

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING  
COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 15, 2008  
Regional Headquarters – Campbell West  
Committee Room #4  
7:00 p.m.



In Attendance:

Brian Baty	-	Regional Councillor (Chair)
Ken Forgeron	-	Regional Planning Services Department
Dianne Coppola	-	Regional Public Health Department
Barb Henderson	-	Mayor, Township of Wainfleet/Regional Councillor
Dave Hunt	-	Public-at-Large/Cycle Ontario Alliance
Bob Romanuk	-	Public-at-Large/N.F.Trails & Bikeways Committee
Pat Maloney	-	Public-at-Large
Peter Davies	-	Public-at-Large/Niagara Freewheelers
Paul Pattison	-	Public-at-Large
Tim Whittle	-	Niagara Region Police Service
Dave Evans	-	Guest
Pam Gilroy	-	Regional Clerk

Regrets

Frank Pravitz

MTO

1. Adoption of Agenda

Adopted with the addition of the following items: EAs for Fourth Avenue, Ontario Street and Lakeshore Road (all in St. Catharines) ; the Haldimand County Trails Plan; opening of the Erie Beach section of the GNC Route and the St. Catharines Cultural Clusters Bike Strategy.

2. Introduction of Invited Guests (Alternate Brock University Representation)

Ken Forgeron advised that Iain Glass, who had attended the previous meeting on April 3, had indicated that he had two other persons who were interested in attending these meetings and the three of them would like to participate on a rotating basis. He will follow-up, as none attended. (Action Item)

3. Review of Previous Meeting Notes (April 3, 2008)

Two revisions noted:

- Page 3 – Reconstitution of the RNBC, line should read “Ken Forgeron suggested that this issue be deferred until after the discussions on the Strategic Areas of Focus have been completed.”
- Page 5, second line should end after “...of their bike.” And the following words should be deleted – “And send it to the NRP Service.”

***Motion:***

***To approve RNBC Meeting Notes of April 3, 2008 as revised.***

***Moved By: Paul Pattison***

***Seconded By: Dave Hunt***

***Carried***

**4. Review of Previous Action Items (April 3, 2008)**

One addition to the Action Items list (Item 2 above).

**5. Business Arising**

Committee Chair Baty advised that the proposed Joint Meeting of the RNBC (Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee) and the GNCR (Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee) to discuss the strategic plan, and possible Sustainable Transportation Co-ordinator, was scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 2008 in Committee Room 3.

Ken Forgeron discussed the differences between the mandate of the RNBC and the GNCR Committee and suggested that key people from the Planning, Public Works and Public Health Departments should also be included in the meeting. All departments will benefit from reviewing their inter-connectivity to better clarify and implement their future plans. It was agreed that the joint meeting should be delayed until Wednesday, July 16, 2008 with Mary Balfour, Regional Corporate Training Officer, acting as facilitator. Ken Forgeron will followup with co-ordinating the arrangements for the meeting and Dianne Coppola agreed to contact Mary Balfour. **(Action Item)**

Committee Chair Baty requested that Committee members consider a 5:00 p.m. start to the meetings.

**6. Items for Consideration**

**RNBC Strategic Planning Process – Action Plan for “Area of Focus #3”**

- Merge bullets 3, 4 and 11 as they all relate to the Bicycling Maps.
- Amend bullet 1 to emphasize partnerships of a regional, provincial and national level – Ken Forgeron will send suggested wording to Dianne Coppola.
- Rather than remove the last bullet from the list (re: Bicycle Friendly Awards Campaign), it was agreed to merge the last two bullets and to keep them on the list as a “bookmark” for the future.

**2008 Toronto to Niagara Bike Train Project**

- Presentation by Justin Lafontaine deferred.
- The Bike Train Media Launch is a day-long media event commemorating the first public run of the Bike Train for 2008, and is scheduled for Friday, June 27 in both Toronto and Niagara Falls.
- The launch includes a Union Station press conference and “Bike Train Welcome” event at the Niagara Falls station. There will be a stop in St. Catharines that day for 6 cyclists only.
- Ken Forgeron invited RNBC and Freewheelers’ members to the Niagara Falls Train Station to act as Bike Ambassadors. “Welcome Cyclists” signs will be displayed and local B&Bs and hotels will be encouraged to be more bike-friendly.

**Highway 406 Widening – RNBC Comments**

- Ken Forgeron distributed copies of the “Agency Comment Form” he had completed and submitted on behalf of the RNBC on the Environmental Assessment study for the Highway 406 Twinning from 0.2 km north of Port Robinson Road to East Main Street. He reviewed his comments which reiterate the committee’s significant interest in how bicycling and pedestrian access will be maintained over Highway 406 at Port Robinson Road (which is part of the Regional Bicycling Network). He suggested that an access bridge, tunnel or fly-over are essential elements to be considered and incorporated into the final design. He concluded by offering RNBC’s involvement in future discussions.

### **Tour de Greenbelt**

- Presentation by Peter Hart deferred.  
Dave Hunt talked about attending the Cycle Ontario Alliance AGM in April and referred to the green post cards and buttons about the tour that are available for distribution. Dave noted that any funds raised from the tour in Niagara will go back to advocacy groups for cycling.

### **Bicycle Parking Furniture Proposal**

- Ken Forgeron advised of a company that will provide bicycle parking infrastructure (which could include bike lockers) free to municipalities with funds being raised through advertising on the sides of the structure. He asked if the information should be circulated to the area municipalities. As there was questions raised related to maintenance of the infrastructure, abandoned bikes, etc., it was suggested that we obtain information from a municipality who has some experience with this proposal.

***Motion:***

***That the information on the Bicycle Parking Furniture Proposal be circulated to the area municipalities for their information and possible use..***

***Moved By: Councillor Henderson***

***Seconded By: Peter Davies***

***Carried***

## **7. Task Force Reports**

### **Engineering Task Force (Ken Forgeron for Eric Flora)**

Ken Forgeron advised that the EA on Lakeshore Road between Lakeport and Niagara is currently underway and proposes bike lanes. The report is available for review at the City of St. Catharines and Regional Clerk's Offices and there is a 30-day commenting period.

### **Education and Enforcement Task Force (Tim Whittle)**

#### **Bike Events**

- Tim Whittle provided highlights of several bike events that were very successful: 30 children at St. Matthews Church in Welland where bikes were repaired and received reflective tape; Bike Rodeo at the Pen Centre. The RNBC had its display there for public information.
- A brief update on the Kids CAN Bike pilot project was also given. Tim noted that participants who complete the one-week camp will be given a bike and helmet (the 40 helmets that were donated previously will be used for this event).

#### **Bicycle Self Registration Program**

- Tim Whittle reiterated details of the bicycle self-registration program which was launched on May 10, noting that registration forms are available from bicycle retailers and from the NRP website. Bicycle owners can complete the form and attach a photo of their bike and keep it in the bright yellow envelope, which can then be used to assist the NRP to accurately describe the bike if it is stolen.

### Police Enforcement on the Trail

- Tim Whittle advised that police have stepped up enforcement on the trails and suggested that consideration be given to developing a Trail Ambassadors program whereby volunteers could be appointed (similar to Block Parents) to assist cyclists in distress. He added that the candidates would be required to undergo police checks and training, and would be provided with vests to identify them as Ambassadors. Members agreed this would assist the police in patrolling the trails and will become more of an issue as the trails develop and the number of cyclists increases. Committee was advised that a similar program is now in place in Shorthills Park and suggested hiring students from the policing program from Niagara College and Niagara Parks for this purpose. The program could be advertised to advise the public (users of the trail) and may serve as a deterrent for the offenders. Ken Forgeron advised that he will forward this information to the GNCR Committee for their consideration. **(Action item)**

### Encouragement Task Force (Dianne Coppola)

- Dianne Coppola provided an overview of the 2008 “Bike to Get There” campaign and the activities during launch week: May 24 and 25, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Thorold Craft Show, Thorold Arena - the Thorold Active Transportation Advisory Committee will be distributing cycling passports and ballots; May 26, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. - free pancake breakfast for cyclists at the Market Square in Welland; May 31, 11:00 a.m., Waverly Beach Park, Fort Erie – prizes will be given for the best dressed bike.
- Dianne Coppola advised that informational materials on the “Bike to Get There” campaign will be provided to Regional Councillors at their next meeting on May 22. and asked for authorization to buy a bike-related item for each Councillor (i.e. bike light, pant clip).

***Motion:***

***That staff be authorized to purchase promotional items for Regional Councillors to promote the “Bike to Get There” campaign, with the cost not to exceed \$100..***

***Moved By: Pat Maloney***

***Seconded By: Dave Hunt***

***Carried***

### Policy Task Force (Dave Hunt)

- Ken Forgeron will be updating the Bicycle Transportation policies and mapping in the Regional Policy Plan based on information contained in the Regional Bikeways Masterplan. The Policy Task Force will be involved in the work.

## 8. Items for Information:

### Update on Proposed Bicycle/Transit Shelter

- Ken Forgeron advised that he had received two quotes and designs for the bicycle/transit shelter, which were in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 range. He noted that this included a solar panel for lighting as it would be tricky to run cables underground for the structure. He further advised that the Regional Chairman had requested more detailed designs. He asked Councillor Baty to discuss the construction of the structure with the CAO and, since funds were not included in the 2008 budget, to suggest that the foundation pad be poured this year with the structure being built next year. A further update will be provided at the next meeting. **(Action Item)**

#### **Mapping of Freewheeler Scenic Routes – Update on GIS Project**

- Ken Forgeron advised that through the inkind assistance of the Regional GIS staff, and a \$2000 contribution from Health Living Niagara, over 250 of the Freewheelers scenic routes would be computerized by mid June. The routes will be made available first to the Bike Train cyclists, and then to the general public.

#### **St. David's Road EA**

- Ken Forgeron advised that the EA approved design for St. David's Road was presented at the Engineering Conference in April and Eric Flora will provide copies of the presentation to Committee at the next meeting. (**Action Item**) He discussed the centre median trail approach which is being recommended and hoped that the MTO will move forward with the approval.

#### **Bicycle Promotion to the Francophone Community**

- Ken Forgeron discussed the translation of promotional cycling material into French for distribution to people in Quebec and France, noting the important draw that cycling and wines are from the French community. He and other Planning staff offered to assist.

#### **Highlights of 2008 Bicycle Summit - Toronto**

- Paul Pattison discussed his attendance with Dave Hunt at the 2008 Bicycle Summit in Toronto and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to attend. He advised that the Summit was well attended and included speakers from London, England; Chicago and Quebec. He was pleased to report that cycling is starting to come out in front and referenced statistics on cycling lanes in other cities.

#### **Joint Meeting of Niagara/Hamilton/Burlington Bicycling Committees on May 24**

- Councillor Baty advised that he was not available to attend the meeting on May 24 as he would be in the Gaspé on vacation. Tim Whittle, Dave Hunt, Pat Maloney and Paul Pattison are attending. Others' attendance was tentative. Contact Ken Forgeron if you need information.

#### **New Cycle Ontario Alliance Leadership**

- Dave Hunt updated committee on the New Cycle Ontario Alliance board membership. Some of the new Directors include Eleanor McMahon, Doug Murphy and Dave McLaughan.

#### **Information for Distribution**

The following items were distributed at the May 15, 2008 meeting:

- a) E-mail: Bike-Train Update – Launch Event June 27
- b) "Welcome Cyclists" – Tourism Industry Standards and Product Knowledge Training Program (Executive Summary)
- c) Highway 406 Improvements – Agency Comment Form from Regional Planning
- d) May 5, 2008 letter to George Nicholson from Delcan re: Notice of Completion of Environmental Study Report, Reconstruction of Regional Road 77 (Fourth Avenue), St. Catharines
- e) Photo invitation to the grand opening of the Erie Beach Section of the Fort Erie Friendship Trail (May 31 ribbon cutting)
- f) June, 2007 Article by Bob Romanuk "What Exactly is the RNBC?" (Reminiscing)
- g) Invitation "Official Launch of the Great Waterfront Trail Adventure" (July 4, 2008)
- h) St. Catharines Standard article "Two-way traffic re-routing could take five months"
- i) The Star website article "Time to get into the lane game"
- j) Flyer "Will Bike Lanes be Coming to Some Busy Roads in your Neighbourhood? (St. Catharines)

**George Nicholson Retirement**

- Ken Forgeron advised that George Nicholson had retired May 14 and invited members to a reception being held on Thursday, June 5 at Frado's. He commended George for his dedication to cycling and regaled members with how George had personally posted the RNBC logo on all parts of the Circle Route.

**Bike Lanes**

- Paul Pattison discussed the inclusion of proposed bike lanes on several streets in St. Catharines; particularly Fourth Avenue and Ontario Street. In terms of Ontario Street, he expressed concerns that where the bike lanes are to be included, the proposed road width might result in sub-standard lanes. Eric Flora will update Committee at the next meeting.

**9. Items for Next Agenda**

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|--|------------|
| ▪ Engineering Task Force Update              | Eric Flora |
| ▪ St. David's Road EA                        | Eric Flora |
| ▪ Proposed Bike Lanes                        | Eric Flora |
| ▪ Update on Proposed Bicycle/Transit Shelter | Eric Flora |
| ▪ Bike Lanes                                 | Eric Flora |

**10. Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.**

**Motion to Adjourn:**

**Moved By: Dave Hunt**

**Seconded By: Paul Pattison**

**11. Date of Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, June 26, 2008**

**PLEASE NOTE: Committee Room #CE101 - Campbell East - 7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, August 7, 2008**

**Summer Social**

**Meeting Notes Reviewed by:** Ken Forgeron, Regional Planning and  
Dianne Coppola, Public Health

**Meeting Notes Recorded by:** Pam Gilroy