

**REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE**  
**Regional Headquarters -Committee Room 4**

**Monday, October 26, 2009 - MEETING NOTES**

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**ATTENDANCE**

Brian Baty	Regional Councillor (Chair)
Phil Bergen	Niagara Region Public Works
Scott Elliott	Niagara Regional Police Service
Ken Forgeron	Niagara Region Integrated Community Planning
Dave Hunt	Public-at-Large
Paul Pattison	Public-at-Large
Frank Pravitz	Ministry of Transportation
Bob Romanuk	Public-at-Large/N.F.Trails & Bikeways Committee
Tom Whitelaw	Public-at-Large
Penny Pitt	Administrative Assistant

Regrets – Peter Davies, Dave Evans, Eric Flora, Mark Hansen, Wade Smith

Guest – Marian Landry – Public Health Representative

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as amended with the deferring of an Item for Consideration – Possible Mountain Bicycle Trail System in Port Colborne, and the addition of two Items for Information.

**2. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES**

The Meeting Notes of the September 17, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

**3. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS AND BUSINESS ARISING**

Action Item 1 - Bike Racks on Buses

Chair Baty to draft a letter of congratulations to the City of St. Catharines.

Action Item 17 – Proposed Bicycle/Transit Shelter

Ken Forgeron reported that Regional Public Health has offered \$500 to assist with the visual enhancement of the bicycle shelter. Once these additions are completed a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held likely in the spring. It was suggested to invite Standard Reporter, Mathew Vandongen to attend.

#### Action Item 28 – Laminated Bicycle Maps

Councillor Baty will meet directly with Patrick Gedge, CEO of Niagara Economic Development Corporation, to discuss their possible funding of production of the laminated maps. He will follow up with the committee at the next meeting.

#### Action Item 59 – Volunteers for RNBC Task Forces

Ken Forgeron asked committee members to volunteer for at least one specific task force. Paul Pattison agreed to sit on the Engineering/Network Task Force and Scott Elliott agreed to sit on the Education and Encouragement Task Force. Other members will be asked to volunteer as well.

#### Action Item 60 – “Share the Road Brochure”

The RNBC has been given permission to use the information from the Haliburton Highlands brochure in the drafting of a Niagara Specific “Share the Road” brochure. The purpose of the brochure is to better educate the public, cyclists and car drivers about rules and responsibilities of riding on roadways.

#### **4. PRESENTATION – School Travel Planning Initiative**

Councillor Baty informed the committee that he attended a Niagara School Travel (STP) Planning meeting which was held on October 15<sup>th</sup> with representatives from the Pelham, St. Catharines and Grimsby communities in attendance. The **Minutes of the STP Committee meeting**, the **Statement of Support** and the **STP information sheet** can be reviewed by clicking on the links provided. Marian Landry, from Niagara Region Public Health Department provided the committee with the following explanation of School Travel Planning.

School Travel Planning (STP) is an initiative currently being undertaken by Healthy Living Niagara and community partners who have an interest in promoting active transportation for elementary school children. STP brings together community stakeholders to identify barriers to active transportation for each school and develop a written action plan.

Funding was secured through Green Communities Canada to support three schools in Niagara Region for a School Travel Planning Project.

School Travel Planning evolved from the long established Active and Safe Routes to School to identify the barriers to walking and cycling to school. A School Travel Plan will serve as a model for other schools in the respective municipalities.

Three groups from three different municipalities in Niagara have expressed an interest in participating in this project. Each participating municipality will sign a statement of support for this project. More information about School Travel Planning is available at <http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/schooltravel.asp>

The Niagara Region is being encouraged to provide GIS support and Councillor Baty has agreed to participate on this initiative with the following motion being made:

**Moved by Tom Whitelaw  
Seconded by Paul Pattison**

**That the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee support the School Travel Planning initiative led by Healthy Living Niagara and community groups with the Niagara Region be encouraged to provide GIS support for this program.**

**Carried**

## **5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- Integrated Community Planning Role on the RNBC

Due to other Integrated Community Planning workload priorities, Ken Forgeron has been asked to reduce his involvement on the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee and to focus primarily on “policy related “issues. Ken will s make the transition into 2010. The possible reorganization of active transportation type committees was discussed with the possibility of hiring a new Sustainable Transportation Coordinator to coordinate the actions of various internal bodies like the RNBC, GNCR, Active Transportation Niagara Committees, etc.

- 2010 Budget

Chair Baty apprised the committee that there continues to be no actual budget for the RNBC. He will meet directly with Ken Brothers, Commissioner of Public Works to discuss the budget issue and a possible 5 year plan. The upcoming Niagara Region budget is capped at a 2.7% increase which in real growth is 1.7%. However, the TDM Project application of \$50,000 in funding has been accepted and still waiting for a grant decision from the Province.

- Proposed Municipal Consultation on Bicycle Facility Development

Paul Pattison suggested inviting on a rotation basis, municipal representatives from the twelve municipalities. RNBC committee members are unaware as to what is happening in other municipalities from a cycling perspective. This is viewed as a good way to share information and experience.

**Moved by Paul Pattison  
Seconded by Bob Romanuk**

**That for each meeting, the RNBC for each meeting invite on rotational basis, each of the twelve local municipalities to send one or more representatives to a RNBC meeting for the purpose of familiarizing the RNBC on what is taking place in their municipality with respect to cycling. The representative may be any combination of politician, staff or volunteer representing a community based organization promoting sustainable transportation in their community.**

**Carried**

- Status of RNBC Website Reconfiguration

Bob Romanuk indicated that a reconfigured RNBC website would be split between bicycling information from the RNBC and a new "Cycling in Niagara" website to be hosted by him. In terms of Bob's new site, one focus is to make the site attractive to the twelve area bike shops. He proposes to charge each location a \$10 per year fee that would provide a hotlink to their website and a map if available. The website would aggregate all pertinent information cyclists would need while riding in Niagara. The cost would be approximately \$100 - \$200 per year just to cover the maintenance costs. It is not intended as a money making venture. He provided discs to Phil Bergen, Paul Pattison and Tom Whitelaw to review the site for additional content and policy on what may or may not be published on the website.

Chair Baty informed Bob that he will be reimbursed for his costs for maintaining the current RNBC website to date.

**Moved by Tom Whitelaw  
Seconded by Paul Pattison**

**That the RNBC supports a reconfiguration of its web presence under the following conditions:**

- 1. That a mutually agreed upon (between the Corporation and Bob Romanuk) web pointer page be established and maintained that splits internet traffic on bicycling information between the RNBC information and a new "Cycling in Niagara" website.**
- 2. That assurance be provided that the new web pointer page not be modified or removed without mutual agreement between the Corporation and Bob Romanuk.**
- 3. That financial compensation be provided to Bob Romanuk for the previously committed administration costs he has incurred on behalf of the committee associated with RNBC website hosting.**

**Carried**

- Possible Mountain Bicycle Trail System in Port Colborne

Deferred to next meeting due to Wade Smith's absence.

- Toronto International Bicycle Show – March 5-7, 2010

As in previous years, Betsy Foster, from Tourism Niagara (NEDC), has reserved space for RNBC at the upcoming Toronto International Bike Show being held from March 5-7, 2010. A new display has been needed for several years. There are only six boxes of maps left and more materials/products are needed to for distribution at the Bike Show. Tom Whitelaw suggested the possibility of handing out RNBC information cards. Dave Evans is currently working with the Freewheelers on a video of actual bike routes and rides that could be shown at the Bike Show. Given Ken Forgeron's anticipated reduced involvement on the RNBC, an internal coordinator/scheduler is required to arrange volunteers' time slots and to organize the format/theme for Niagara's involvement. It was suggested that NEDC take the lead and the Freewheelers be requested to assist as volunteers along with interested RNBC members.

## 6. TASK FORCE REPORTS

- Engineering /Network Task Force

A discussion was held regarding the Transportation Project Activity Report that was sent electronically to the committee for review. Frank Pravitz raised questions on behalf of the RNBC regarding various planned construction projects and was directed by Phil Bergen to send inquiries to each specific Project Manager who in turn will respond to Frank directly. A copy of the TPAR that includes Frank's questions will be sent to the committee. **(NEW ACTION ITEM 61 –TPAR WITH COMMENTS)**

- Education and Encouragement Task Force

Scott Elliott announced that he had received a promotion to Patrol Officer but he would continue to work with the RNBC.

Scott has reviewed the 2008 accident statistics information and provided a synopsis of Petar Vujic's presentation on September 17, 2009.

### 2008 Reported Collisions Involving Bicycles on Regional Roads

Total	61
Cyclist at Fault	37
Motorist at Fault	21
Other or Unclear	3
Cyclists Riding on Sidewalk	15

Almost all collisions where cyclist was a fault, they were either riding on a sidewalk, riding the wrong way or on the wrong side of the road, or disobeying traffic control.

Majority of collisions occurred at intersections or driveways.

Almost all collisions where motorist were at fault, driver performed improper turn or failed to yield right of way.

The problematic task of police enforcement seems to be the remedy to lower collision rates. Education is also very important with specific target audiences (i.e. migrant workers). A possible future enforcement campaign to ticket and educate cyclists was discussed.

- Policy Task Force

The “Proposed Bicycle Transportation Policies and Network Mapping PPA 5-2009” public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2009 in Niagara Regional Council Chamber from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. Advertising has been placed in local newspapers and posted on the Regional website. Everyone is encouraged to attend to lend support to this amendment which was initiated by the RNBC.

## 7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Provincial and Regional Funding for Signage and Wayfinding Program: Phase 1

The Niagara Region has applied for funding from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to conduct a Bikeways Network Signage and Wayfinding Plan. The MTO provides financial assistance to Ontario municipalities for the development and implementation of TDM plans, programs, and services that promote alternatives to driving alone such as cycling, walking, transit, or carpooling. The maximum funding available per project is \$50,000. Funding will only be available for one-year projects. Matching funds will be required and can include some in-kind contributions. The application process is competitive, and not all initiatives will receive funding support. The TDM program seeks to support a range of sizes and types of initiatives across Ontario, and communities of all sizes are encouraged to apply. The TDM Grant Program is open to all Ontario municipalities.

- Highlights of International Car Free Day

Paul Pattison informed the committee that the Garden City Alliance for Sustainable Transportation hosted a St. Catharines’ version of International Car Free Day on Wednesday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Market Square from 5 – 9 p.m. Both Paul Pattison and Tom Whitelaw (with some staff support from Ken Forgeron) manned the RNBC display.

## **Highlights of “Share the Road” Bicycle Workshop, Waterloo, Ontario**

Ken Forgeron and Phil Bergen attended the 2009 Ontario Bike Summit held at the Waterloo Inn and Conference Centre on Monday, September 21, 2009. Ken noted that it was one of the best conferences he has ever attended and provided the following highlights:

### **Keynote Speaker – Andy Clarke, CEO League of American Bicyclists**

#### **The League:**

- Educate, Advocacy, Promotion/Encouragement
- A voice in Washington – Lobby
- A voice for all – particularly the young

### **Keynote Speaker – His Worship Dave Cieslewicz, Mayor of Madison, Wisconsin**

- Building a Bikeable Community – We have built cities to “pass through” not to “live in”
- Ten Things To Do (They do in Madison Wisconsin)
  1. Add bike paths
  2. Plow bike paths in winter (by 7 am on weekdays)
  3. Provide plenty of parking, bicycle stations, bicycle friendly grates, stair troughs
  4. Intermodal connections – bike racks on buses, trains
  5. Let them have “bike sharing program” – Trek interested in piloting it in US – quality bikes, smart card
  6. “Take it to the streets” – integrated system of off-road and on-road paths – bike boulevards – complete streets to accommodate all forms of transportation – safe routes to schools
  7. “Take back the streets” – car free streets on Sunday mornings (like in Chicago, Bogota) – very politically positive – brings life to the city
  8. Take biking seriously – economic engine/industry
  9. Design for bikes – new urbanism – bike friendly neighbourhood (Frieburg, Germany) – streetcars, parking garages on periphery – very popular with young families
  10. Create the bike culture – just ride – a part of everyday life – Bikes are a sign of a liveable city – a canary in the coal mine

### **Workshop #9: Making the Case for Cycling: How to develop relationships with the government – Speakers: Honourable Paddy Torsney, Gary Murphy, Kris Jacobsen**

- Relationship with politicians important
- Meet with staff and politicians early – develop allies
- Offer politicians solutions, provide background, supportive documentation
- \$165 million industry – Bike Tourism in Niagara – St. Catharines wants piece of the action- Niagara -11<sup>th</sup> most desired place to move to – national survey – Cycling infrastructure – one way of attracting youth
- St. Catharines Master Plan – process did not work- all arterial and collectors in St. Catharines identified in Official Plan to have bicycle infrastructure over the long term

- Remove on-street parking – the biggest issue- roads are to “move people” not to “store cars” (a greater public interest served)
- People are too much in a hurry – a traffic calming technique
- Official Plans – influence budgeting – need a network to be strategic on spending – gives people the right to appeal, public policy (legal standing), holds Councils to their word – importance of Transportation Master Plan

“Bicycling with Heart \ Award” – Janet O’Connell, Executive Director Bicycle Trade Association of Canada and Eleanor McMahon, Executive Director, Share the Road Cycling Coalition will present first annual award to a deserving retailer in recognition of community service and advocacy

- Need to influence the next generation – the current generation not very sympathetic

The Economic Case for Cycling in England

- Systematic underinvestment
- Must be mainstream mode of transportation
- Results in government providing \$ (budgets)
- Improvements in general health and fitness
- Cutting pollution and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Eases congestion
- Cost Shouldered – Department of Transportation but...
- Benefits – Department of Health

Workshop #2 - The Role of the Regional Municipality in Active Transportation

- Have a rural resurfacing plan (Waterloo Region)
- All rural roads get a 1 metre paved shoulder (standard)
- York Region – provide \$500,000/year for local projects – 50% cost sharing with the municipality– won a CIP & TAC award for transportation planning infrastructure

Workshop #12 – Transportation Demand Management – what is TDM and what is its role in cycling planning?

- Use of policy, program, products to shape the economic and social factors that affect whether, why, when and where people travel
- Transportation and land use systems go hand in hand
- TDM measure
  - a) Education, promotion and outreach (branding and positioning, info, education, marketing measures, special events, recognition and rewards)
  - b) Travel incentives (personal choice, road/parking, vehicle pricing, commuter options, school board services)
  - c) Supportive land use – quality of life, safety, convenience, recreation/utilitarian
  - d) Options for travel
- Most municipalities in Canada are beginning to address TDM
- Peterborough received \$\$ from Province for bikeway wayfinding program
- Need to do some actual count to measure performance

Workshop #7 – Making the Case for Cycling – Articulating the Benefits

- Health Benefit Evaluation
  - a) Need to package all the benefits and convey them to politicians – This forms a vision for a community, need for change in roadway design – Ministry of Health and OMA has the most to gain from this argument – write more prescriptions for walking and cycling
  - b) Households that live in more multi-modal communities have more \$\$ to spend in the community, than they would have put into car purchase and maintenance
  - c) Seniors have the most to gain from switching from auto to walking, cycling and Para transit in terms of health benefits – also brain power improvement (mental health), cardio
  - d) Build physical activity into our daily lives – walkable communities
  - e) Target your message to young people and find out where they want to go

Further information on all of the presentations is available by visiting the “Share the Road Cycling Coalition” website.

- **Importance of Bicycle Count Surveys**

Ken Forgeron reported on an article from the Association of Bicycle and Pedestrian Professionals entitled “Community Reports on Counting Bicycles and Pedestrians”. The article included comments from APBP members who were asked to report back on their communities’ bicycle and pedestrian count programs. The article will be scanned and forwarded to committee members. Ken Forgeron commented on the importance of conducting bicycle counts in order to justify new programs and securing budget. More survey work needs to be done in Niagara. **(NEW ACTION ITEM 62 –COMMUNITY REPORTS ON COUNTING BICYCLES AND PEDESTRIANS)**

- **Regional Staff Bicycle Parking Structure**

This item was previously reported under Action Item 17 – Proposed Bicycle/Transit Shelter.

- **Proposed 406/Welland Canal Pedestrian/Cycling Structure**

A meeting amongst Regional staff/elected officials, City of Welland staff and a Welland Recreational Canal Corporation representative was held on October 8/09. The project’s background and the MTO’s current Hwy 406 twinning project were discussed. The September 10/09 letter from Chair Partington to Ministry Bradley was also distributed. Discussion took place surrounding staffing responsibilities, funding/budget requirements, timetable, Provincial/Federal programs, Trillium Rail, any separate EA requirements.

Another meeting with City of Thorold Mayor and staff, a representative from the GNCR committee and Trillium Railway will be arranged for early November. Other interested stakeholder groups may include the City of Welland Accessibility Advisory Committee, City of Thorold ATC and Niagara Region Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Regional staff to look into cost estimate for existing Trillium Rail bridge inspection/design of new structure which will connect Merritt Island to the Greater Niagara Circle Route Trail System.

- **Report to ICPPWC on Revised Terms of Reference, Proposed Priority Actions and Other Items**

Ken Forgeron is preparing a report to bring forward at the ICPPWC meeting on November 25, 2009. Another report is also being formulated regarding the Thorold Bike Feasibility Study and the Feeder Canal funding request.

- **Liveable Streets: Rethinking Urban Transportation**

Copies of Dave Hunt's key observations and notes from a presentation by Roger Geller, Bicycle Coordinator, for the City of Portland, Oregon were provided to the committee. Dave attended the presentation which was held at the Toronto Cyclists Union meeting on Oct. 21, 2009 in Toronto, Ontario. Slides are posted on the Cyclists Union web site <http://bikeunion.to/>.

- **Case Studies in Sustainable Transportation**

Tom Whitelaw apprised the committee of two case studies from a Transport Canada publication entitled:

- a) "Complete Streets: Making Canada's Roads Safer for All"
- b) "Multimodal Bridges: Removing Barriers to Sustainable Transportation"

The publication will be scanned to send to committee members electronically. **(NEW ACTION ITEM 63 –CASE STUDIES FROM TRANSPORT CANADA)**

## **8. INFORMATION FOR DISTRIBUTION**

The following items were distributed:

- a) Niagara This Week Article – "Trail Honours Circle Route Champion"
- b) City of St. Catharines Council Agenda Item – Naming of the East Port Weller Spit Section of the Welland Canals Parkway Trail after George Nicholson
- c) St. Catharines Standard Article – "Trail Along Lake Spit "a real hidden gem"

9. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- Possible Mountain Bicycle Trail System in Port Colborne – Wade Smith

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- Monday, December 7, 2009 – Christmas Social/Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

**Big Marco's Italian Restaurant  
274 Fourth Avenue (corner of Vansickle)  
St. Catharines, Ontario**

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Brian Baty  
Chair

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Penny Pitt  
Administrative Assistant  
Clerk's Department