

**REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES  
Thursday, November 1, 2007  
Committee Room #4  
7:00 p.m.**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Bob Romanuk</b> <b>Eric Flora</b> <b>Ken Forgeron</b> <b>Pat Maloney</b> <b>Paul Pattison</b> <b>Dianne Coppola</b> <b>Tim Whittle</b> <b>Frank Pravitz</b> <b>Justin Lafontaine</b> <b>Connie Mancuso</b>	- - - - - - - - - - -	<b>Public-at-Large (Acting Chair)</b> <b>Regional Public Works Department</b> <b>Regional Planning Department</b> <b>Guest</b> <b>Public-at-Large</b> <b>Regional Public Health Department</b> <b>Niagara Region Police Service</b> <b>MTO</b> <b>Bike Train Co-ordinator (via conference call)</b> <b>Regional Public Works Department</b> <b>(Recorder of Meeting Notes)</b>
<b>Regrets:</b>	<b>Brian Baty</b> <b>Barbara Henderson</b> <b>Dave Hunt</b>	- - -	<b>Regional Councillor (Chair)</b> <b>Regional Councillor</b> <b>Public-at-Large/Cycle Ontario Alliance</b>

**1) Adoption of Agenda**

- **Additional items:**

**Under Items for Consideration:**

- Bicycle Planning and Design Guidelines
- Completion of GIS Mapping of the Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Touring Club Routes

**Under Engineering Task Force:**

- QEW – Preliminary Design & Highway Assessment Studies (City of Niagara Falls/Town of Fort Erie)
- PIC - Fly Road and Victoria Avenue (Town of Lincoln)
- Main Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Street (Town of Lincoln)
- O'Reilly's Bridge (Township of Wainfleet)

***Motion:***

***To adopt the Agenda of November 1, 2007, as revised.***

***Moved By: Paul Pattison***

***Seconded By: Pat Maloney***

***Carried***

2) Review of Previous Meeting Notes (September 20, 2007)

**Page 3: Action Item**

***“The RNBC and NEDC explore further the possibility of hiring a person to put together a business plan and/or marketing/promotion campaign.”***

Ken Forgeron has had some discussion with Betsy Foster about possibly hiring someone like Justin Lafontaine (Bike Train Co-ordinator) to undertake some of this work. Funding is an issue. The Francophone community (Venture Niagara) from Welland may be one source. Further discussions will occur in 2008.

**Page 6: Action Item**

***“Eric to advise the RNBC when the Public Information Centre will be held for the Portage Road project in Niagara-On-The-Lake.”***

Eric Flora advised that the meeting for the Portage Road (NOTL) project will be held on **November 14, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.** in **Council Chambers** at **Regional Headquarters (Campbell West)**.

**Page 7: Action Item**

***“Eric and Ken to draft a general response to the Ministry of Transportation requesting that the Ministry review their interchange design standards in order to enhance cyclist and pedestrian safety when crossing Provincial highways.”***

To be deferred due to time constraints

***Action Item:***

***Frank Pravitz to provide contact names (for cc's on the letter) to MTO.***

**Page 9: Action Item**

***Outstanding Action Item:***

***Councillor Baty is to prepare a letter to be sent to the Bike Train Initiative organizers expressing our appreciation as well as suggesting that they consider stops at Grimsby and St. Catharines in the future.***

***Motion:***

***To accept and approve the Meeting Notes of September 20, 2007.***

***Moved By: Paul Pattison***

***Seconded By: Pat Maloney***

***Carried***

3) **Business Arising**

a) **Outside Bike Shelter at Regional Headquarters**

- Ken Forgeron reported that progress was going well for the possible designs for an outside, secure bicycle/transit shelter on the island opposite the new cafeteria.
- A glass structure could hold 12 bikes and a waiting area for people taking the bus.
- The structure size could be approx. 15' x 18' and will accommodate D-style bike racks.
- Funding will be considered through the 2008 budgeting process.
- Ken Forgeron distributed some photos of possible designs being considered.

4) **Items for Consideration**

a) **Bicycle Trade Association: Bicycle Promotion and Ideas for ES: City of St. Catharines**

Ken Forgeron distributed a media release *'Bikes belong in Ontario!'* – This policy program to promote bicycling was released by the *Bicycle Trade Association of Canada (BTAC)* calling for the provincial parties to adopt the program, which includes:

- *direct and dedicated funding in Ontario municipalities for increased bicycle infrastructure;*
- *direct financial incentives to increase bicycle use and safe cycling;*
- *Provincial tax incentives for private sector employers to install bicycle parking, showers and other cycling specific amenities necessary for employees to cycle to work and encourage Ontario Public Service employees to cycle to work by providing similar access to cycling specific amenities;*
- *direct and dedicated funding for youth cycling training and cycling awareness training for drivers; and*
- *seed funding for the establishment of a not-for-profit organization to assist the province, Ontario municipalities and private sector employers in developing and implementing cycling policies and plans specifically related to increasing cycling transportation and recreational cycling in Ontario.*

Ken Forgeron recommended that the RNBC supports this initiative.

On a somewhat related matter, the City of St. Catharines is looking for comments on what can be done to address the issue of climate change. It was suggested that the City make more of a commitment to supporting bicycling from both policy and infrastructure standpoints.

**Action Items:**

- 1) ***Paul Pattison is to compose a letter in support of the BTAC policy program.***
- 2) ***A second letter to the City of St. Catharines urging the City to make more of a commitment in its Official Plan and engineering work to facilitate bicycling as one method of combating climate change.***
- 3) ***Letters will be drafted for signature by Councillor Baty.***

**b) Final Report Highlights (conference call with Justin Lafontaine) – Toronto-Niagara Bike Train Initiative**

- The Toronto-Niagara Bike Train Initiative *Final Report and Recommendations and Executive Summary* was handed out at the meeting.
- A conference call was placed to Justin Lafontaine in Toronto.
- Ken asked Justin to give our Committee an overview of the work completed for the final report.
- Justin submitted his final report to the Ministry of Tourism and VIA Rail.
- The pilot year for the Toronto-Niagara Bike Train Initiative has been very successful.
- This pilot project operated over four weekends during the summer, receiving an overwhelming positive response from Bike Train passengers, VIA rail employees, Niagara tourism industry representatives and the general public.
- A total of 286 passengers traveled on the Bike Train with 90% capacity on Saturday departures from Toronto; two out of the four were at 100% capacity.
- The #1 recommendation in the report was to expand Bike Train service between Toronto and Niagara, and other destinations in Ontario.
- Justin mentioned there would hopefully be more departures next year.
- The Bike Train Initiative is hoping to launch an Ottawa to Toronto/Niagara Region next summer.
- Ministry of Tourism will be asked to continue with their funding; as well, the Bike Train Initiative may look to Transport Canada for support with areas of need, such as level train platforms in the Niagara Region, and making improvements to accommodate bikes.
- **SEE FINAL REPORT ON: [www.biketrain.ca](http://www.biketrain.ca)**

**c) Letter to MTO on Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety at Off/On Ramps**

***Outstanding Action Item:***

***Eric Flora and Ken Forgeron to draft a response to the Ministry of Transportation requesting that the Ministry review their interchange design standards in order to enhance cyclist and pedestrian safety when crossing Provincial highways.***

**d) War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebrations: Possible 2012 Heritage Bicycle Route Brochure**

- Ken Forgeron brought this item forward to see if there was any interest from members to develop a 2012 Heritage Bicycle Route Brochure.
- Patrick Robson (Regional Planning) and Jim Hall (Parks Canada) will be part of this celebration effort.
- If anyone is interested in taking this on as a project, please raise it at next month's RNBC meeting as an action item.

**e) Regional Bike Lane Brochure**

- Tim Whittle, with assistance from Transportation Services staff, will be undertaking this project in the new year and asked if there is any interest from members to participate in the project.
- Tim would like to have this brochure ready for the launch of the spring Bike Week.

f) **2008 RNBC Meeting Schedule (draft)**

- A draft of the 2008 RNBC Meeting Schedule has been prepared and rooms have been booked for the year.
- As in past years, all meeting will take place in Committee Room #4 at 7:00 p.m. (with the exception of the June 26, 2008, which will be held in Campbell East Room 101 or in the cafeteria).
- A draft of this schedule is attached to the Meeting Notes.

**Action Item:**

**To review the 2008 RNBC Meeting Schedule as set-out on the attached list. Schedule will be e-mailed to all members before the next meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Members are asked to please review the schedule and advise Connie Mancuso-Redman by e-mail ([connie.mancuso-redman@regional.niagara.on.ca](mailto:connie.mancuso-redman@regional.niagara.on.ca)) or by phone 905-685-4225, extension 3256, if there are any concerns with the schedule.**

**Additions to Items for Consideration:**

g) **Bicycle Planning and Design Guidelines**

- Tess Kalinowski, Transportation Reporter has written about street marking symbols for the benefit of multi-users of wide curb lanes, including cyclists. They include "Bike Boxes" and "Sharrows".
- "Bike boxes" are designated areas at intersections that take cyclists out of a motorist blind spot and give them an advance position from which to make a left-turn.
- "Sharrows" street markings are used on wide shared use curb lanes (typically two chevrons and a bike symbol) that show where cyclists should be situated on a road.
- This project is growing across the USA.
- These symbols may be useful for inclusion in the Bikeways Master Plan guidelines.

**Motion:**

**That the Niagara Region Engineering Group (Brian Hughes) consider these concepts in the Niagara Region's Bicycle Planning and Design Guidelines.**

**Moved by: Paul Pattison**

**Seconded by: Pat Maloney**

**Carried**

h) **Completion of GIS Mapping of the Niagara Freewheelers Routes**

- With the assistance from the GIS Department, two Niagara College students worked on the mapping system for 300 plus Freewheeler routes.
- At present, the GIS Department advised that they do not have staff or funding in order to complete this project (at a cost of \$4,000 to \$5,000).

- The RNBC Committee questioned whether they could get a number of groups together to fund this project; if it were a shared venture, it may be more feasible.
- The Ministry of Tourism, Greenbelt Foundation and the Trillium Foundation are possible sources of funding.

**Action Item:**

**Frank Pravitz to coordinate a meeting with the GIS Department (to include Tom Jamieson, Bruce Irwin and Councillor Baty) to discuss the funding issue for the completion of GIS Mapping of the Freewheelers Routes.**

5) **Task Force Reports**

Engineering Task Force

**Portage Road (Town of NOTL) – Road Allowance Public Meeting**

- To be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**Bikeways Funding on Local Roads**

- A Regional Policy is in place to provide for considering cost-sharing between Region and local municipalities on road improvements.
- Local municipalities to provide 'wish list' for next year to the Public Works Department, as soon as possible.
- Budget for such work in capital roads projects at this time is set at \$200,000 subject to review by Regional Council.

**Highway 406 Crossing at Thorold/Fonthill Spur**

- Eric Flora advised the RNBC that the MTO has completed all the approved works (design, lighting, signage, trail linkages).
- The RNBC would like the trail linkage design between each side of Highway 406 revisited. Meetings with the MTO will be required, along with the Town of Pelham and City of Thorold.
- Tim Whittle summarized the concern over providing a better connection on the Regional Network where Holland Road meets Highway 406.
- Tim believes that a 750 yard connection and directional signage along the highway to the tunnel for the Thorold/Fonthill Spur would provide a good alternative access.
- MTO permission would be required to develop a stone dust trail in partnership with both Pelham and Thorold.
- Without this, Pelham is virtually cut-off from accessing the Greater Niagara Circle Route.
- It was noted that the Ministry of Health Promotion supports the use of highway corridors for trails.

**Action Item:**

**Eric Flora to have staff prepare sketch of proposed trail linkage location and arrange meetings with the MTO and Mayors of Pelham and Thorold.**

### Lakeshore Road EA (Town of NOTL)

- Paul Pattison attended the Public Information Centre last week.
- The Committee has until November 14<sup>th</sup> to respond.
- There were 4 alternatives proposed for consideration:
  - #1 1.5 m bike lane on both sides of road/full ditches
  - #2 1.5 m bike lane both sides/gravel shoulders/swales/storm sewers/no ditches
  - #3 1.5 m bike lane standard curb and gutter
  - #4 1.5 m bike lane both sides/urban cross section/mountable curb and gutter/bike lane is technically off traveled portion of road

**Total cross-section of 20.1 m applies to all projects.**

- The pros and cons for each proposal were discussed.
- Alternatives #1 and #2 were supported by this Committee by a show of hands, since they appeared to be more environmentally friendly, maintained the rural ambience and provided safety for cyclists.

***Motion:***

***That the RNBC supports EA Alternative #1 as its first preference or Alternative #2 as its second preference for the provision of new bike lanes along a rural cross-section of Lakeshore Road (NOTL) in order to provide a safe cycling environment and to maintain the rural character of this section of roadway between Four Mile Creek Road and Townline Road.***

***Moved by: Pat Maloney***

***Seconded by: Paul Pattison***

***Carried***

***Action Item:***

***Paul Pattison to submit the RNBC motion to John Rizzo, Project Manager, Regional Transportation Engineering.***

### McLeod Road EA (City of Niagara Falls)

- The EA is to be budgeted for next year from Pin Oak Drive to Stanley Avenue (south leg).

### South Niagara East-West Arterial Road Study

- EA for a new or improved Regional corridor in the southern part of Niagara between Highway 140 and QEW to be discussed with Brian Hughes and staff.
- This project is tied into the Region's 'Grow South' strategy.

### **Transportation Services Sustainability Review Study**

- The consultant has met with all 12 municipalities.
- A number of roads have been identified by the local municipalities as 'candidates' for transfer back to Regional jurisdiction.
- The report will be ready for Council by Spring 2008.

### **Potential Road Projects on Wine Route**

- Brian Hughes (Transportation Engineering) prepared a memorandum to NEDC which identified potential Regional road projects on the wine route in reference to the report "Energizing Niagara's Wine Country Communities"
- As part of the budgeting process, engineering staff will be looking at the potential road projects that will be impacted by this list over the next 10 years. Any members interested in viewing this road list, please contact Eric Flora.

### **Additional Items:**

#### **QEW - Preliminary Design and Highway Assessment Studies (City of Niagara Falls and Town of Fort Erie)**

- Preliminary design report – widening 4 to 6 lanes.
- Widening of Hwy 420 to McLeod Road – 6 lanes.

#### **PIC - Fly Road and Victoria Avenue Meeting (Town of Lincoln)**

- This meeting was on the subject of the aggregate haulage truck traffic on Fly Road and Victoria Avenue for the QEW widening through St. Catharines project.

#### **Main Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Street (Town of Lincoln)**

- The closing off of Main Street at 19<sup>th</sup> Street and RR 81 (King Street) and bring the road to the north of this area was discussed (Jordan Secondary Plan).

#### **O'Reilly's Bridge (Township of Wainfleet)**

- Regional staff has received an EA Part II order request and will be addressing it accordingly.

#### **Education and Enforcement Task Force**

- No report.

#### **Encouragement Task Force**

- Strategic Plan Development - is in the process of being finalized.
- Councillor Baty will bring report to Council in January 2008.
- The Encouragement Task Force would like to propose that the RNBC dedicate time at their January 2008 meeting to focus on 3 areas of this report. These areas are, as follows:

- a) The RNBC will work towards the implementation of Council's approved Regional Bikeways Network to ensure dedicated space for cyclists, including the implementation of a bicycle signage plan.
- b) The RNBC will assist Niagara municipalities and other stakeholders with the development and implementation of relevant planning documents, inclusive of land use and active transportation plans that support enhanced infrastructure (inter-connected, multi-modal pathways and trails. – both on-road and off-road, facilities, such as, bike storage/parking at destinations and on buses, etc.) for walking and cycling.
- c) The RNBC will maintain and expand its partnerships with other local, provincial and bi-national groups and communities to facilitate and promote cycling for transportation, recreation and tourism purposes and through education, encouragement and outreach activities for cyclists of all ages and abilities.

### **Policy Task Force**

- No report.

## **6) Items for Information and Distribution**

### **Highlights of "Beyond Regeneration" Waterfront Trust Conference**

- Deferred to next meeting.

### **RNBC Website and Corporate Requirements**

- Bob Romanuk and Ken Forgeron reported on a meeting held with Councillor Baty, Bob, Ken and IT staff to discuss the RNBC website becoming more in compliance with the Niagara Region website requirements.
- Members are encouraged to look at established website guidelines.
- Region would like the RNBC Meeting Notes to move physically to the Region's website.
- Other links (e.g. bike shop locations) cannot be put on the Region's website.
- A separation of information will have to take place in the future, in order to establish what can and cannot be put on the Niagara Region website.

### **Brief Update on RNBC Strategic Plan Development**

- Eric Flora to follow-up with the Region of Waterloo on existing job description.
- Printing time for final report – Connie checked with printshop about the amount of time required for printing the final report (approx. 50 copies). The print job can be completed the same day (if brought down early the same day). The exception would be during the week of Council, as the printshop is extremely busy at that time; therefore, other jobs are delayed.

### **St. David's Road Pedestrian & Cycling Needs EA (Reminder)**

- The Ontario Traffic Conference has a workshop scheduled for April 2008 in Niagara Falls.
- Eric Flora and the consultant have been tentatively asked to make a presentation on the details of a preferred design involving a centre median multi-use trail. This must be approved by the workshop committee.
- Ken Forgeron will attend if Eric Flora is not available.

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**Items for Distribution:**

- ◆ Comment Form – Class Environmental Assessment – Waterfront Trail on Regional Road 87 (Lakeshore Road) – Four Mile Creek to Townline Road, Niagara-On-The-Lake.
- ◆ Waterfront Trail on Regional Road 87 (Lakeshore Road) – Class Environmental Assessment Study – Public Information Centre No. 1 – October 24, 2007 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Delcan Corporation and Niagara Region.
- ◆ Toronto Star (Sept 2007) – Getting Around – ‘A bicycle-friendly city is environment-friendly, too’.
- ◆ St. Catharines Standard (Sept 2007) – ‘Ideas for a greener region are out there’.
- ◆ RNBC 2008 Meeting Dates (to be e-mailed to all members).
- ◆ Niagara News – West Niagara Edition (Oct 2007) – ‘Region may fund bike lane on Lake Street’.
- ◆ Voice of Pelham (Oct 2007) – ‘Medians on Hwy 20 creating a stir’ and ‘Safety the primary concern’.
- ◆ Niagara This Week (Oct 2007) – ‘Metroland – Halton Division – Friendship Trail nears completion’ and ‘Metroland – Halton Division – Region wants public to get with the plan’.
- ◆ Niagara Falls Review (Oct 2007) – ‘Common voice can take tourism to the next level’.
- ◆ St. Catharines Standard (Oct 2007) – ‘City’s on-road bike facilities are shameful’.
- ◆ Toronto-Niagara Bike Train Initiative – Final Report and Recommendations.
- ◆ Media Release – ‘Bikes belong in Ontario!’ – BTAC releases comprehensive policy program to promote cycling.
- ◆ E-mail to Ken Forgeron from Mark Horowitz – Simple fact sheet for bike lanes? (some sad but true benefits of bike lanes from a vehicle perspective).
- ◆ Ontario Trails Council and Niagara Region - 2007 OTC Trails Summit – Proceedings for the 2007 Annual Conference – May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Renaissance Fallsview Hotel, Niagara Falls, Ontario – Table of Contents.
- ◆ St. Catharines Standard - ‘Voting for a greener, cleaner Ontario’ – Environmentalists looking for party that will do the best job of protecting the planet’.
- ◆ E-mail from Niagara Current (Sept 2007) – Biking to Work?
- ◆ St. Catharines Standard (Oct 2007) – ‘Parking partly to blame for lack of bike lanes’.
- ◆ What Happened at Council – October 18, 2007 – Presentations: ‘Bicycle Friendly Awards’.
- ◆ Voice of Pelham (Sept 2007) – ‘Cycle across Niagara’ (article by Brian Baty).
- ◆ Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee Minutes (May 2007) – Recommendations to Regional Council pertaining to signage around the Circle Route.
- ◆ Niagara Parks – Niagara Falls Great Gorge – Official Media Release (Oct 2007) – ‘Niagara Parks Announces Distance Marking on Recreational Trail’.
- ◆ Conference and Trail Ride Highlights – Beyond Regeneration: The Trail Ahead – Waterfront Regeneration Trust (WRT), Sept 19 & 20, 2007 – Toronto, Mississauga and Pickering.

**7) Items for Next Agenda**

- Strategic Plan
- Grassy Brook Road (Niagara Falls)
- McLeod Road Functional Plan

8) Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 2007

*Meeting/Christmas Social*



**Place:** *Red Onion Eatery & Bar*  
260 Lake Street  
St. Catharines

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

- ◆ The upstairs room is reserved for us (under the name Connie)
- ◆ Buffet Dinner
- ◆ More details to follow via e-mail as well as confirmation of your attendance by e-mail in order to reserve number of tables, etc.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

**Motion:**  
*That the November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 meeting of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee be adjourned.*

**Moved by:** *Paul Pattison*  
**Seconded by:** *Pat Maloney*

*Carried*

**Meeting adjourned at:** 9:59 p.m.

**Meeting Notes prepared by:**

Connie Mancuso-Redman, Niagara Region Public Works Department

**Meeting Notes Reviewed by:**

Eric L. Flora, P. Eng., CET, Associate Director, Transportation Systems, Public Works Department

Ken Forgeron, MCIP, RPP, Senior Planner, Community Planning Policy and Information,  
Planning and Development Department

Dianne Coppola, Manager – Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention Division, Public Health Department