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BICYCLING COMMITTEE

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REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Thursday, June 28, 2007
Cafeteria
6:00 p.m.

Present:	Brian Baty	-	Regional Councillor (Chair)
	Paul Pattison	-	Public-at-Large
	Eric Flora	-	Regional Public Works Department
	Julie Bittner	-	Regional Public Works Department (meeting notes recorder)
	Barb Henderson	-	Regional Councillor
	Dianne Coppola	-	Regional Public Health Department
	Tim Whittle	-	Niagara Regional Police Service
	Virginia Stewart	-	Public-at-Large
	Jan Somerwil	-	Public-at-Large
	Pat Maloney	-	Public-at-Large
	Frank Pravitz	-	Ministry of Transportation
Regrets:	Dave Hunt	-	Public-at-Large and Ontario Cycling Alliance
	Bob Romanuk	-	Public-at-Large

1) Adoption of Agenda

Motion:

To accept the Agenda of June 28, 2007 as revised.

Moved By: Pat Maloney

Seconded By: Jan Somerwil

Carried

2) Review of May 17, 2007 Meeting Notes

Update on Action Items:

- i) Ball Construction will be supplying approximately 40 bike racks and distributing them around the headquarters building. For **staff bicycle parking** there is talk of having a bus type shelter with doors at either end with a dome roof. There would be places for about 20 bicycles. One location being considered is the island area

- between the cafeteria and the parking lot. This area may possibly be combined with a bus shelter.
- ii) Eric Flora reported that he had not prepared the letter yet as he was holding off until after the joint meeting of the Hamilton/Burlington/Niagara cycling committees. Ken reported that the letter should make reference to all highways and not just those two locations requested by the Burlington Cycling Committee.
 - iii) Paul Pattison and Phil Bergen, from the Region's Public Works Department, met with bridge officials and consultant representatives to discuss the procedure for cyclists to cross the **Queenston-Lewiston Bridge** during construction. Cyclists should go to the toll supervisor who will assist the cyclist in crossing the bridge. Paul reported that he had received an e-mail stating that we should have more detail on how cyclists should access the bridges and requesting a link from our website to the their website.
 - iv) Eric reported that six local mayors with transit have put forth a proposal for FCM Green Municipal funding for improving the conventional transit link within Niagara. A detailed request for proposal is required by August.

Motion:**To accept and approve the meeting notes of May 17, 2007.****Moved By: Barb Henderson****Seconded By: Paul Pattison****Carried****4) Items for Consideration****(a) Ideas and Specific Actions to Facilitate Utilitarian Cycling**

- Ken Forgeron distributed a one page report on ideas for discussion on utilitarian cycling
- Some of these ideas included:
 - More bicycle parking at bus and railway stations
 - Car free day events
 - Rewarding cyclists and business which promote cycling
 - Good urban/community design – live/work/shopping in same areas

(b) Finalizing Strategic Plan (See Report on Strategic Planning Process Draft 6 – June 27, 2007)

- Dianne Coppola explained that anything in red has been edited out since the last draft.
- Wording highlighted in yellow still requires additional information.
- The Vision and Mission statements were revised and were now approved by the RNBC
- Discussion for the evening was what the next steps would be for the strategic plan.

- Brian Baty suggested that it might be valuable to go to the Freewheelers or others who are active in the cycling community and have them review the strategic plan to see if there any points we have missed.
- RNBC agreed to identify key stakeholders and frame one or two specific questions regarding the strategic plan and ask them to provide responses to those questions.
- Eric will find out whether the TSSC needs to see the strategic plan or whether it can go straight to the Planning and Public Works Committee.

(c) Bicycle Promotion at Local Markets

- Brian Baty suggested that the RNBC consider promoting cycling at the local markets during the summer. The RNBC display could be set-up and we could promote some of the items we have, for example, the bicycle passport and the map. Tim Whittle suggested possibly having an incentive program whereby if you ride your bike to the market you could get a free copy or a free bike map. He also suggested that we should decide who our target audience is and appeal to that specific group. Are we trying to appeal to locals to cycle to the market or are we appealing to tourists and cycling in general? If it is to the tourists then perhaps attending fall fairs as opposed to the local markets maybe a better option.

5. Task Force Reports

Education and Enforcement

- Tim reported that he had just completed a number of bike rodeos.
 - 135 cyclists attended a rodeo in Grimsby
 - 80 cyclists attended a rodeo in Fort Erie
 - 60 cyclists attended a rodeo in Port Weller
- Caught You Using Your Head Program – just received the rewards for the program.
- There are 150 envelopes with a reward inside for kids “caught” cycling and wearing a helmet.
- 15 helmets for hardship cases for kids.
- Three cycling fatalities in Niagara within the last couple of weeks. Two occurred in OPP jurisdiction.

Engineering Task Force

McLeod Road Corridor Study – From Pin Oak Drive to west of Dorchester Road in the City of Niagara Falls

- Development issues at the QEW interchange at Mcleod Rd.
- MTO approached the Region about what we need in terms of lane configuration. The Region can then work with the City of Niagara Falls to determine how much development can be allowed.
- 1.5 metre bike lane through the interchange – this is desired on both sides, however, once an Environmental Assessment (EA) is undertaken that will ultimately determine the details. The EA will commence in early 2008

- Eric to report back at the next meeting.

Lake Street Reconstruction in the Town of Grimsby

- Town's EA has been completed.
- Report indicating the Region will fund the cycling components needs to go to the PPWC.
- Eric to report back at the next meeting.

2007 Resurfacing Program

- Funding has been cut significantly for the 2007 program. If anyone is interested in seeing the list please contact the Project Manager, John Rizzo.

St. Catharines Two-Way Conversion

- Converting to two way and adding parking
- Bike lanes will not be included

Encouragement Task Force

- **Bicycle Friendly Awards** – Only two nominations have been received. Ken Forgeron volunteered both himself and Drew Semple from the Planning Department to help in the judging. Brian Baty also volunteered to help with the judging.
- **Bike To Get There** – 1200 ballots have been received. Almost all of the bike shops are participating.

Policy Task Force

- Continuing to review local zoning by-laws and Official Plans.
- Ensuring that the bike network gets recognized on local transportation master plans.
- Currently working on the Strategic Plan.

6. Items for Information

Joint Meeting of Cycling Committees: Burlington, Niagara, Hamilton

- Discussed RNBC initiatives
- A Powerpoint presentation on the Greater Niagara Circle Route was given
- City of Burlington discussed the challenges involved in having the Waterfront Trail go over the lift bridge
- Discussed the issue of cycling across overpasses

Gravel Sections on Paved Roads

- Tim Whittle discussed the lack of signage advising when a section of roadway has been dug up and is currently covered with gravel, for example, when a culvert has been replaced.

Toronto to Niagara Bike Train Initiative

- 30 volunteers have signed up to assist in providing off-loading passengers with general tourism and cycling information during the months of July and August
- Ticket sales have been good so far

Items for Distribution

- E-mail from Bob Romanuk re: possible effect of electromagnetic radiation on people who are in or near transmission lines and potential impact on public trail development.
- Metro magazine article dated May 31, 2007 titled "Bikes and transit a 'formidable alternative to the car.'
- Toronto Star article dated June 1, 2007 titled, "Bike station in Windy City should show T.O. the way."
- Go for Green National Active Transportation Survey 2004 results
- Meeting notes from the May 26, 2007 Joint meeting of Cycling Committees: Burlington, Niagara, Hamilton.

7. Items for Next Agenda

- Strategic Plan

8. Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday, August 9th in the Committee 4 at 7:00.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion:

That the June 28, 2007 meeting of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee be adjourned.

Moved by: Paul Pattison

Seconded by: Jan Somerwil

Carried

Meeting Notes prepared by:

Julie Bittner, Regional Niagara Public Works Department

Reviewed by:

Eric Flora, P.Eng, CET, Associate Director Transportation Systems, Public Works 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	Utilitarian Cycling Update and Discussion <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	Accommodation Steering Committee - Report on Bike Racks for Regional Headquarters <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	Topics for RNBC Annual Newsletter <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	Highway Bridge Crossing and MTO:Burlington Request <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
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	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	