

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



Meeting of Thursday, March 14, 2002
Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Bob Romanuk	- Acting Chair
Jan Somerwil	- Public at Large
David Hunt	- Public at Large
Paul Pattison	- Public at Large
Dwight Alguire	- Public at Large
John Reep	- Public at Large
Dave Arnott	- Public at Large
Jane Turner	- Public at Large
John Helm	- Niagara Freewheelers
Bill Crux	- Public at Large
Tim Whittle	- Niagara Regional Police Service
Donna Kalailieff	- Regional Niagara Public Health Department
Frank Pravitza	- Ministry of Transportation
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Bob Johnson (Transportation)	- Regional Niagara Public Works

Regrets:

Hank Bauer	- Public at Large
Marian Landry	- Regional Niagara Public Health Department

PLEASE NOTE:

Handouts provided during upcoming RNBC meetings will no longer be attached to meeting notes. If you require copies, please contact Jody Head in the Public Works Department at extension 3230.

Prior to the meeting commencing, the Acting Chair, Bob Romanuk, reported that concern has been raised at the amount of time being spent on reviewing every issue being dealt with by the Engineering Task Force. As with the other Task Forces, the Chair should provide a brief summary of activities and only by exception, should individual projects be dealt with in detail.

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.

Moved by: Jan Somerwil

Seconded by: Paul Pattison

Carried

2. Review of Meeting Notes of February 14, 2002

Motion:

To accept RNBC Meeting Notes of February 14, 2002, as written.

Moved by: Dave Arnott

Seconded by: Paul Pattison

Carried

3. Business Arising

Ken Forgeron reported that the joint meeting with the Hamilton and Burlington Bicycling committees has been rescheduled to May 11, 2002 in Burlington. Details will be provided at the April RNBC meeting.

4. Bicycle Slide Show

Jan Somerwil did a slide show presentation of cycling in Holland. Jan pointed out the various routes, paths and the approaches they have come up with to accommodate the growing need.

Some highlights included:

- Providing trails in tunnels under highways;
- Using coloured asphalt for bike lanes;
- Using round-a-bouts at intersections, no lights;
- Some contra-flow bike lanes;
- Concrete, bollard style directional signs;
- Tow path trails along canals;
- Using a variety of trail surfaces;
- Bicycle parking at all bus stops and train stations;
- Linking airports to train facilities;
- Reflective materials on tires for night riding;
- Using geo-textiles under road shoulders to drain waterway;

Thank you Jan for a great show!

5.Task Force Reports

Education Task Force

Tim Whittle reported on the 2002 Collision statistics. A summary sheet was distributed. There were a total of 116 collisions, with 60 resulting in injuries and a total of 31 charges laid. These statistics did not include the 5 fatalities.

Donna Kalailieff reported that safety kits are being put together to take to the schools and Safety Village.

There is a problem with helmets being advertised and sold. The Highway Traffic Act has been changed and the helmets that are being sold cannot be endorsed because of new certification standards. The MTO has been contacted and are attempting to rectify this, but with the strike, this may take some time. Bob Romanuk suggested a letter be drafted to the Minister for signature by Dr. Robin Williams, Medical Officer of Health and Commissioner of Public Health and Commissioner of Public Health and Gary Nicholls, Chief of Police, requesting amendments to current standards be made as soon as possible.

Encouragement Task Force

Marian Landry was not at the meeting, but asked Donna Kalailieff to report that a meeting has been scheduled for next week. Bike Week plans will be discussed in April. Ken Forgeron provided the Task Force with two sample brochures from Toronto on their upcoming Bike Week and Bike Friendly Awards Program.

Engineering Task Force

Frank Pravitz gave a presentation on some key issues he feels should be dealt with as part of the Bicycle Network. Anyone with comments or concerns should contact Frank directly. Frank distributed a copy of his position paper which was reviewed in some detail.

Ken Forgeron indicated that Regional Niagara has provided significant funding and project management for trail development so far. However, long term maintenance has been a local responsibility.

Tim Whittle pointed out that if Regional Niagara wants to facilitate more sustainable forms of transportation that rely less on vehicles then it will have to spend money on bicycling infrastructure and maintenance.

Frank's suggestions try to strike a balance between needed infrastructure and low cost solutions.

6. Utilitarian Cycling Initiatives

Deferred to April meeting when Jan Somerwil can be present.

7. Port Robinson Ferry Crossing Schedule

Paul Pattison distributed a staff letter from Thorold on the issue. He reported that the City of Thorold feels they will not be able to extend the hours of the ferry crossing due to cost and that the St. Lawrence Seaway is possibly reducing the funding for the service. Senior staff at Thorold do not believe that there is enough demand. It was decided that this matter should be referred to the Thorold Welland Canals Task Group for review. In the interim, Ken Forgeron suggested that a letter be drafted for signature by Councillor McMullan requesting hours be extended.

Motion:

To prepare a letter to the City of Thorold requesting ferry crossing hours be extended, for signature by our Chair, with copies to local MPPs.

Moved by: Dave Arnott

Seconded by: Paul Pattison

Carried

8. Proposed Waterfront Trail in Prudhommes

Deferred to April meeting due to time. However, an article was distributed for Committee's review from the Toronto Star identifying the various Niagara area projects through the SuperBuild Program.

9. Bike Show

The Toronto Bike Show was well visited (about 20,000 people). Dave Hunt reported the Velo Ontario information was well accepted. Tim Whittle suggested a letter be sent to organizers requesting that a map be displayed showing the entire waterfront trail from Gananoque to Niagara.

A survey was distributed during the show on bicycle tourism in Niagara. A draw was held for people taking the time to complete the survey, with the prize being a Steve Bauer Tour for Two. Robert Samery of Toronto was the winner. Ken Forgeron agreed to prepare a letter and send the prize.

10. Proposed Revised Bicycle Network

Bob Johnson put up the consultant's proposed network for everyone's review. Any suggestions should be given directly to the representatives sitting on the Steering Committee or to the consultants.

11. Next RNBC Meeting

Thursday, April 11, 2002

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

Meeting Notes Taken by:

Jody Head

Reviewed & Amended by Ken Forgeron, Regional Planning