

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



Meeting of Thursday, April 11, 2002
Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Brian McMullan	- Regional Councillor, Chair
Rob Gabriel	- Regional Councillor
Bob Romanuk	- Niagara Falls Trails & Bikeways Committee
Jan Somerwil	- Public at Large
David Hunt	- Public at Large
Paul Pattison	- Public at Large
Bill Rashleigh	- Public at Large
Bill Crux	- Public at Large
Tim Whittle	- Niagara Regional Police Service
Frank Pravitz	- Ministry of Transportation
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Bob Johnson (Transportation)	- Regional Niagara Public Works
Jody Head	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

Prior to the meeting commencing, the former Chair, Jane Hughes, and her husband Pat Dunphy, stopped by the meeting to say she has enjoyed her bicycling trip so far and gave a few highlights of her year long excursion. She will be attending the Freewheelers social April 20th if anyone wishes to discuss her trip further. She emphasized that Niagara has a comparable number of cyclists as other areas she visited in western Canada and the U.S.

1. Adoption of Agenda

With the addition and re-arranging of a few agenda items, the agenda was adopted, as revised.

Motion:

To accept Agenda, as amended.

2. Review of Meeting Notes of February 14, 2002

The paragraph prior to the Adoption of Agenda should be amended to read "Prior to the meeting commencing, the Acting Chair, Bob Romanuk, expressed on behalf of Bob Johnson...."

Under the Education Task Force report, it should read The Highway Traffic Act has not been changed, but needs to reflect new safety certification standards, in particular, the CPSC standards.

Motion:

To accept RNBC Meeting Notes of March 11, 2002, as revised.

Moved by: Dave Arnott

Seconded by: Paul Pattison

Carried

3. Business Arising

Tour Draw

Ken Forgeron reported that he has sent a letter and the prize vouchers to the winner of the Steve Bauer Tour for Two, drawn at the last meeting.

Ferry Crossing

Paul Pattison reported that after significant research, he has discovered that 25% of the users of the Port Robinson ferry in Thorold are cyclists. A letter has been drafted for signature by the RNBC Chair requesting extended hours in the shoulder season. B. Johnson spoke with the gentleman who provides the ferry service and was advised that extended hours would entail hiring another employee to operate the boat and the St. Lawrence Seaway would probably not be interested in any additional funding for the ferry. T. Whittle suggested that since the crossing is for use by people throughout the Region, then it should be a Regional issue. D. Hunt concurred and suggested the Region look into cost-sharing.

Action Item:

B. Johnson will inquire further on this issue and have it addressed in the Regional Transportation Study.

4. Task Force Reports

Engineering Task Force

Frank Pravitz reported that he is working on a follow-up e-mail with the Consultants concerning suggestions for changes to the Regional Road Network, as well as principles and approaches.

Education Task Force

Tim Whittle reported that there is a Bike Fun Day on June 1st, in Niagara Falls, and a bike Rodeo on May 4th for the Boy Scouts. During Police Week there will be an information display at the various malls around the Region commencing on the 17th of May. At the RNBC meeting in May he will be looking for volunteers for the booth, most likely in the evenings. He advised that there may be a draw for a bicycle that is being

donated. He was thinking that a possible quiz will be developed and the first person drawn with all the correct answers will win the bike, but it has not been confirmed.

Tim Whittle also reported that there was a media release concerning the changes in the helmet standards on April 10th and that reporters are calling the Traffic Sergeant for more details. The public should be aware that while current helmets are likely safe, particularly for off road use, they do not meet Ontario standards (OPSC).

Donna Kalailieff left a message for Tim that Dr. Williams is preparing a letter to be sent to the Minister of Transportation concerning the new standards for helmets.

During the month of May, the Police will issue press releases concerning cycling safety and laws, followed up with strict enforcement, particularly with regard to helmet use, sidewalk cycling and stopping at red lights/stop signs.

Encouragement Task Force

Bob Romanuk reported they are working hard on Bike Week Plans, including Bike Friendly awards for businesses. They are contacting local municipalities and looking for ideas that local businesses can implement in order to receive an award. The next meeting of the Task Force is April 16th.

5. Town of Lincoln Multi-Use Trail System

Judy Pease from the Town of Lincoln has asked that it be deferred to June 13th due to other commitments.

6. Utilitarian Cycling Initiatives

Ken Forgeron distributed an article titled "Get out of that Car", concerning municipal government initiatives to facilitate alternative transportation. He asked people to review the article and bring any ideas for utilitarian cycling to the next meeting.

7. Joint Meeting of Bicycling Committees

Ken Forgeron reported that the joint meeting has been changed from May 4th to May 11th, to be hosted by Burlington. Some agenda topics include: bicycle friendly awards program; status report by Consultant on bicycling master plan; round table discussion on bike week events; accident statistics and Velo Ontario/Ottawa Conference. The meeting will be held at Cedar Springs Raquet Club off Guelph Line, starting at 9:30. Anyone who wishes to attend is asked to let Ken know. Dave Hunt advised that he is unable to attend, but will prepare some meeting notes for Ken to take concerning Velo Ontario. Tim Whittle, Bob Romanuk and Ken Forgeron have confirmed their attendance.

8. **Proposed Waterfront Trail in Prudhommes**

Ken Forgeron made a brief presentation on a planning study for Prudhommes:

Over the past year, Regional Niagara initiated discussions with the Town of Lincoln, local landowners, the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and the Conservation Authority on public/private partnership arrangements for securing a permanent, continuous, publicly accessible Waterfront Trail along the lakeshore in Prudhommes, Town of Lincoln. As in other areas around Lake Ontario, the Waterfront Trail has brought public and private benefits/opportunities from economic, environmental and social standpoints.

Planning report DPD 36-2002 provides the highlights of a planning and design study requested by Regional Council. It provides a brief history on the issues and discussions to accommodate the Waterfront Trail and outlines the key findings of a consultant's study under several headings that include opportunities, constraints and policy issues; Trail vision and objectives, Trail concept; implementation; funding; maintenance/management and a possible policy framework. The study will be a useful reference for future planning studies and policies as well as future development opportunities in Prudhommes.

9. Glenridge Avenue

Bob Johnson reported that there has been a Public Information Centre concerning Glenridge Avenue. He reported that the road is too narrow to put bike lanes in and the area residents are opposed to widening the road. There are some areas where the road may be narrowed, to make the road width consistent. Any comments or concerns are to be passed on to Ron Tripp.

10. New/Other Business

- The Greater Niagara Circle Ride is being held May 4th – in support of the Millenium Trail in Niagara Falls and other portions around Niagara. Pamphlets are available at the Regional information kiosk;
- Tim Whittle read that Regional Road 20 is having an EA done and may be a potential bike corridor. He wanted to bring it to the attention of the Engineering Task Force;
- Bill Rashleigh said Rotary Club 9070 is having their Bike Trek on June 1st to raise funds for the Rotary Clubs.

11. **Information for Distribution**

Ken Forgeron distributed the following items for information:

- A colour map of the Greater Niagara Circle Route showing completed and uncompleted sections.
- A letter to Robert Samery of Toronto, the prize winner of the Steve Bauer Bike Tour for Two certificate.
- A colour map of the Prudhommes Urban Area showing Waterfront Trail Concept Options contained in a recently completed planning and design study prepared for Regional Niagara.
- An article titled: "Recreo-tourism is Hot! Here's How to Keep From Getting Burned". Multi-use trails provide eco-tourism benefits and allow people to stay longer to view natural, historical and cultural attractions.

12. **Next RNBC Meeting**

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Regional Headquarters – Committee Room 4 – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Notes Taken by:

Jody Head

Reviewed & Amended by Ken Forgeron, Regional Planning