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BICYCLING COMMITTEE

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REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Thursday, April 5, 2007
Committee Room #4
7:00 p.m.

Present:	Brian Baty	-	Regional Councillor (Chair)
	Ken Forgeron	-	Regional Planning Department
	Paul Pattison	-	Public-at-Large
	David Hunt	-	Public-at-Large and Cycling Ontario
Alliance	Bob Romanuk	-	Public-at-Large
	Eric Flora	-	Regional Public Works Department
	Connie Redman	-	Regional Public Works Department (meeting notes recorder)
Regrets:	Barb Henderson	-	Regional Councillor
	Dianne Coppola	-	Regional Public Health Department
	Frank Pravitz	-	MTO

1) Adoption of Agenda

- 2 additional items were included:
 - i) The Taylor Road entrance proposed to Walker's new landfill.
 - ii) An update on the Ontario Cycling Alliance.

Motion:
To accept the Agenda of April 5, 2007, as revised

Moved By: Dave Hunt
Seconded By: Paul Pattison

Carried

2) Review of February 22, 2007 Meeting Notes

Update on Action Items:

- i) Councillor Baty to write a letter to both **Brock University and Niagara College Student Unions** encouraging them to involve their students in pursuing the issue of **bike racks on buses to their campuses.**

- ii) Councillor Baty noted that the upcoming **report on the RNBC Strategic Plan** should be developed and finalized prior to its presentation to cycling clubs like the Niagara Freewheelers for their input. Ken Forgeron indicated that Gwen Speranzini had offered to assist in completing the project.
- iii) The consultant for the **Queenston/Lewiston Bridge Plaza project** will be invited to a RNBC meeting to allow Committee to discuss this project.
- iv) Ken Forgeron encouraged RNBC and Freewheeler members to a **presentation at Niagara College by students** doing work on the **interactive bicycle web map**. The presentation is scheduled for April 17 at 7:00 p.m. At Councillor Baty's request, Ken Forgeron prepared a letter thanking Tom Jamieson (Regional GIS) and students for their work on this project.
- v) Ken Forgeron **forwarded to MTO a copy of the RNBC's March 31, 2005 letter on the study's draft Terms of Reference**, as a reminder of cycling considerations and concerns for Phase 1 of the EA study.
- vi) Ken Forgeron has discussed with the Town of Fort Erie the recommendations of the **RNBC Policy Task Force** for enhancing the **Town of Fort Erie's Official Plan policies on Bicycling (Section 12.110)**.
- vii) The **RNBC has renew its membership for the next two years** with the **Ontario Alliance**.
Cycle
- viii) Discussions have occurred with Public Works staff on the recommendation by the RNBC for **1.5 metre bicycling lanes along Fourth Avenue between Ontario Street and First Street** at appropriate times when road reconstruction occurs. For purposes of the current Environmental Assessment Study, the RNBC has recommended that **1.5 metre bicycling lanes be provided between Martindale Road and Vansickle Road along Fourth Avenue**.
- ix) Eric Flora agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the **of O'Reilly's Bridge and the Drummond Road Environmental Study Report**.
status
Study Report.

Motion:

To accept and approve the Meeting Notes of February 22, 2007 as revised.

Moved by: Bob Romanuk

Seconded by: Paul Pattison

Carried

3) **Business Arising**

(a) **Update on Walker Brothers Landfill Expansion**

- Mike DiPaola, Regional Senior Transportation Engineer, spoke with Walker Brothers concerning the design and signalization requirements for the proposed new landfill entrance on Taylor Road. This will probably not occur until late 2008 or 2009.
- The bike lane would carry right by the entranceway.
- Taylor Road (north) realignment from Mountain Road to CNR Tracks will probably also take place in 2008 or 2009, pending budget approval.

4) **Items for Consideration**

(a) **Strategic Plan – Update (see #7 previous meeting notes)**

- Frank Pravitz has prepared a **draft document**.
 - Gwen Speranzini has agreed to continue to assist the **Task Force in developing a final product**.
 - Virginia Stewart, Dave Hunt and Frank Pravitz to go over draft of Strategic Plan and have their comments ready for the May RNBC meeting.

(b) **Utilitarian Cycling Update and Discussion (Jan Somerwil/All)**

- This issue was deferred from last RNBC meeting.
 - Jan Somerwil was absent from this meeting, so it was decided to defer again for the May RNBC meeting, as it is essential that Jan be in attendance with his input on this subject.
 - Ken Forgeron agreed to present a list of some specific actions the RNBC can take to facilitate utilitarian cycling.

(c) **Accommodation Steering Committee –
Report on Bike Racks for Regional Headquarters**

- Ken Forgeron attended a meeting with Ian Neville in reference to bike racks for Regional Headquarters (staff and public).
- Ball Construction is to provide **40 bike racks** to be placed at 3 entranceways into the building.
- Another suggestion for bicycle storage was using a wall-mounted system to be provided in the new addition near the Corporate Learning Centre. 12 spots could be provided near this area.
- It would be the responsibility of the biker to ensure their bike was not dirty or wet before entering the hallway inside the building. Personal gear will have to be stored in your own working area.
- It was suggested that information be provided to all Regional employees on care and use of new staff bicycle parking.
- It has been questioned as to how often the bike racks may be used. A survey may be helpful.

- **Ian Neville would like to obtain some motion of support** for his proposal on wall mounted bicycle racks for staff, in addition to placement of racks outside (under overhangs) for the public. It will be presented at CMT.

Motion:

That this Committee supports the provision of wall mounted bicycle racks inside the Campbell East building for staff, as well as other bicycle racks under overhangs for public use.

Moved by: Bob Romanuk

Seconded by: Dave Hunt

Carried

(d) Topics for RNBC Annual Newsletter

- More discussion at this meeting regarding range of topics for the newsletter.
- Once topics are identified, brief summaries can be prepared by individual members on the Committee for submission to **Bob Romanuk and John Reep in preparing the annual newsletter.**
- Some topics suggested included:
 - **accident statistics**
 - **local bicycle events**
 - **mapping**
 - **work on the Strategic Plan**
 - **Toronto to Niagara Bike Train**
 - **Pelham Active Transportation Plan**
 - **Environmental Assessment for roadways on Bike Network**
 - **Toronto International Bicycle Show**

**(e) Highway Bridge Crossings and MTO: Burlington Request
(Ken Forgeron/Eric Flora)**

- The **City of Burlington Bicycle Committee** has forwarded our Committee information on the QEW road widening through Burlington.
- The committee has concerns with the **MTO off-ramps design in Burlington** and they are asking for our support **encouraging MTO to make bicycle safety more of a priority.** The Region's concern is that we would not like to be put in the position of holding up any works by the MTO.
- The Burlington Committee is asking for a general letter of support from us.

Action Item:

Eric Flora will prepare wording for this letter (to be signed by Councillor Baty).

**(f) Topics for Discussion at Annual Joint Meeting:
Hamilton/Burlington/Niagara Bicycling Committees (May 26 in
Burlington)**

- St. David's Road multi-use alternative.
- Strategic Plan for the RNBC.
- DVD of the Greater Niagara Circle Route.
- Statistics from RNBC website (Bob Romanuk) to do demo.

- Niagara College/Regional GIS web-map.
- Underground Railway – get specific itinerary from Venture Cycling - could be on their website.

Action Item:

Dave Hunt to obtain information on specific itinerary from Venture Cycling for Ken Forgeron

(g) Registration for 2007 Provincial Trails Summit in Niagara

- Hand out was distributed at meeting.
- Should we have a display – would there be a need for this?
- George Nicholson from Regional Planning Department will be setting up the display and showing our maps, etc.
- George Nicholson asked RNBC to facilitate a round table (look at handout)
- Councillor Baty to call Bruce Timms in terms of interest in this.
- Dates are June 14/15/16 – Ken Forgeron is looking for member to attend on Thursday night (June 14th).
- Councillor Baty agreed to attend. Ken Forgeron will submit his registration as an RNBC attendee.

(h) “Building Great Cities” – Gil Penalosa (Ken Forgeron)

- Gil Penalosa will be the speaker at the Canadian Institute Breakfast Seminar held in Toronto (date: April 12, 2007).
- Committee members were asked if there was anyone interested in attending.
- No member volunteered to attend.

5. Task Force Reports

Engineering Task Force

Collier/Richmond Class EA (Thorold)

- Both Collier Road and Richmond Street are on the Regional bikeways network.
- Thorold Council has agreed to provide bike lanes on these roadways.
- Eric Flora has drawings for this area and he will be reporting on the cost estimates for this project. The Region will be asked to cost-share on the bicycle facility component of this project.

Bender Street/Falls Avenue/Roberts Street Class EA (Niagara Falls)

- Eric Flora is the Regional contact person for this study.
- There will be a public information session at the City of Niagara Falls Council Chambers meeting on May 3rd from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Action Item:

Eric Flora will report on this work.

Bicycle Lanes for Fourth Avenue (St. Catharines)

- Eric Flora reported that bicycle lanes will be provided along for Fourth Avenue to the proposed new hospital site.

Queenston/Lewiston Bridge Plaza Presentation

- The Region's consultant, McCormick Rankin, met with Eric Flora on April 18th.
- It was discussed as to whether the consultant should attend a future RNBC meeting to speak on the bridge crossing access.
- It was decided that it was not necessary to have the consultant attend, but that a meeting with RNBC representation would be helpful.
- Engineering drawings on CD can be supplied.

Action Item:
Eric Flora can provide a map for next meeting.

Transportation Project Activity Report

- Connie Redman will be mailing out this report to all committee members.

Interlake Paper (Merritton)

- Eric Flora reported that the railway may be relocated and there is an opportunity for some trail development.

Education and Enforcement Task Force

- The Regional Public Health Department has put together a 'Bike to Get There Campaign 2007', which will try to promote cycling (handouts provided).
- Diane Coppola and Marian Landry of Public Health have put together approx. 150 packages to go out to various workplaces and schools throughout Niagara
- Bob Romanuk will put campaign information on the Regional website
- The campaign runs from May 28th to October 31st, 2007
- Prizes will be awarded throughout the campaign
- Passports used during this campaign were handed out by Ken Forgeron to committee members; completed passports are to be handed into bike shops
- Newsletters, advertising on radio and Cogeco will be carried out throughout the summer

Encouragement Task Force

- Ken Forgeron reported that the St. Catharines Standard is providing space for weekly (Fridays) articles on running and cycling. RNBC and Freewheeler members are encouraged to submit articles.

Policy Task Force

- looking at Strategic Plan.
- future work is anticipated on bicycle supportive policies in Official Plans. Niagara Falls currently is working on its plan.

6. Items for Information

RNBC Website Statistics Update & Summary Highlights (Bob Romanuk)

- This information is to be brought forth during the joint meeting in May.
- Information is on the *'Members Only'* page of the RNBC website.
- Will be deferred to next meeting.

Ontario Traffic Conference Transportation Planning Workshop - May 27, 2007 in Niagara Falls (Eric Flora)

- Eric Flora will be attending this meeting.
- He will raise the question as to why they are presenting the London Bicycle Master Plan, rather than Niagara's.
- Eric will provide Niagara cycling maps at this conference.

Action Item:

Eric Flora will prepare an update for our committee on his findings at this conference.

Items for Distribution

- **Biketrain.ca (postcard)**

This provides more information on the pilot project to begin July 21 through August 26, 2007 on 10 trips.

- **Cycling Campaign 2007 'Bike to Get There'**

(previously discussed)

- **'Bike to Get There' Passport**

(previously discussed)

- **2007 Toronto International Bicycle Show A Huge Success**

A Regional newsletter article on the RNBC participation at this big show, as well as the award on the new Bike Map.

- **E-mail from Marian Landry (re: Cycling Campaign)**

(previously discussed)

- **St. Catharines Standard Article – ‘Study recommends creating wine embassy downtown’**

This article summarizes the presentation made by NEDC at the last meeting of the RNBC.

- **The Brock Press Article – Bike to get there and win prizes**

(regarding the Bike Week campaign)

- **Article – Cycling in Canada and the United States: Why Canadians are so far ahead**

Canadians make three times as many bike trips per capita as Americans (various reasons cited).

- **Article – Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail – Looking Back on 15 Years**

(Niagara is quite a success story)

- **Article – Cycling is fun! For over a decade now the Dutch tour operator HAT Tours organizes Cycling & Sailing Holidays. The best way to get to know Holland is by bike! Pleasure and relaxation always come first when you travel with HAT Tours!**

- **E-mail from Brian Schilling – Crime and Greenways**

372 trails around the U.S. were studied with respect to their effects on neighbourhoods.

- **Pulse Niagara Article – Cycling Diary – It’s the Better Way**

The RNBC Bike Map is featured.

- **St. Catharines Standard Article – Cycling the Underground Railroad from Kentucky to Owen Sound**

This trek will be in Niagara over the summer.

- **2007 Provincial Trails Summit**

Registration package

7. **Items for Next Agenda**

- Norma Moores won the e-bike after renewing her membership to the Ontario Cycling Alliance.
- Dave Hunt new site

8. Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 17th in Committee Room #4 (7:00 p.m.)

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion:
That the April 5, 2007 meeting of the Regional Niagara Cycling Committee be adjourned.

Moved by: Paul Pattison
Seconded by: Dave Hunt

Carried

Meeting Notes prepared by:

Connie Redman, Regional Niagara Public Works Department

Reviewed by:

Ken Forgeron, Senior Planner, Regional Niagara Planning and Development Department

OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS			
Meeting Date	Item	Completed by (Member name)	Date Completed
Apr/05/07	Strategic Plan – Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Go over draft of Strategic Plan and have comments ready for May RNBC meeting ▪ Circulate to Freewheelers 	Frank Pravitz Virginia Stewart Dave Hunt	

Apr/05/07	<p>Utilitarian Cycling Update and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ken to present at next meeting information on an incentive program to bike to work used by some municipalities 	Jan Somerwil Ken Forgeron	
Apr/05/07	<p>Accommodation Steering Committee - Report on Bike Racks for Regional Headquarters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Committee to send out e-mail to staff on how bike racks are to be used and cared for ▪ Committee to provide necessary support to CMT for the bike rack proposal 	RNBC Committee	
Apr/05/07	<p>Topics for RNBC Annual Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brief summary of topics to be submitted by members for the newsletter 	Members submit topics to: Bob Romanuk John Reep	
Apr/05/07	<p>Highway Bridge Crossing and MTO: Burlington Request</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Burlington Bicycle Committee asking for general letter of support from our committee concerning the MTO off-ramps design in Burlington –Eric Flora to prepare wording for letter and to be signed by Councillor Baty 	Eric Flora	

OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS

Meeting Date	Item	Completed by (Member name)	Date Completed
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Apr/05/07	Queenston Bridge Plaza Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Map to be provided for next meeting ▪ Update on meeting with consultant 	Eric Flora Paul Pattison	
Apr/05/07	Transportation Project Activity Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Once approved, to be e-mailed to Committee members 	Connie Redman	Apr/13/07
Apr/05/07	Education and Enforcement Task Force – ‘Bike to Get There’ Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Campaign information to be put on Regional website 	Bob Romanuk	
Apr/05/07	Ontario Traffic Conference Transportation Planning Workshop – May 27, 2007 in Niagara Falls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To prepare update of conference for committee 	Eric Flora (to attend)	
Apr/05/07	Topics for Discussion at Annual Joint Meeting: Hamilton/Burlington/Niagara Bicycling Committees (May 26 in Burlington): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ obtain information on specific itinerary from Venture Cycling for Ken Forgeron 	Dave Hunt	
Apr/05/07	Bender Street/Falls Avenue/Roberts Street Class EA (Niagara Falls) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ public information session at the City of Niagara Falls Council Chambers meeting on May 3rd 	Eric Flora (to report on this information session)	