

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE
Regional Headquarters -Committee Room 4

THURSDAY, August 6, 2009 - MEETING NOTES

ATTENDANCE

Phil Bergen	Niagara Region Public Works Department
Ken Forgeron	Niagara Region Integrated Community Planning
Marc Hansen	Public-at-Large
Dave Hunt	Public-at-Large
Gary Murphy	GCAST (Guest)
Wade Smith	Public-at-Large
Bob Romanuk	Public-at-Large/N.F.Trails & Bikeways Committee
Penny Pitt	Administrative Assistant
Tom Whitelaw	Public-at-Large

Regrets – Chair Baty, Dave Evans, Scott Elliott, Eric Flora, Paul Pattison, Frank Pravitz

Quorum

There being a lack of ordinary quorum, Acting Chair Romanuk determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to 3 members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 96-2007.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Dave Hunt
Seconded by Tom Whitelaw

To adopt the agenda with the addition of an item under Task Force Reports.
Carried

2. PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP ON REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE

Wade Smith, prospective new REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE member, provided his bio to the committee.

Moved by Tom Whitelaw
Seconded by Marc Hansen

That this committee recommends that Wade Smith become a member of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee.

Carried

3. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES OF JUNE 25, 2009

Moved by Dave Hunt

Seconded by Wade Smith

That the Meeting Notes of June 25, 2009 be accepted with an amendment on Page 9 to add the word “previously” after the word GCAST in the item “Update on Proposed On-Road Bicycle Route Enhancements in St. Catharines”.

Carried

Dave Hunt suggested the following format changes in the Review of Action Items and Business Arising. These two items will be listed and discussed together. In an effort to review the Action Items more easily, each item will be assigned a pertinent “Subject Title”. The Committee supported these improvements.

4. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS AND BUSINESS ARISING

ACTION ITEM 1 – Bike Racks on Buses

Upon the installation of bike racks on buses in the City of St. Catharines, it was suggested that a letter of congratulations be sent to them. **ACTION ITEM #1– BIKE RACKS ON BUSES**

ACTION ITEM 6 – 2012 Heritage Bicycle Route and Brochure

Bob Romanuk met with Vincent Del Bono and forwarded the link of the Google Map he is working on. Once the suggested routes are confirmed, a Cue Sheet can be worked out and included in the web based library of scenic bicycle tours.

ACTION ITEM 17 – Proposed Bicycle/Transit Shelter

Ken Forgeron informed the committee that Facilities Management had installed a cage type facility at the Campbell East entrance. Modifications will need to be made to the key coded security door. Change rooms and showers located down the hallway from the entrance are available for staff that choose to bicycle to work. The next phase is the installation of 5 U shaped bicycle racks. Guidelines and rules of use are being developed. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be planned upon final completion of the shelter. **ACTION ITEM #17 – PROPOSED BICYCLE/TRANSIT SHELTER**

ACTION ITEM 18 – St. David's Road EA

Phil Bergen stated the St. David's Road EA and associated multi-use trail is still under investigation with the Ministry of Transportation.

ACTION ITEM 23 – Improvements to Queenston-Lewiston Plaza

This item is still in progress.

ACTION ITEM 24 – Hamilton to Niagara Falls Routes

This item is still in progress with Peters Davies and the Niagara Freewheelers.

ACTION ITEM 28 – Laminated Bicycle Maps

Councillor Baty to discuss funding with Mike Trojan, CAO.

ACTION ITEM 40 – 2010 Bike Show

Dave Evans is in collaboration with Paul Pattison and Peter Davies of the Freewheelers in preparing video footage to be used at the 2010 Bike Show. He is requesting members to send him footage from events such as Canal Days Mountain Bike Race or the Lake to Lake Race if available.

BUSINESS ARISING

Hartzel Road EA – Design Recommendation

**Moved by Dave Hunt
Seconded by Tom Whitelaw**

That the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee supports the preferred design recommendation for Hartzel Road-Merritt Street which includes conversion of the four-lane undivided roadway section to a three-lane roadway with on-road bike lanes.

Carried

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee - Revised Terms of Reference

Dave Hunt reviewed the final draft of the Terms of Reference with the committee.

**Moved by Dave Hunt
Seconded by Tom Whitelaw**

That the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee forward the Terms of Reference as tabled to the Integrated Community Planning and Public Works Committee meeting for approval.

Carried

- Council Approval of Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee Priority Actions

Moved by Tom Whitelaw

Seconded by Dave Hunt

That the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee forward the Priority Actions to the Integrated Community Planning and Public Works Committee meeting for approval.

Carried

- Volunteers for Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee Task Forces

Ken Forgeron gave an explanation of the duties of the three Task Forces; Engineering/Network Task Force, Education/Encouragement Task Force and the Policy Task Force. He then polled the attending committee members for volunteers for each Task Force. Requests to participate will be made to those members not in attendance.

NEW ACTION ITEM 59 – VOLUNTEERS FOR RNBC TASK FORCES

- Signage and Wayfinding Program Terms of Reference

Moved by Dave Hunt

Seconded by Marc Hansen

That the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee endorse the Signage and Wayfinding Program and its Terms of Reference and recommend that it be forwarded to the Integrated Community Planning and Public Works Department meeting for upcoming budget consideration and implementation in 2010.

Carried

- Thorold Bicycle Route Feasibility Study

Moved by Dave Hunt

Seconded by Tom Whitelaw

That the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee endorses the comments on the Thorold Bicycle Route Feasibility Study and recommends that it be forwarded to the Integrated Community Planning and Public Works Department meeting for approval.

Carried

- Proposed “Share the Road” Brochure

Ken Forgeron proposed that the newly formed Education and Encouragement Task Force undertake to produce a draft brochure similar to the Haliburton Highlands Brochure, for review by this committee. **NEW ACTION ITEM 60 – PROPOSED “SHARE THE ROAD” BROCHURE**

Gary Murphy of GCAST related a recent incident regarding the St. Catharines Cycling Club dangerously passing a female cyclist, and in effect “swarming” her on a local roadway. The woman fell off her bike and suffered three broken ribs, a punctured lung and a broken collar bone. He commented that cyclists do not always obey the rules and the police have great difficulty with enforcement. A meeting will be scheduled with Police Officer Brian Eckhart to address the issue.

Lisa Gallant, from Niagara Region, has approached GCAST to apply for funding through the Ministry of Health Promotion. The funding is meant to replace funding that has been received through the Regional Public Health Department and will be applied for by 5 active transportation groups in Grimsby, Welland, Port Colborne, Thorold and GCAST. Applications have been made and are now awaiting the results. Two initiatives were applied for, one is safe routes to school and the other is an initiative to keep seniors active.

- Guidelines for Use of Bike Storage Facility

Reported on in Action Item 17.

6. TASK FORCE REPORTS

Engineering Task Force

- Timing of Regional Bicycle Master Plan Update

Phil Bergen reported that to date there has been no discussions on the Regional Bicycle Master Plan Update and network review due to budget deliberations and a pending Sustainable Transportation Master Plan study in 2010.

- Highway 406 Widening: Status

Phil Bergen reported that 30% of the design review is completed regarding the twinning of Highway 406 at Port Robinson Road and East Main Street. There was only one bump up requested for the previous Planning and EA Study component.

- Comments on Bowen Road-QEW Bridge Rehabilitation EA

The MTO has filed an EA and the Region has asked to have a TESR addendum to be undertaken as soon as possible (with Town of Fort Erie support).

Education and Enforcement Task Force

- Collision Statistics Reporting

Phil Bergen apprised the committee that a Collision Statistics Report could be prepared or Peter Vujic in Regional Public Works could make a presentation at the next RNBC meeting. A list of items that the committee would like to see regarding the collision statistics will be compiled. Peter Vujic will also be advised as to what province-wide stats were provided from the “CanBike” package. **ACTION ITEM 39 – BICYCLE ACCIDENT STATISTICS**

Policy Task Force

- PPA 5-2009 (Bicycle Policies and Mapping)

Ken Forgeron thanked the members of the Policy Task Force for the excellent work that had been done on the draft Bicycle Policies and Mapping. A report with a draft copy of the policies and mapping has gone out to the ICP PW Committee for approval and agency comments are to be returned by mid September or the beginning of October. A public meeting will be held and as required under the Planning Act and will be advertised in local newspapers. It will be posted on the Regional and RNBC websites.

- Proposed Model Local Policies

Proposed local model policies will be developed by the Policy Task Force and circulated to all municipalities beginning in the fall. **ACTION ITEM 35 – PROPOSED BICYCLE POLICIES**

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Thorold-Fonthill Spur Trail Development Status

Ken Forgeron apprised the committee that hopes of a funding announcement would be made soon. The Greater Niagara Circle Route has committed \$300,000 in funding but more is needed. In discussions with engineers from Thorold and Pelham it was requested that the City of Thorold manage this project that must be completed by 2010.

- New Agritourism Trip Tic Map

Yvette Plentai, Project Manager, Community Economic Developer for “Niagara in a Basket” provided Ken Forgeron with AgriTourism booklets that contained 4 cycling circuits in the Niagara Region. This booklet was developed by the Niagara AgriTourism Centre who encourages, stimulates and facilitates rural economic development by aiding local entrepreneurs in the development and operation of innovative agritourism projects and activities. Copies are available from Ken Forgeron.

- Memo from Dianne Coppola

A memo from Dianne Coppola was previously sent to the committee on June 12th. Ken Forgeron reiterated her acknowledgement and thanks to the working group members for the time they spent on the revisions and the calibre of their input on the new Terms of Reference for the RNBC. The simplicity of the draft document doesn't show the time and effort that went into the revisions. It was a very collaborative effort and it was her pleasure to work with them on your behalf. A parting gift was suggested for Dianne as well as an invitation to the Indian Summer Social. **NEW ACTION ITEM #55 – PARTING GIFT AN INVITATION FOR DIANNE COPPOLA**

- Letter – Funding of Paved Shoulders East and West Line – Niagara on-the-Lake

A copy of correspondence from Kevin Bain, Regional Clerk, to Holly Dowd, Town Clerk of Niagara-on-the Lake was distributed to the committee. It was in follow up to Report PWA 63-2009 that was ratified at Council on July 9, 2009 approving the following recommendations:

That the Region agrees, in principal, to fund the additional costs of providing bike lanes on the bridge structure located over Four Mile Creek along East & West Line Road, east of Concession 6 Road, in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, estimated at \$173,000;

That, for financial year 2009, the Region agrees to fund the aforesaid costs to the amount of \$148,900 and that the project costs are charged to Project ZRC0844 2008 Cost Sharing on Bike Paths for \$55,000 against Project ZRC0955 2009 Cost sharing on Bike Paths for \$93,900;

That, subject to the 2010 Capital Budget approval, the Region will fund the balance amount of \$24,100 for the aforesaid project, on a priority basis, from the year 2010 budget (cost-sharing on Bike Paths account); and

That the Regional Clerk's Department forward a copy of this report to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Regional Niagara Cycling Committee for their information.

A copy of this correspondence will be sent to former RNBC Committee member Jon Somerwil for information. At this time, he will also be extended an invitation to the Indian Summer Social. **NEW ACTION ITEM #56 – PWA 63-2009 FUNDING OF PAVED SHOULDERS – EAST & WEST LINE - NOTL**

- RNBC Website Reconfiguration Update

Following discussions with Paul Taylor, Bob Romanuk reported that a new URL and changes are being made to the RNBC website. The site should be reconfigured in time for the Bike Show, 2010.

- Feeder Canal Road Bike Lanes

The Town of Wainfleet has requested funding for the construction of bike lanes on a portion of the Feeder Canal Rd, to be resurfaced. This request will be considered for next year's budget. **NEW ACTION ITEM #57 – FEEDER CANAL ROAD BIKE LANES**

INFORMATION FOR DISTRIBUTION

The following information items were distributed to the committee:

1. St. Catharines Standard newspaper article dated June 30, 2009 "City finds success making a play for sports tourneys"
2. Welland Tribune newspaper article dated July 2009 "Teaching children to ride safely"
3. Canwest News Service article dated July 28, 2009 "Canadian cities ranked for young professionals"
4. Flyer – Ontario Bicycle Summit – September 21-22, 2009 – Waterloo, Ontario
5. Pamphlet "Niagara AgriTourism Cycling Circuits 2009"
6. 2009 Bike Train Guide

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Proposed Municipal Consultation on Bicycle Facility Development – Paul Pattison
- Ribbon Cutting for Bicycle Parking Structure – Ken Forgeron
- 2010 RNBC Budget – Chair Baty
- Bicycle Accident Statistics Presentation – Peter Vujic

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ontario Bicycle Summit

Gary Murphy of GCAST, announced that the Ontario Bicycle Summit is being held on September 20 – 22, 2009 at the Waterloo Inn Conference Hotel, Waterloo, Ontario.

Representatives from four Provincial Parties, including Minister of Transportation, Jim Bradley, will share their vision for a "Bicycle Friendly" Ontario.

The Ontario municipalities of York Region, Waterloo Region, Haliburton, St. Catharine's, Markham and others will share their strategies for cycling master planning and promotion. Kris Jacobsen will be representing St. Catharine's. It was suggested that the Niagara Region have representation as well.

The cost will be \$175.00 for the three days and for more information call Gary Murphy or visit the website www.sharetheroad.ca .

Phil Bergen will ask Eric Flora about funding to send an RNBC member to the summit.

NEW ACTION ITEM #58 – ONTARIO BICYCLE SUMMIT

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was suggested to invite Mayor Barbara Henderson, Pat Maloney, Jon Somerwil, Dianne Coppola and Tim Whittle to the Indian Summer Social, Thursday, September 17, 2009 6:00 p.m. at the:

**The Smokin' Buddha
265 King Street
Port Colborne, Ontario**

To view the menu please click on the link: www.thesmokinbuddha.com

Meeting Adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Brian Baty
Chair

Penny Pitt
Administrative Assistant
Clerk's Department