

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE

REPORT 3-2010

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario.

ATTENDANCE

- Committee: Chair Brian Baty, Scott Elliott, Niagara Regional Police Services, Dave Hunt, Pat Maloney, Paul Pattison, Frank Pravitz, Wade Smith, Tom Whitelaw
- Staff: Phil Bergen, Transportation Services; Ken Forgeron, Integrated Community Planning, Penny Pitt, Administrative Assistant, Clerk's Department.
- Regrets: Peter Davies, Niagara Freewheelers, Dave Evans, Bob Romanuk, Mark Hansen, Betsy Foster, Niagara Economic Development Corporation,
- Guests: Janice Makepeace, Town of Lincoln

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

35. The Agenda was adopted with the addition of items under Items for Consideration – Bike Show Highlights and Engineering Task Force – Hot Mix Program.

PRESENTATION

36. Multi-Use Trails and Bikeways

Janice Makepeace, Community Service Coordinator from the Town of Lincoln provided a presentation entitled "Multi-Use Trails and Bikeways – Town of Lincoln". Ms. Makepeace apprised the committee that in 2002, the Town of Lincoln completed a multi-use trail and bikeway plan with the vision of making the Town of Lincoln a community totally accessible to walkers and cyclists. The trails will be constructed to provide a seamless network of transportation and fitness routes throughout the town. Maps of nine sites were shown that included specific trail features, scope of work and level of priority. The Town of Lincoln has received a Recreation Infrastructure grant of \$1.65 million (1/3 Federal, 1/3 Provincial and 1/3 Municipal) for the development on/off road trails, on road signage and off road design. A completion date of March 2011 has been set.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

37. Report 2-2010

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

That Report 2-2010 being the Minutes of the March 2, 2010 meeting be approved with the following amendments:

- **Minute Item 22 – Third paragraph**
 - **replace Niagara Region’s municipalities with Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee**
 - **add to the last sentence developed by the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee**
- **Minute Item 28 – first sub bullet under Stand alone themes to date**
 - **Land Use Planning and Development**

Carried

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS ITEMS AND BUSINESS ARISING

38. Action Item 3 – Thorold/Fonthill Spur

This item is still pending.

Action Item 17 – Proposed Bicycle/Transit Shelter

Ken Forgeron will coordinate the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Regional Bicycle Parking Structure. A date of mid May is proposed to be held during the lunch hour. Two graphic designs on metal plates are being produced and will be attached to the structure.

Action Item 18 – St. David’s Road EA

Phil Bergen will forward comments to D. Smith.

Action Item 24 – Hamilton to Niagara Falls Routes

The Freewheelers will be providing an alternate member due to the eminent resignation of Paul Davies. Pat Maloney will create a cue sheet for the two routes and committee members were requested to send any ideas to him.

Action Item 28 – Laminated Bicycle Maps

This action item has been deferred.

Action Item 38 – RNBC Budget

This item has been completed and removed.

Action Item 39 – 2010 Bike Show

The 2010 Bike Show was held at a different although smaller venue but was considered a better site. The booth needs revitalization and new graphics.

Action Item 51 – RNBC Website

Denise Papaiz has made a proposal regarding the split page.

Action Item 59 – Volunteers for RNBC Task Forces

An updated volunteer list with emails has been sent to committee members.

Action Item 65 – 2010 Great Waterfront Trail Adventure

The Fifteen Mile Creek Bridge on the north side of the Service Road is to be taken down possibly by the end of June. This would affect the Waterfront Trail Adventure Day 1 lunch won't be able to be held at Charles Daily Park. An alternate plan is needed.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

39. TDM Niagara Region Bikeways Network Signage and Wayfinding Pilot Project

The MTO Transportation Demand Management letters of agreement for the Niagara Region Bicycle Signage and Wayfinding Pilot Project Study have been endorsed and returned to the Ministry of Transportation before the deadline of April 9th.

Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee Network Task Force members will be meeting in the coming weeks to discussing next steps for the NRBSWFPP study.
NEW ACTION ITEM 66 NRBSWFPP Study

40. Surplus Property Information Report

The committee was provided with a copy of Report CSD 21-2010 a listing of properties which have been declared surplus and are either used for other purposes, or are available for disposition.

41. Complete Streets Forum

Regional staff Ken Forgeron, Phil Bergen and committee member Dave Hunt will be travelling to Toronto to attend the Complete Streets Forum on April 22-23, 2010 organized by the Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation (TCAT). The Transportation Division provided the funds for a committee member to attend.

42. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Regional Bicycle Parking Structure

This item has been previously reported under Previous Action Item 17 – Proposed Bicycle/Transit Shelter.

43. Port Robinson Ferry Service

The committee was advised that a meeting was scheduled for April 14th, involving the Town of Thorold's Mayor Henry D'Angela and Councillor Bruce Timms to discuss how the ferry service can be reestablished or an alternative method. Bicyclists would be agreeable to pay a \$2 fee to cross the canal.

Cyclists are to be notified about road and bridge closures with a link on the RNBC website.

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

That the Public Works Department be encouraged to ensure that road and bridge closures are listed on the RNBC website and that Chair Baty send correspondence to the Niagara Region with the same request.

Carried

44. 2010 Bike Show Highlights

Committee members that volunteered at the Bike Show apprised the committee that although the new venue was smaller it was a better site. There was a steady business with tourist interest and a growing awareness in off road bicycling. There appeared to be fewer municipalities promoting bicycling. New graphics and revitalization is needed for the bicycle display. A suggestion was made of using another venue such as the Outdoor Adventure Show to promote bicycling.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

45. Engineering/Network Task Force

Phil Bergen reported on the following items:

a) Report PWA 30-2010 – Project Initiation – Cost Sharing on Bike Paths of non –Regional Road Funding was approved at the Public Works Committee on April 13, 2010 for the following locations:

- City of Thorold – Richmond Street from Queen Street to the new Thorold Community Pool
- Township of Wainfleet - 4.6 km on Feeder Road
- Town of Niagara on-the-Lake - East and West Line Road

b) Hot Mix Program

John Rizzo will prepare a schedule this month or early May 2010

c) Inter-Municipal Transit Phase 2

Public Information Centres will be held at the following times and locations:

PIC#1 – Wednesday, April 14, 2010 1-4 p.m. Market Square, St. Catharines

PIC#2 – Wednesday, April 14, 2010 6-9 p.m. Gordon Public School, Welland

PIC#3 – Thursday, April 15, 2010 6-9 p.m. Niagara Falls Public Library, Niagara Falls

A report will go to Council on May 12, 2010.

d) Niagara to GTA Corridor

The RNBC has been requested to provide comment on the alternatives report which been posted on the website for comment.

e) Highway 406 On/Off Ramp

A Class Environmental Assessment Study has been initiated for a new Interchange on Highway 406 (North) between Fourth Avenue and Third Street Louth in the City of St. Catharines. Every effort will be made to achieve a consensus through public consultation for a preferred design within the study area that will satisfy the concerns and issues of affected stakeholders, regulatory agencies and the public. A stakeholders meeting has been scheduled for April 27, 2010. Paul Pattison will attend as the RNBC representative and to comment on cycling issues.

Public Information Centres have been scheduled for September 2010 and January 2011. These information centres will provide an opportunity to meet the Project Team, review the study scope and discuss issues related to the project including alternative solutions, environmental considerations and evaluation criteria.

g. McLeod Road Public Information Centre

The Regional Municipality of Niagara and the City of Niagara Falls, is undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment Study for Regional Road 49

(McLeod Road)/Marineland Parkway from Pin Oak Drive to Portage Road and Regional Road 98 (Montrose Road) from McLeod Road to approximately 1 km North. The Public Information Center is scheduled for April 20, 2010 at the MacBain Community Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

h. Glendale Avenue

A Request for Proposal to retain the services of a consulting engineering firm to undertake a Planning Study for Glendale / QEW / Highway 405 in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The closing date is Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. A Public Information Centre will be scheduled in late September.

i. Go Rail Extension

Staff has already submitted preliminary comments. There will be PIC's later next month where individual RNBC members will be able to submit their comments.

j. Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Policy Framework Report

The above mentioned Report 84-2010 will be presented at the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee on April 20th for approval. The report will also be presented for consideration at the Public Works and Integrated Community Planning Committees on May 4 and 5 respectively. The TDM Policy Framework will also be circulated to local municipalities and other stakeholders for information and consideration.

46. Education and Encouragement Task Force

The cost of the first and second edition printing of the bicycle map was discussed. The Niagara Economic Development Corporation coordinated the printing of thirty to forty thousand maps and approximately \$7000 was paid to the cartographer. There is currently \$20,000 from the sale of maps set aside for reprinting. To get us through the summer months, 10,000 2nd edition maps will be printed at a cost of \$3600.00. Chair Baty had a request from a motorcycle club for 50 bicycle maps.

Pat Maloney moved
Tom Whitelaw seconded

That a printing of ten thousand Regional Niagara Bicycling maps at a cost of \$3600 be initiated.

47. Policy Task Force

The volunteers on the Policy Task Force will meet on April 20, 2010 to review updates and draft a policy for the RNBC. Another meeting will also be held before the next RNBC meeting on June 1, 2010.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

48. Annual Joint Meeting of Cycling Committees

The Annual Joint Meeting of the Hamilton, Niagara and Burlington Cycling Committees will be held in Burlington at 9:00am on Saturday May 15th, 2010. The location will be made available at a later date. Dave Hunt will be attending and has suggested the following items for submission:

- Niagara Public Health Dept CAN-BIKE Program
- Information/status on upcoming future projects (e.g. Cycling Network Review, Model Municipal Bicycle Policy, Signage Project)
- Hand out with brief review of new approved bicycle policies

An optional bike ride may be held in the afternoon. When available, details will be emailed to committee members.

49. Council Approval of ICP 9-2010

Correspondence was received Kevin Bain, Regional Clerk and Patrick Robson, Commissioner of Integrated Community Planning that Report ICP 9-2010, Regional Policy Plan Amendment 5-2009 Planning for Sustainable, Active Transportation: Revised Bicycle Transportation Policies and Mapping, was received Council approval on March 4, 2010.

50. Memo Re: Grimsby Trails

A memo regarding a newspaper article regarding the Grimsby Trails was received from Drew Semple, Senior Planner.

51. Waterfront Trail Adventure Tour

The Waterfront Trail Adventure Tour will take place on July 3-10, 2010 beginning at Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake and ending at Confederation Park.

52. GranFondo

Phil Bergen reported that the GranFondo Bike Race is a one day event taking in 120 kms from Vancouver to Whistler, British Columbia. An interest was expressed to hold a similar event around the Greater Niagara Circle Route.

ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION

53. The following items were distributed to committee members:
- An article entitled “The economic benefits of bicycle infrastructure investments”
 - An article entitled “Transportation Reframed: Creating the case for Complete Streets Policies”

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

54. The following item under Items for Information was suggested for the next agenda:
- Draft Bicycle Policy

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday June 1, 2010 in Committee Room 4.

Brain Baty
Chair

Penny Pitt
Administrative Assistant
Clerk’s Department