

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE

REPORT 1-2010

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee held on Tuesday, January 19, 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, Mark Hansen, Dave Hunt, Pat Maloney, Paul Pattison, Frank Pravitz, Bob Romanuk, Wade Smith, Short Hills Cycling Club, Tom Whitelaw
- Staff: Phil Bergen, Transportation Services; Ken Forgeron, Integrated Community Planning, Penny Pitt, Administrative Assistant, Clerk's Department.
- Regrets: Peter Davies, Dave Evans, Eric Flora, Betsy Foster
- Guests: Karl Grueneis, Jessica Romano, John Stewart, Tim Stuart, AECOM Representatives, Tom McDonough, SHCC, Tom Sliwinski, City of Welland

In the temporary absence of Chair Baty, Dave Hunt assumed the position of Chair.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. The Agenda was adopted with the addition of an item under Items for Consideration – Bike Show.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. The Meeting Notes of December 7, 2009 were approved as recorded with the following amendments:
 - Page 2 Action Item 35 and Page 5 – Policy Task Force - change “PIC” to “Public Meeting”
 - Page 2 Action Item 40 – remove “sketch of the Master Plan”
 - Page 3 – Action Item 61 – spell out TPAR – Transportation Project Activity Report
 - Page 5 – Niagara to GTA Corridor EA – remove “The next PIC#4 is scheduled for January 2010” and replace with the following comments: “The study team will draft the Area Transportation System Alternatives Report based on comments from PIC#3. The study team will develop a draft

multi-modal Transportation Development Strategy and consult with stakeholders at the end of Spring 2010. “

- Page 6 – Funding for Map Reprinting – add “limited copies of the current Bicycle Map and/or preparing a 3rd edition map.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS ITEMS AND BUSINESS ARISING

3. Action Item 1 – Bike Racks on Buses

Completed and removed.

Action Item 18 - St. David's Road EA

Eric Flora met with the Thorold Active Transportation Advisory Committee (TATAC)

Action Item 23 - Improvements to Queenston-Lewiston Plaza

Bicycle signs have been installed at the Queenston-Lewiston Plaza – Remove from List

Action Item 35 – Proposed Bicycle Policies

Completed and removed.

Action Item 39 - Bicycle Collision Statistics

Change title to “Collision” instead of “Accident” - Completed in October 2009 – Remove from list

Action Item 46 – Update Terms of Reference

Completed and removed.

Action Item 53 – Identified Priorities 2009, Suggested Priorities 2010 – 2011

Completed and removed.

Action Item 56 – PWA 63-2009 – Funding of Paved Shoulders – E&W Line – NOTL & Related Correspondence

Completed and removed.

Action Item 59 – Volunteer Task Force

Committee members to select their choice of committee, select chair, determine what is to be done in 2010 i.e. bike map, bike lanes brochure (**UPDATE ACTION ITEM 59**)

PRESENTATION

4. Pelham Street Road and Streetscaping Improvements Municipal Class EA

AECOM provided the committee with the same presentation that was made to Pelham on November 24, 2009 as reported in the December 7, 2009 meeting notes. Following a question and answer period, Phil Bergen will compile a Summary of Comments from information provided by the committee and submit them Mr. Stuart at AECOM by February 5, 2010. (**NEW ACTION ITEM 64**)

Committee members' comments:

- The RNBC supports the alternative with bicycle facilities throughout (preferably bike lanes, no on street parking) – this maximizes the effectiveness of traffic flow, streetscaping, safety for all users: and there is currently available parking in the rear
- If on-street parking is to be maintained for local businesses, then the RNBC would like to see safe provision for cyclists (shared use lanes, removal of parking on one side of Pelham)
- If the decision is go with the current preferred alternative, Option 2 – that is, no bicycle facilities except for Church to Port Robinson Rd / College then we strongly advise the following:
 - expansion of road width north of Hwy 20, particularly for uphill cyclists moving into town (for safety and efficient traffic movement)
 - full bicycle lanes between Port Robinson and Church (we do not support shared use lanes for this high volume road)
 - we also wish that the Town consider in its future planning, the continuation of bicycle lanes south of Port Robinson Road towards Welland (as per the Town of Pelham Transportation Plan) and the incorporation of safe cycling into the town centre
- We do not support 3.5 metre lane widths nor do we support 2.5 metre parking widths. We recommend consideration be given to reduced widths, as per Regional Niagara Bikeways Master Plan Pg. 6-22 which suggests a 2.2m parking stall. If 3.5 meter vehicle lanes are preferred, then cyclists will have to take the lane, and this will reduce the efficiency of traffic circulation.
- Additionally, for safer and secure bicycle access, we suggest roll over curbs so that cyclists can safely access areas and bicycle parking large enough to accommodate at least 3 or more bicycles.
- We support a safe pedestrian mid-section crossing.

At this point, Chair Baty arrived and assumed the chair.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5. **Port Colborne Off Road Trail Proposal**

The Short Hills Cycling Club (SHCC) is requesting a land use agreement for the “Robin Hood” lands area located on the North End of Port Colborne from the property owner Transport Canada and its land manager, the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation. Wade Smith provided the committee with a copy of the Proposal for Bicycle Trails that is being submitted to Karine Mageren, Real Property Management Officer of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation. Any comments from RNBC members can be forwarded directly to him at wade@shorthillscyclingclub.com. Public support is welcomed. Committee members encouraged Wade to have the SHCC speak to Councillor Timms, Chair of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee.

6. **2010 Great Waterfront Trail Adventure Tour**

Ken Forgeron provided the committee with the Agenda for the Great Waterfront Trail Meeting that had taken place on January 18, 2010. Mr. Forgeron advised the committee that registration was now open for the 3rd Annual Great Waterfront Trail Adventure Tour that will take place from July 4 – 10, 2010. The ride is open to participants of all experience levels. Confirmation of itinerary and routes will be posted to their site www.waterfronttrail.org/gwta under the “routes and itinerary” page. It was suggested to post the RNBC link on the GWTA website. Scott Elliott will liaise with Ian Lobb. **(NEW ACTION ITEM 65)**

7. **“Welcome Cyclists” Network Workshop**

The Welcome Cyclists Workshop will connect cycle friendly accommodations, food service providers, and attractions in the Niagara region to the growing number of cycle tourists in Ontario. RNBC has been requested to present an overview of our role and function.

Representatives, Frank Pravitz and Phil Bergen have agreed to provide a short 10 minute presentations. (attached PDF copy w/o animation) Workshops will be held as follows:

Niagara West - Thurs, January 21. Inn on Twenty in Jordan. 3 to 5pm.

Niagara Central - Wed, January 27. Niagara Regional Headquarters, Thorold 10am to noon.

Niagara East / NOTL - Tues, Feb 2. Centennial Arena in Virgil. 10am to noon.

There is *no charge* to attend the workshop or become a network member, providing completion of registration information and meeting the minimum requirements in the

Welcome Cyclists criteria checklist. These workshops and developing network has been brought to you with the assistance of a number of Niagara area partners. We acknowledge their support at www.welcomecyclists.ca.

For more information call Project Manager, Louisa Mursell at 1-866-333-4491.

8. Letter of Support: Waterfront Investment Program

Ken Forgeron reported that the federal and provincial governments have decided not to allocate any infrastructure stimulus funding for any of the projects submitted under the Waterfront Investment Program. This included Niagara's proposal in partnership with Thorold and Pelham to develop the Thorold-Fonthill Spur as a paved off-road trail. In an effort to get the decision reconsidered David Crombie has scheduled a meeting with Premier McGuinty to discuss the importance of the Waterfront Trust Investment Program. The Waterfront Trust has asked for letters of support. The Regional Chair may be sending such a letter on behalf of the Region but there may be an opportunity for both the RNBC and GNCR committees to co-sign a letter if the Chair's Office believes that this is the way to proceed. Mr. Forgeron will advise Councillor Baty on the Regional Chair's decision. **(UPDATE ACTION ITEM 34 PHASE II OF THE WATERFRONT TRUST INVESTMENT PROGRAM)**

9. Letter of Support: Kalar Road Bicycle Lanes

The committee was provided with a copy of the letter to be sent to Mr. Dean Iorfida in support of Bicycle Lanes on Kalar Road.

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

That the RNBC send a letter to the City of Niagara Falls in support of bicycle lanes on Kalar Road.

Carried

10. RNBC's Future Involvement in 2010 Bike Show

Ken Forgeron advised the committee those members that would like to volunteer at the 2010 Bike Show please contact Betsy Foster at bfoster@tourismniagara.com. Mr. Forgeron questioned the committee on the future involvement with the Bike Show. Members reported that there appeared to be too much information and it was very hard to push. The Freewheelers had a glossy brochure as a handout. John Swart will get a copy of the brochure for Tom Whitelaw. Suggestions were made to hand out cards with the RNBC website information and also mountain bike information such as races, links, etc.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

11. Engineering/Network Task Force

- Mewburn Road Bridge Replacement EA

A PIC was held on January 14, 2010 at Mount Park Church, 6970 Mountain Road, Niagara Falls. RNBC members to comment on rail bridge design prior to March 2, 2010. A summary of comments will be given at the next RNBC meeting.

- 406 Expansion – Port Robinson Road to East Main Street, Welland and possible Pedestrian Bridge over Welland Recreation Canal

A staff report will be provided next month to address the challenges and next steps.

12. Education and Encouragement Task Force

Scott Elliott requested names of committee members that had volunteered for the Education and Encouragement Task Force. He would like to discuss their input on this task force.

Ken Forgeron provided the committee with copies of an article entitled "Risk Factors for Bicycle-Motor Vehicle Collisions at Intersections". The article was published by the Institute of Transportation Engineers following a research study completed in 1994.

13. Policy Task Force

Dave Hunt reported to the committee that the Policy Task Force had met regarding the local model policies. Activities had been assigned to members. There are thirty-one (31) bicycle policy themes and a manageable and not too complex document is needed. A draft of the local model policies will be presented at the next meeting on February 25, 2010.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

14. Status of Web Based Scenic Bicycle Route Mapping Tool

Bob Romanuk informed the committee that a great deal of the success of niagaracycling.ca will be riding on the "split:" page. Should the Region make a determination in the future not to support the RNBC domain that they will inherit from him or continue to provide the split link, any efforts he develops will wither without alternative backing. The split should clearly indicate that the rNBC.info domain will have two distinct choices, the first leads directly to the Region's page for

the Committee. The alternative split is Cycling Information in Niagara or some similar description to all other cycling related information in Niagara leading to the new domain niagaracycling.ca.

The Freewheeler Scenic Routes mapping, the 9 panel Bicycle Map will continue to be owned and hosted on the Regions web servers. Mr. Romanuk is looking for the opportunity to aggregate links to that mapping with additional maps in a central location that will also provide information that is contrary to the policies of the Region for inclusion on their servers. To the cyclist user, the experience will be not much different than it is today. Currently, anyone could simply bookmark the Regions Map page, but by getting there via niagaracycling.ca they could be exposed to a wealth of additional information to enhance their Niagara experience. Mr. Romanuk's goal is to enhance the website with a future focus on getting this formatted for smartphones.

15. Niagara 1812 Bicentennial Mapping

Bob Romanuk had nothing new to report on the Niagara 1812 Bicentennial Mapping at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

16. World Health Day

Chair Baty announced that April 7, 2010 is World Health Day. World Health Day 2010 will focus on urbanization and health. The theme was selected in recognition of the effect urbanization has on our collective health globally and for us all individually.

17. TDM Application

Committee was informed that a modified TDM application entitled Niagara Region Bikeways Signage and Wayfinding Pilot Project was resubmitted to the province for their consideration. The application is for less funding with the money allocated to manufacturing and installation of signs only.

OTHER BUSINESS

18. Students

A discussion ensued regarding the placement of a co-op student that could be utilized to manage a database for maps, bike shops, update display board, and work on a pilot project in GIS for signage. The application would need to be made soon with the optimal implementation date of September 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 10:15 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 in Committee Room 4.

Brain Baty
Chair

Penny Pitt
Administrative Assistant
Clerk's Department