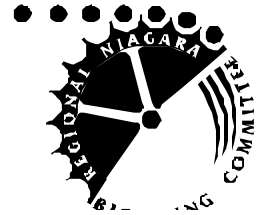


REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



Meeting of Tuesday, January 11, 2005
Planning Department Boardroom
6:45 p.m.

Present:

Brian Baty	- Regional Councillor (Acting Chair)
Paul Pattison	- Public at Large
Jan Somerwil	- Public at Large
Bill Rashleigh	- Public at Large
John Reep	- Public at Large
Dave Hunt	- Public at Large and Velo Ontario
Marian Landry	- Regional Niagara Public Health
Tim Whittle	- Niagara Regional Police Service
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Eric Flora	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)
Julie Bittner	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

Regrets:

Ron Leavens	- Regional Councillor (Chair)
Bob Romanuk	- Public at Large & Niagara Falls Trails & Bikeways Committee
Frank Pravitz	- Ministry of Transportation
Gregg Dame	- Port Colborne Trails and Bikeways Committee
William Dickson	- Guest

The meeting commenced at 6:56.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The order of the agenda was revised and with the addition of the agenda items listed below the agenda was adopted.

Motion:

To accept the agenda as amended.

Moved by: Jan Somerwil

Seconded by: Dave Hunt

Carried

Ken Forgeron requested to speak on the following items:

- Queenston-Lewiston Bridge EA Update
- Glenridge Avenue Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Announcement on Hank Bauer

Dave Hunt requested to speak on an item being handed out for distribution.

Eric Flora requested to speak on the following items:

- Regional Niagara Bikeways Master Plan

- Two items under Task Force Reports

2. Review of Previous Meeting Notes (December 9, 2004)

Jan Somerwil asked what the status was of the RNBC Task Force which was set-up in the past to look at the issue of directional signage. Mr. Forgeron responded that this program would start later this year after the new bicycle display is developed and the bike map is updated. The Town of Pelham has, informally, offered to host the pilot project for any signage program.

Mr. Forgeron said that in the December meeting notes, under Business Arising, it should be revised to say "Sand Plant Hill."

Motion:

To accept the meeting notes of December 9th as amended.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded by: Paul Pattison

Carried

3. Business Arising

The Committee was provided updates on a number of "Action Items" which arose out of the December 2004 meeting notes:

- The letter requesting that the Niagara Regional Police provide an enforcement blitz for sidewalk cycling for 2005 Bike Month will be an agenda item for the April meeting.
- The 2004 Bicycle Statistics are already an agenda item for this month and will be discussed then.
- Councillor Baty reported that the final report from the facilitator of the Active Transportation: Go for Green Program will be available later this month. The report may include information on potential funding.
- Mr. Flora said that the Engineering Task Force had not yet met to discuss the directional signage program. He will speak to Marshall Macklin Monaghan regarding the work that they have done in the past with other municipalities. **(Action Item)**
- Mr. Flora reported that the memo regarding sweeping and maintenance of Regional roadways on the bicycling network has been forwarded to Dave Watson, Transportation Technologist in the Public Works Department. Mr. Flora will follow-up with Mr. Watson and attach a follow-up to the meeting notes. **(Action Item)**
- The letter to the City of St. Catharines regarding the possible extension of the Terry Fox Trail and the request for a pedestrian/bicycling crossing over/under the QEW

has been signed by Councillor Leavens and will be delivered to the City of St. Catharines by Mr. Pattison. **(Action Item)**

- Mr. Flora requested that the proposed Public Works Department cycling brochure be deferred until the February RNBC meeting. Mr. Hunt said that the City of Toronto had produced a brochure on the proper use of bike lanes by cyclists and suggested the possibility of the RNBC creating a similar brochure for the Public Works Department. Mr. Hunt will provide the RNBC with a copy of the brochure. **(Action Item)**
- Mr. Forgeron spoke to Gary Hardy and Betsy Foster from the NETC regarding the subject of information to be distributed at the Toronto International Bike Show. He reported that he emphasized to them that the RNBC would like to distribute information directly related to cycling and bicycle tourism, if possible. They said that bags would be put together to be distributed. The bags would include the "Seasons" magazine, information on bed & breakfasts and local wineries. Mr. Forgeron said that he received a call from the City of Port Colborne asking if a flyer could be displayed at our booth advertising the events taking place at the Sugar Loaf Marina in the days prior to the start of the Tim Horton's Lake-to-Lake event along the Welland Canals.
- As Ms. Landry could not be in attendance at this point in the meeting due to another meeting commitment, Mr. Whittle provided a brief update. He indicated that a representative from the Niagara Falls Trails and Bikeways Committee has volunteered to assist with the Bike-to-Work Week Committee.
- Mr. Flora will follow-up with the Public Works Project Managers as to the type of signage that can be installed at the traffic circle at Queenston Heights Park indicating to cyclists to "take the lane". No dedicated bike lane space has been provided. **(Action Item)**

4. RNBC Terms of Reference 2003-2006

Mr. Hunt incorporated all the proposed changes (in red) to the Terms of Reference and at this time gave a PowerPoint presentation to discuss the proposed changes in order to prepare a final draft for the February meeting.

The following changes were agreed upon by the RNBC:

- The Terms of Reference effectively would begin in 2005 and end in 2006. Normally, the Terms of Reference apply to the term of each Council.

Background 1.0 – The following wording is to be included:

- "The study and its implementation were seen as a unique opportunity to promote a healthy lifestyle, tourism and economic opportunities through the Niagara Region."
- That the RNBC is a sub-committee of the Public Works and Utilities Committee (PWUC)
- Effective date of Council approval of the Bicycle Master Plan.

Rationale 2.0

- “Public-at-large” should be included and emphasized in the last paragraph with “bicycling clubs”.

Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee 3.0

- “Welland Canals Parkway” should be changed to the “Greater Niagara Circle Route”
- Reference to the Sustainable Transportation Co-ordinating Committee should be deleted as this Committee will not be formed in the immediate future due to funding constraints.
- Wording should be included under 3.3.2 Short-Term Objectives (c) indicating that bicycling route sign or signs will be based on “existing or current practices” or “recognized and acceptable standards”. Mr. Hunt will draft some wording on this point which will be reviewed at the February meeting.
- The word “help” will be added under (g) before the word “facilitate”.

Membership 3.4

- It was agreed that the total number of RNBC members would remain at 25.
- The word “Services” would be deleted after the words “Public Health”

Interest Group Representatives 3.4.2

- A question was raised as to the relevancy of having representatives from the insurance industry, the trucking industry and the CAA. Mr. Hunt will follow-up with Marshall Macklin Monaghan and ask for clarification as to why they should be included on the list.

Non Voting Member Positions 3.4.4

- Replace the wording “Transportation Planning and Engineering (1) and Transportation Services (1),” with the words “Transportation Services Division (2)”

Quorum 3.7.2

- Proposed wording would require that in order to achieve a quorum the RNBC would need to have just over 50% of their voting members in attendance at meetings. The RNBC currently does not achieve a quorum at the majority of their meetings. It was suggested that instead of stating an exact number that wording similar to what is used by the Region’s Standing Committees, when a quorum is not met, be included in the Terms of Reference. Mr. Flora will provide Mr. Hunt with the correct wording which allows the Chair to declare a quorum. **(Action Item)**

Record of Proceedings 3.7.3

- A suggestion was brought forward regarding changing how the RNBC meeting notes are included on the PWUC meeting agendas. Currently the RNBC meeting notes are received for information only. It was suggested that RNBC motions be flagged for approval by the PWUC. Mr. Flora will discuss the suggestion with Joe Cousins of the Transportation Division. **(Action Item)**

Reporting Mechanism 3.8

- The words “Sustainable Transportation Coordinator” should be changed to “Public Works Committee and Council.”

Task Forces 3.9

- The Engineering Task Force will be changed to the Network Task Force.
- The Encouragement Task Force will be changed to the Encouragement and Promotion Task Force.

Funding 3.13

- Mr. Flora suggested using the wording “subject to Council approval” instead having an exact dollar figure for the annual RNBC funding as the amount may change from year to year.

5. Ideas for New RNBC Display

Mr. Forgeron suggested that until a new display can be created later in the year, that tourism photos should be added to the existing display. This would need to be completed before the Toronto International Bike Show. The new display should be completed sometime this summer.

Mr. Whittle asked if the NETC could help with the creation of a cycling tourism display and slide show. Cyclists are interested in knowing what Niagara has to offer (ex. wineries, the Welland Canal). The display should be designed to highlight Niagara’s features. Councillor Baty indicated that the NETC had received funds to vigorously promote Niagara in the Greater Toronto Area. He believed that the NETC might be currently in the design stage of this promotion program. He recommended having Councillor Leavens arrange a meeting with Patrick Edge of the NETC.

MOTION:

To request that RNBC Chair Ron Leavens communicate and meet with the NETC in order to promote Niagara, in particular its trails and bikeways.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded by: Paul Pattison

Carried

Mr. Forgeron reminded everyone that although tourism should be a significant component of the display, the RNBC display also needs to address other areas such as utilitarian cycling, education, etc. He suggested that different variations of the display could be created in order to fit the needs for different venues.

6. Progress on Bicycling Map Update Project

Mr. Forgeron reported that John Docker, a specialist under contract with the Region’s GIS Division, will be working on the Bicycling Map update project. The urban insets need to be completed. The work will be started soon. Frank Pravitz will be managing the project and its content.

7. Ideas for Bike Week

A meeting for the Bike Week volunteers will be held on January 13th. Ms. Landry reported that the City of Niagara Falls would like to issue a city-to-city “commuter” challenge. Also, the City of Niagara Falls Wellness Coordinator has been invited to sit on the RNBC Task Force.

Ms. Landry indicated that a decision needs to be made as to which week in May Bike Week will be held. Upon discussion it was decided to hold our Bike Week at the same time as the City of Toronto. Ms. Landry will check the date with the City.

8. Volunteers for Toronto International Bicycle Show

Mr. Forgeron told the Committee that volunteers will be needed to staff the display. A volunteer sign up list for this purpose was distributed.

9. 2004 Bicycle Collision Statistics

Mr. Whittle distributed a summary of the draft 2004 Bicycle Collision Statistics (attached). He emphasized that these statistics represent a significant sample of the collisions for 2004, but were likely not all of the collisions which occurred.

Overall there were 121 collisions with 94 resulting in injuries and one fatality. Mr. Whittle reported that 1/3 of the collisions were sidewalk related. A relatively low number of collisions occurred during darkness. He reported a large increase in collisions within the 10 – 15 age group, but that collisions involving cyclists between the ages of 40-49, 50-59 and over 60 have decreased.

In 58 of the collisions the cyclist was deemed to be at fault, in 31 collisions the driver was at fault and in 31 collisions both the cyclist and the driver were determined to be at fault. Mr. Forgeron requested that Julie Bittner forward a copy of this interim summary to Bill Dickson who is quite interested in this issue. **(Action Item)**

10. Task Force Reports

Glendale Ave Realignment

The City of St. Catharines has applied for Provincial infrastructure funding for Glendale Ave. and the Merritt Street bridge. Although Glendale Avenue is a Regional road, it is only one part of the funding application which also includes water, sewer and landscaping upgrades. Monies received for the road portion would go to the Region.

Mr. Flora reported that a call for tenders, for the project, will be done in March. Funds are included in the 2005 budget to complete the entire stretch of Glendale Avenue out to the canal.

West St. Catharines Transportation Study

On January 18th at the Four Points Sheraton Suites in Thorold, a stakeholders meeting will be held. Matrix, the consultant for this project, re-sent letters of invitation to the stakeholders meeting to those parties who had asked to be kept up-to-date on the project, but had not yet responded to the invitation. This was done as only 10-14 people have confirmed their attendance for the January 18th meeting. A public information centre for this project will be held sometime in late January or early February.

Enforcement

No report.

Encouragement

Ms. Landry reported that planning for the Greater Niagara Circle Trek is continuing to move forward.

Specific plans for Bike Month have not yet started, but Ms. Landry reminded everyone that we need to start thinking about the types of events and activities we would like to feature.

Ms. Landry distributed a mock up of the 2005 Bicycle Friendly Awards brochure. Other than the date, there were no suggested changes to the brochure from last year. Councillor Baty suggested that the winning 2004 Bicycle Friendly Award submissions and the rating system used by the judges be available for applicants to review. He said that there was quite a significant difference in the quality of the submissions for the 2004 awards and perhaps this may increase the quality. Mr. Pattison suggested adding this information to the RNBC website with wording being included on the application form directing people to where they can find it.

Policy

No report.

Engineering

Mr. Flora reported that he had attended a meeting regarding the St. Catharines Downtown Street Conversion study. He said that the City was directed by their Council to move ahead with the study and they would carry out the study by the end of 2005.

11. Items for Distribution

- Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail News Ezine which lists their accomplishments for 2004. Mr. Forgeron noted the Region's involvement in many of the projects listed here.

- Bi-National Tourism Alliance News Release announcing the incorporation of Bi-National Tourism Alliance. The Alliance consists of representatives from private and not-for-profit tourism and cultural organizations. The Region's NETC is a member of the board.
- January 8th, 2005 St. Catharines Standard article reporting on a poll indicating how baby boomers will be more active than today's retirees.
- 2005 RNBC meeting schedule
- E-mail from Paul Pattison on Queenston-Lewiston Bridge 5th Lane Construction

12. Velo Ontario

Mr. Hunt reported that the next Velo Ontario meeting will be held on February 19th. Also, Velo Ontario will now be called the Cycling Ontario Alliance. This name change came about as there was considerable confusion regarding the meaning of the word "Velo" amongst the public.

13. New Business

Queenston-Lewiston Bridge

Mr. Pattison told the Committee that during construction there will be two lanes across the bridge (one in each direction). Cyclists will need to contact a traffic coordinator in advance in order to make arrangements to cross the bridge.

Mr. Pattison said that it was his understanding that the bridge is not being widened. In order to get the five lanes across the bridge they will be removing the centre median and sidewalks. The light standards will be moved to the side of the bridge. When completed the bridge will be 12 feet across including the shoulders. Mr. Forgeron said that he thought that the bridge would be 12 feet across with shoulders. Mr. Pattison said he would check as to what the exact width will be. **(Action Item)**

Glenridge Avenue EA

Some concerns have been expressed that the islands created on Glenridge do not allow enough space for both a car and a bicycle to travel side-by-side between the island and the edge of the roadway. Mr. Forgeron reported that in discussion with Dave MacLeod of the Public Works Department that this space will, in fact, be a 4.25 metre shared lane as approved through the EA process. Once beyond the island there will be a 1.5 metre designated bike lane. A question was raised as to how this area will be lined. Will it be lined so that the bike lane ends as it approaches the island and the cyclists will need to move over or will the cyclist be able to stay in the lane? Will the vehicle need to move? Mr. Flora will contact the project manager to find out how this area will be lined. **(Action Item)**

Mr. Forgeron reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Hank Bauer. Although Mr. Bauer would no longer be a member of the RNBC, he would be available to participate in the Toronto Bike show and other special purpose events. Mr. Forgeron indicated that he had called Mr. Bauer to thank him for his many years of

service on the Committee. His contributions were very much appreciated. Mr. Bauer asked that his name be removed from the RNBC mailing list. **(Action Item)**

Bikeways Master Plan

Mr. Flora provided an update on the status of the Bikeways Master Plan report. This report had contained a recommendation – which was not supported -- that the local municipalities construct at their own cost the local bike facilities which are designated on the Regional Bikeways Network (RBN). The report was approved by the Region's TSSC and then went to the PWUC. At the PWUC meeting it was requested that the above mentioned recommendation be deleted. The remainder of the report was approved by the PWUC and Regional Policy 9.F.3 (Policy Plan) will be left as is.

The next step is to meet with each local municipality to discuss some possible changes to the network map. Once the meetings are completed a report will be brought back to the RNBC and the PWUC. **(Action Item)**

14. Next Meeting: February 10, 2005

The next RNBC meeting will take place on Thursday, February 10th at 7:00 p.m. in Committee Room #4 at Regional Headquarters.

MOTION:

To adjourn the January 11, 2005 RNBC meeting.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded by: Paul Pattison

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Meeting Notes Taken by:
Julie Bittner

Reviewed by:
Ken Forgeron, MCIP, RPP
Senior Planner