The Ministry of Transportation has not supported bicycling facilities over the Q.E.W and it is uncertain whether space will be provided for cyclists across the QEW. However, Project Manager Steve Brant of Delcan will be making contact with the MTO to seek further input from the MTO prior to final design.

25. Complete Streets Forum

Ken Forgeron has been asked to be part of a panel on bicycle tourism during the Complete Streets Forum taking place on April 23, 2010 at The Fairmont Royal York in Toronto. The Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation (TCAT) third annual active transportation conference is being organized by the Complete Streets Forum executive committee which includes Nancy Smith Lea, TCAT's Program Director, Justin Lafontaine; Project Director of the Bike Train Initiative and Sean Wheldrake, Bicycle Promotions Coordinator in Transportation Services at the City of Toronto.

A suggestion was made that a member of the RNBC committee to attend with the registration fee (\$175 early bird - \$275 after March 22/10) being covered by the Public Works – Transportation Division. The link to the Complete Streets Forum is <http://torontocat.ca/main/node/707> to find more information or to register.

26. RNBC Website

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26. RNBC Website

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Bob Romanuk apprised the committee that there were still some concerns regarding using the “Bicycling in Niagara” website as a launching site to cycling in Niagara or the RNBC website. Mr. Romanuk demonstrated the connection to the “Bicycling in Niagara” website to the committee and during discussion the following points were made:

- the site should attract two different audiences
- should the site be made to assimilate the Region’s home page
- a neutral split page is recommended
- enhancement by using a “washed out” bicycle photo in the background
- additional expenses incurred will be \$15-\$20 per year if advertising can be utilized on the split page (i.e. bicycle shops, etc.)

A meeting for further discussion will be held involving Regional Communications staff Denise Papaiz, Connie McCutcheon, Mr. Romanuk and Chair Baty. **(ACTION ITEM 51)**

TASK FORCE REPORTS

27. Engineering/Network Task Force

- Woodlawn Road, Welland, Update

Phil Bergen apprised the committee that at the Integrated Community Planning meeting on February 23, 2010, Mr. Woodhouse made a presentation where he raised concerns about the exclusion of Woodlawn Road from the Bikeways Master Plan. ICP Committee received his presentation and recommended:

“That Mr. Woodhouse’s concerns respecting the exclusion of Woodlawn Road from the Bikeways Master Plan be forwarded to the Public Works Committee, Transportation Strategy Steering Committee and the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee.”

Mr. Woodhouse’s oral report on behalf of Niagara College’s supported Policy Plan Amendment 5-2009 contained in ICP 9-2010. However, Mr. Woodhouse did express concerns respecting the exclusion of Woodlawn Road from the Bikeways Master Plan. He indicated that a section of Woodlawn Road between Niagara Street and First Avenue does not have bicycle facilities, which in his view is in contravention of Proposed Policy 9.F.4 ii – *Consideration can be given to providing facilities on other roadways which are off the network. These opportunities must be evaluated from economic, social and environmental standpoints.*

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

That this committee strongly supports the provision of bicycling facilities on Woodlawn Road.

Carried

Kalar Road, Niagara Falls, Ontario

The City of Niagara Falls Council supported the continuation of bike lanes on Kalar Road.

28. Education and Encouragement Task Force

Scott Elliott reported to the committee that this group still needed to meet, elect a chair and list and prioritize projects.

Policy Task Force

Dave Hunt apprised the committee that the Policy Task Force group had met on February 25, 2010 and reported the key accomplishments to date:

- Reviewed policy themes that had been drafted from 31 sub-titles
- A first cut was made to determine which ones should be maintained as stand alone, which ones could be combined, identified any gaps
- Process of summarizing that effort, and allocating how the consolidation can be shared among the work group
- Task Force is attempting to develop a reasonable list of objectives and policies
- Stand alone themes to date (7)
 1. Lane Use Development
 2. Network
 3. Transit
 4. Parking and Trip End Facilities
 5. Leadership Role
 6. Tourism/Economics
 7. Implementation

Frank Pravitz has dropped out of this group to devote his efforts to the Network Task Force. Remaining members Tom Whitelaw, Dianne Coppola, Ken Forgeron and Dave Hunt will meet again on April 13 in the afternoon and hope to present a draft to the RNBC committee in the evening at the RNBC meeting.

At her request, Janice Makepeace, representative from the Town of Lincoln, will be provided with a copy of the draft model local bicycling policies for review. The Town of Lincoln is in the process of an Official Plan Update and she felt the document would be beneficial.

Chair Baty requested the draft model local bicycling policies be presented to the Integrated Community Planning Committee and the local Active Transportation Committee.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

29. Update on "Welcome Cyclists" Network Workshops

Phil Bergen, Frank Pravitz and Dave Hunt reported that the three workshops were quite successful. They were well attended, well organized and professionally done. Businesses seemed to be quite interested in on-road as well as off-road bicycle tourism. All attendees received a Network Members Tool Kit and reference guide that contained valuable information.

The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) is to assume the responsibility for Regional Tourism initiatives over the next three years. Committee members agreed that a presentation from the NPC would be helpful. Bob Romanuk will contact the key players and extend an invitation to attend the next RNBC meeting.

31. Update on St. David's Road Pedestrian/Cycling Study

On February 9, 2010 a meeting was held with attendees from the Thorold Active Transportation Advisory Committee, Ministry of Transportation, City of St. Catharines, City of Thorold and Niagara Region. Discussions took place regarding alternative lane bridge structural issues as the preferred centre lane path was not acceptable. The MTO presented six design alternatives to the group for discussion purposes. The group will be reviewing the plans and comments will be presented back to MTO. The City St Catharines will be the main point of contact for the MTO

32. 2010 Bike Show Update

Tom Whitelaw has offered to volunteer at the Bike Show being held on the upcoming weekend. A final revised list of volunteers and their scheduled times will be sent out again.

33. Partnership Possibilities

Dave Hunt informed the committee of a short, entertaining, and informative film (6.5 minutes), produced by the Welland Canals Parkway: Thorold Task Group, features the Thorold section of the Welland Canals Trail as well as the Greater Niagara Circle Route. The film is quite well done and produced as a promotional effort to advertise the Greater Niagara Circle Route, Friendship Trail, and Welland Canal Trails. The film was produced by Marian Landry and Dale Robinson and was funded in part by Niagara Economic Development Corporation and Healthy Living Niagara. The film has been posted to Utube and can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/tourismniagara#p/u/1/sSn5T-rRXZs>

ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION

34. The following items were distributed:

- An article entitled “About [murmur]” – a documentary oral history project that records stories and memories told about specific geographic locations.
- An article entitled “Walk or Bus?”
- A St. Catharines Standard article entitled “Niagara gives transportation policies a two-wheeled tune-up
- An article regarding “Complete Streets Forum: April 22-23”

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Frank Pravitz requested the Hot Mix Program for 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the committee adjourned at 10:15 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 in Committee Room 4.

Brain Baty
Chair

Penny Pitt
Administrative Assistant
Clerk’s Department