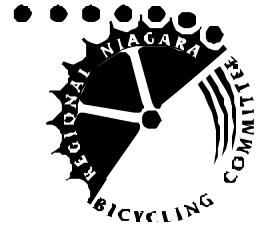


**REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES**



**Meeting of Thursday, November 13, 2003  
Committee Room #4  
7:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Bob Romanuk	- Niagara Falls Trails and Bikeways Committee
John Reep	- Public at Large
Paul Pattison	- Public at Large
Dave Hunt	- Public at Large
Jan Somerwil	- Public at Large
Frank Pravitz	- Ministry of Transportation
Tim Whittle	- Regional Niagara Police Service
Marian Landry	- Regional Niagara Public Health
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Bob Johnson (Transportation)	- Regional Niagara Public Works
Julie Bittner	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

**Regrets:**

Brian McMullan	- Regional Councillor
Rob Gabriel	- Regional Councillor

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

With the addition of the two new agenda items listed below, the agenda was adopted as revised.

D. Hunt would like to speak to the Committee about an upcoming VELO meeting being held this Saturday.

T. Whittle would like to speak to the Committee regarding the “No Bicycles – Use Path Sign” at the corner of Glendale and Canal Road.

***Motion:***

***To accept the agenda as amended.***

***Moved by: Dave Hunt***

***Seconded by: Jan Somerwil***

***Carried***

**2. Review of Meeting Notes of October 9, 2003**

***Motion:***

***To adopt the RNBC Meeting Notes of October 9, 2003.***

***Moved by: Dave Hunt***

***Seconded by: Jan Somerwil***

***Carried***

K. Forgeron reported that the Committee's comments in regards to John Fisher's presentation at the last meeting will be included in his draft letter to Walker Bros. pm the proposed landfill expansion. The Committee made some comments on possible impacts on the Regional Bicycling Network (ie. Mountain Road).

K. Forgeron asked B. Romanuk about the status of putting the bike map on the RNBC website. B. Romanuk said that work still needs to be done before it can be put on the website. He is not happy with the results that he is getting by compressing the map. He wants to cut the whole Region into equal segments that will be all the same scale so that when it is downloaded, it will be of a manageable size.

M. Landry advised the Committee that the Bicycle Friendly Award Plaques cost \$19.00 per plaque and not \$10.00 as previously estimated.

#### **4. Update on Distribution of New Bike Map**

K. Forgeron reported that a meeting was held with P. Bergen, P. Pattison, F. Pravitz, G. Hardy from NETC and himself to discuss the distribution of the bike map. Some free copies of the map are being distributed to the map sponsors. However, we are still requesting that sponsors set-up a donation box to assist in future reprinting and many are supportive.

Anyone interested in obtaining a map should contact NETC; however, in the short term, P. Pattison has been distributing the maps. So far he has visited 44 wineries and some of the bike shops. He reported that only one or two wineries have declined to distribute the maps in the fall/winter seasons. F. Pravitz reported that he had received calls from both Cave Springs and East Dell wineries requesting additional copies of the map and the \$1.00 donation sticker.

T. Whittle reported that he had dropped off a box of maps at Thorton's Bike Shop in Welland, who in turn posted the map in the window of their store. The Freewheelers distributed copies of the map at a recent health fair and they received significant donations. It didn't appear that the \$1.00 donation was an issue.

K. Forgeron reported that the Niagara Parks Commission would take copies of the map in the spring and that the Niagara Falls Parks and Recreation Department intends to give us \$100.00 and will distribute the maps at no charge.

So far about 5,000 maps have been distributed and, approximately \$1,500 has been raised in donations with the majority of the money, so far, having been collected at the World Cycling Championships in October. K. Forgeron explained to the Committee that any cheques or donations received should be made out to the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee and sent to his attention. It was also explained that the money collected would be directed to the Map Reprinting account

of the RNBC which has been set-up and will be administered by Corrie Marshall of the Public Works Department. K. Forgeron reminded the Committee that all the money raised would be used to help with reprinting future maps.

B. Romanuk suggested that we should include our web address on the \$1.00 donation sticker. This would hopefully encourage people to seek out more information from our website.

## **5. Distribution of Final Bicycle Study**

B. Johnston explained to the Committee that Regional Council “received” the Study, but has not “approved” it yet. This causes difficulty for staff in that all recommendations in the study will have to be brought forward to Council on an individual basis via the reporting process. Additional work is required by Phil Berger/Eric Flora on the municipal implementation cost breakdown (**Action Item**).

K. Forgeron asked if there would be an opportunity to bring the Study back to Committee and Council in order to have it approved and not just received. B. Johnson suggested bringing the Study forward through the Planning Committee for approval.

B. Romanuk said that he felt that there was a public relations gap when the Study was released. It was not made clear that many of the road improvements will be completed whether bike lanes are put in or not. Also, other perceptions are that we’re spending \$70 million simply on bike trails and that the proposed Sustainable Coordinator Position is strictly a “bicycle person.” He suggested that perhaps discussions on the Study should be left until the next meeting in order to give everyone a chance to review the final document (**Action Item**).

B. Johnson said that the Committee should make a strong recommendation to the Public Works Committee and Council requesting that the Study be approved and not received. This could occur at the December meeting (**Action Item**).

## **6. Future Role of the RNBC**

K. Forgeron told the Committee that MMM had set out a number of recommendations for changes to the RNBC mandate. Some suggested changes affect the RNBC Terms of Reference.

B. Johnson suggested that we maintain the RNBC in its present form while we’re in a transition period (i.e. until Regional Committees and Sub-Committees are formed).

M. Landry asked whether we could re-write our Terms of Reference and then submit the Terms of Reference once the new Public Works Committee and Council is in place. B. Johnson said that this could be done and suggested that a subcommittee should be formed to put the new Terms of Reference together.

The consultants have some suggestions about membership makeup to be increased from 25 to 38. Much of the Terms of Reference stays the same, but with some new emphasis. Engineering would be changed to the Network Task Force. The other three task forces would remain intact. A sub-Committee should draft revised Terms of References incorporating the suggestions of the consultants. T. Whittle noted that before we can deal with this or put postings out for RNBC applicants, we need to get that portion approved by Council. If we want to implement the recommendations in the study for the new RNBC, we need Council's approval. B. Johnson suggested that we continue this group in the interim and seek Council's approval.

The Clerk's Office will be consulted as to what documents new Councillors receive and B. Romanuk, F. Pravitz and K. Forgeron will consider putting together a package containing highlights of the RNBC to give to the Councillors.

The Committee decided to wait until January to adopt a motion in regards to the new Terms of Reference. This would give new Councillors on the RNBC an opportunity to provide input.

#### **7. Accommodating Cycling on the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge**

P. Pattison reported that he had written a letter to the Bridge Commission to bring to their attention his concerns regarding cycling on the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge.

For security reasons, the Whirlpool and the Lower Bridge will require the use of a Nexus pass, which costs \$80.00 for five years. The pass will be needed whether you are walking, driving a car or riding a bike. B. Johnson suggested to the Committee that we should speak to the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission and immigration and customs officials about having a role for cyclists (**Action Item**).

K. Forgeron asked if we could provide comments through the Public Works Department on the Environmental Assessment. B. Johnson said that we could and also suggested that when the fifth lane – a truck lane – is installed, we should request the installation of a metre and a half for a bike lane.

***Motion:***

***That the Public Works Department send a letter requesting that bicycle lanes be established on both sides of the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge. Also, that a copy of the letter be sent to the GNRBTC.***

***Moved by: Paul Pattison***

***Seconded by: John Reep***

***Carried***

#### **8. Safety of Off-Shore Workers Cycling in NOTL and Beamsville**

T. Whittle told the Committee that this issue has gone beyond being just a Beamsville or a Niagara-on-the-Lake issue and is now more region-wide. The community policing groups are working on developing a plan to be in place by April 2004 to distribute reflective materials to offshore workers when they receive their bikes.

K. Forgeron suggested that perhaps packages of information could be put together for the workers. The packages could include brochures on nighttime riding, trail etiquette and our new map. That map identified the safer roads to use. T. Whittle said that when offshore workers are hired, a permit is needed and it would not be difficult to find out which farms have workers. Perhaps a package could be distributed to each farm for the workers.

T. Whittle said that by February a report on this issue should be completed (**Action Item**).

## **9. Update on Safety Task Force – Police Service**

B. Johnson reported that Petar Vujic from the Public Works Department attended the September Task Force meeting in his place. P. Pattison reported that he also attended the meeting on behalf of the RNBC, but was asked to leave part-way through the meeting due to the sensitivity of some of the issues that would be discussed. The Task Force did say that he may be able to join one of the sub-committees in the future.

B. Johnson said that he had been unaware of this event occurring, but would follow-up in regards to having P. Pattison attend the next Task Force meeting (**Action Item**).

## **10. Task Force Reports**

### **Encouragement**

#### **Bicycle Friendly Awards**

The Bicycle Friendly Awards were presented to the recipients at Council on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003. M. Landry suggested to the Committee that the application format should be revamped for 2004. This year only one elementary school submitted an application form. A meeting will be held in early December with the school team and one item to be discussed is when would be a good time to have the application forms distributed to the schools. Since May/2004 will now be called Bicycle Month, perhaps the awards should be handed out then. In that case M. Landry suggested skipping the 2004 awards as the 2003 awards were just handed out. We will not have much of a bicycle season between now and May.

T. Whittle said that he thought that the ideal time for the Bicycle Friendly Awards would be in the fall as people have a chance to think about their submissions over the summer.

B. Romanuk told the Committee that he feels that Bike Week is a kick off to the spring and that the Bicycle Friendly Awards are the grande finale to finish off the cycling season.

M. Landry also reported that the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee raised \$1500 for their "Buy a Metre of Trail" for Christmas promotion.

M. Landry reported to the Committee that, previously, the Committee had decided to use the slogan "Cycling Rules!" for Bike Month. That suggestion had be enthusiastically received. While working with a Niagara College student, a number of other possible suggestions were put together. These suggestions were submitted to the RNBC and M. Landry asked each member to evaluate the list.

M. Landry reported that a new physical promoter had been hired by Regional Public Health. This individual will be attending our January meeting and will be taking on some of the responsibilities.

### **Education and Enforcement**

T. Whittle reported that through the Niagara Freewheelers, he has secured funding to purchase 30 helmets, which will be available to the Port Colborne Community Policing group for distribution to needy children. The helmets being purchased are of good quality, but are two to three years old. They may not be the latest style or have a visor.

T. Whittle said that he would provide a collision statistics report in January (**Action Item**).

### **Engineering**

#### Extension of the Friendship Trail

Construction of the Friendship Trail in Wainfleet is underway. Some of the money for the Trail will be coming from Superbuild and the remaining amount will come from the Township of Wainfleet and its private sector partners.

#### Canboro Road in Pelham

F. Pravitz advised the Committee that it is his understanding that the Town of Pelham does not wish to widen the roadway beyond its existing width. However, it is his understanding that some multiuse lanes will be provided on one side of the road from approximately Fenwick to Haist St.

B. Johnson said that one reason why the Town does not wish to widen the roadway is that they do not want to change the ambiance of the roadway. This is a local road that is on the Regional Network.

#### Regional Road 81 in the Town of Grimsby

F. Pravitz reported that on Regional Road 81, just east of Wolverton Mountain Road in the Town of Grimsby, there is a development under construction. The road around the development has been resurfaced, but shoulders have not been added. F. Pravitz would like to know what the status of the project is and whether paved shoulders would be added. B. Johnson said that he would refer this item to Brian Hughes (**Action Item**).

#### Carleton Street

F. Pravitz reported that rehabilitation work was being done on Carleton Street in St. Catharines and he was wondering if bike lanes would be included in the work. B. Johnson said that if an edge line could be put down then we would certainly do that. Parking on Carleton Street maybe an issue.

#### Glenridge Avenue

K. Forgeron reported that provision is being made to provide a link from South Drive over to Glenridge Avenue (at Westchester) to allow cyclists to travel to downtown St. Catharines.

### **11. Signage on the Canal Road in Thorold Near Glendale Avenue**

T. Whittle reported that he had received a letter from Dr. Roman Lysiuk regarding a recent incident of "road rage" while he was cycling down the canal road. This incident arose due to the fact that a sign is erected on canal road directing cyclists to use the nearby off-road recreational trail. This sign gives motorists the perception that cyclists should not be on the road. T. Whittle told the Committee that this sign has no legal status. He had spoken to Tom Doherty from the City of Thorold regarding having the sign removed. Mr. Doherty said that they would not remove the sign and that cyclists can use the road if they wish to. Thorold prefers that cyclists use the trail. B. Johnson told the Committee that he had also spoken to Mr. Doherty about having the sign removed and that his response was the same.

T. Whittle suggested that the Committee should draft a letter to Mayor Davidson of the City of Thorold supporting either the removal of the sign or altering the wording of the sign. The sign's current wording fosters "road rage." T. Whittle agreed to draft a letter, which will be reviewed by the RNBC and Regional Councillor Rob Gabriel. B. Romanuk will sign the letter as Acting Chair of the RNBC (**Action Item**).

K. Forgeron requested that Tim explore the possibility of a letter from the Regional Police directing Thorold to remove the sign (**Action Item**).

### **12. Velo Ontario General Meeting**

D. Hunt informed the Committee that Velo Ontario would be having their annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 15, 2003. The meeting will take place at the North Toronto Community Centre. D. Hunt will be bringing, approximately 40 copies of the new bike map to be distributed.

### **13. Information Items for Distribution**

K. Forgeron distributed the following items:

- Letter from Dr. Roman Lysiuk to T. Whittle recounting a recent incident of “road rage” he had experienced while cycling on the canal road in Thorold
- Media release, “Bicycling In Niagara Made Easier,” discusses the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of Regional Niagara’s Bicycling Map. This media release also announces the recipients of the 2003 Bicycle Friendly Awards.
- Article providing a summary of the successful World Cycling Championships in Hamilton and the positive economic impact.
- E-mail from Ken Forgeron thanking all the volunteers who staffed the RNBC booth at the World Cycling Championships and reminding volunteers to submit parking and expense receipts for reimbursement.
- Media release describing fundraising initiatives supporting completion of the Greater Niagara Circle Route.
- E-mail from K. Forgeron advising where businesses should send cheques for donations received from the distribution of the bicycle map and the process for directing the donated money into the Map Reprinting account of the RNBC.
- Testimonial from Kurt Gwisdek from Liberty! Bicycles commenting on the great job that was done on the Regional Cycling Map.
- Copy of a letter from F. Pravitz, on behalf of the RNBC, to the City of Port Colborne providing them with an update on the Regional Niagara Bicycling Map. The letter was sent in response to earlier correspondence received from the City wherein they expressed some concern with the style and concept of the current map.

### **13. Suggested Agenda Items for December 9, 2003**

Several deferred items will be revisited at the next meeting. The December RNBC meeting will be the Christmas Social as well. There will be a brief meeting followed by social activities.

### **14. Next RNBC Meeting**

The next RNBC meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> in the Planning Department Boardroom beginning at 6:30 p.m. The doors to the building (former Royal Bank building at the corner of Schmon Parkway and St. David’s Road) will automatically lock at 7:00 p.m. Please call 905-984-3630 to have someone let you in.

Meeting Notes Taken by:  
Julie Bittner

Reviewed by Ken Forgeron, MCIP, RPP, Senior Planner