

**REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE**  
**Big Marco's Italian Restaurant**  
**274 Fourth Avenue**  
**St. Catharines, Ontario**

**Monday, December 7, 2009 - MEETING NOTES**

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**ATTENDANCE**

Brian Baty	Regional Councillor (Chair)
Phil Bergen	Niagara Region Public Works
Ken Forgeron	Niagara Region Integrated Community Planning
Dave Hunt	Public-at-Large
Paul Pattison	Public-at-Large
Kumar Ranjan	Niagara Region Public Works
Wade Smith	Public-at-Large
Tom Whitelaw	Public-at-Large
Penny Pitt	Administrative Assistant

Regrets – Peter Davies, Dave Evans, Eric Flora, Mark Hansen, Frank Pravitz, Bob Romanuk

Guest - Bill Fenwick, City of Welland

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted with the addition of an update of Welland Avenue, St. Catharines.

**2. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES**

The Meeting Notes of October 26, 2009 were approved as recorded with the following amendments:

- a) Typographical error on Page 3
- b) Remove the words “for each meeting” in the motion on Page 3
- c) Remove the word “to” from the paragraph “needed for distribution” on Page 5
- d) Change the day from Wednesday to Tuesday on Page 6
- e) Formatting error in 1<sup>st</sup> bulleted item on Page 10

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

Action Item #3 – Thorold/Fonthill Spur

There has been no word from the Waterfront Trust to date.

Action Item #17 – Proposed Bicycle/Transit Shelter

Ken Forgeron reported that \$500 from Public Health has been received towards the cost of a graphic for the visual enhancement of the bicycle shelter. Corporate Communications will be involved with the graphic design element. Plans are being made for the ribbon cutting ceremony to be held in April or May of 2010. Promotion of this event will be announced on the Niagara Current.

Action Item #28 – Laminated Bicycle Maps

Chair Baty reported to the committee that an informal meeting, regarding the laminations of bicycle maps, had taken place with Patrick Gedge from NEDC.

Action Item #35 – Proposed Bicycle Policies

A Public Meeting, under the Planning Act was held in Regional Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Minutes from that meeting will be distributed to the committee. **(ACTION ITEM #35)**

Action Item #40 – 2010 Bike Show

Tom Whitelaw will follow up with Betsy Foster on what is available to hand out at the Bike Show. Information to be posted on the website could include the 250 rides available **(ACTION ITEM #40)**

Action Item #46 – Terms of Reference

Report ICP 57-2009 (PWA 113-2009) was brought forward at the ICPPWC meeting of November 25, 2009 and deferred to the December 9, 2009 ICPPWC Meeting. In preparation for the next term of Council discussions will be initiated on possible ways of streamlining and better resourcing a sub-committee structure that deals with a broad range of active transportation activities including bicycling, trail development and walking. Chair Baty commented that he hoped the RNBC would not be swallowed up with other committees.

Action Item#51 – RNBC Website

Ken Forgeron will speak with Denise Papaiz from Corporate Communications regarding the RNBC Website. **(ACTION ITEM 51)**

Action Item #57 – Feeder Canal Road Bike Lanes

Wade Smith apprised the committee that he had been receiving negative feedback on the Feeder Canal Road bike lanes. Creating a bike lane that starts and finishes in the middle of nowhere is a great target for those that do not support it. Although he is a supporter of bike lanes, some thought should be given to the potential to win over hearts and minds of those who do not support the idea of bike lanes. He will provide a Google Map of the area with comments to be emailed to the committee. **(ACTION ITEM #57)**

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

Ken Forgeron is requesting committee members to volunteer for at least one specific task force. Dave Hunt has volunteered to help with the Education and Encouragement Task Force once the policy work was completed. Penny will email the current listing to all members to review and make a choice. **(ACTION ITEM #59)**

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

Volunteer committee members, Wade Smith, Scott Elliott, and Dave Hunt will go forward with the creation of the brochure. Kimberlee Lambe from Corporate Communications will be the regional point of contact. Paul Pattison made the suggestion to address the issue of riding bicycles on sidewalks in the proposed brochure. **(ACTION ITEM #60)**

#### Completion and Removal of Action Items

The following Action Items are completed and will be removed from the listing.

Action Item 58 – Ontario Bicycle Summit

Action Item 61 – TPAR with Comments

Action Item 62 – Community Reports on Counting Bicycles and Pedestrians

Action Item 63 – Case Studies from Transport Canada

#### **4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- Possible Mountain Bicycle Trail System in Port Colborne

Wade Smith reported to the committee that the Short Hills Cycling Club (SHCC) a Niagara based cycling club with interests in racing, race promotion, social rides and trail advocacy has just incorporated as a nonprofit organization. One of the clubs long term goals is to see the creation of a dirt trail circle route. The first step towards this goal is to establish an official trail system in the “Robin Hood” area of Port Colborne. This project has been underway for more than a year. The first step was to organize and execute the 2009 Canal Days Mountain Bike Race as a proof of concept for a viable trail system. The race was a great success for all involved and this year is an officially sanctioned Canal Days event. There was a presentation made to the City of Port Colborne and the SHCC now has the full support of the city.

The SHCC is currently approaching the St Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation to sign an agreement for official trail status. This has been their first stumbling block and they gather all the support and direction they can get in order to secure the agreement they require to move forward. Official trail status would be required so they can build and maintain the trails within recognized guidelines properly sign and promote the trails and develop a proper risk plan. There are also many grants available for funding such projects and with their incorporated status the only thing they are lacking to apply for such funding is a landowner agreement. There are many benefits to this type of trail system; health and wellness aspects of an active society, positive economic impact to the local economy of trail areas, replacing undesired users of the land with desired users that act as stewards for the landowner.

**Moved by Paul Pattison  
Seconded by Dave Hunt**

**That the RNBC supports the advancement of the Short Hill Cycling Club development of off road trails in the City of Port Colborne.**

**Carried**

Following this motion, Dave Hunt suggested that the SHCC contact Patrick Connor, Executive Director of the Ontario Trails Council for some direction and guidance. Bill Fenwick also offered his and Councillor Bruce Timms' assistance.

- Niagara Falls Transportation Study

Ken Forgeron reported to the committee that a request from Rick Brady was made regarding the Niagara Falls Master Plan that would include off and on road plans. He is looking for a representative from the RNBC to participate on an advisory committee. The commitment would involve four (4) meetings per year. A suggestion was made that Bob Romanuk, a Niagara Falls resident, should contact him about this committee.

## **5. TASK FORCE REPORTS**

### Engineering/Network Task Force

- Pelham Street EA and Streetscaping Improvements

Dave Hunt apprised the committee that a PIC was held on November 24, 2009 for the Pelham Street Reconstruction and Streetscaping Improvements Municipal Class Environmental Assessment. The focus was on alternatives that can address physical road structure, downtown accessibility and opportunities to enhance streetscape character. The Regional Niagara Bikeways Master Plan designates Pelham Street from Port Robinson Road to Church Hill Street as part of a candidate bicycle routes (Port Robinson Loop). For this EA study this applies to the section of Pelham Street from College Street to Church Hill Street.

Three options have been suggested:

Option 1: Full (1.5 metre) bike lanes (both sides) – no on street parking

Option 2: On street parking (both sides) – no bike lanes (except from College Street to Church Hill Street – part of the Port Robinson Loop)

Option 3: Shared (4.25 metre) car and bike lane and on street parking (bike lane and parking on both sides of Pelham Street)

Option 2 generally provides the same number of spots but they are redistributed and clearly demarcated. Redistribution of parking spaces provides opportunity for Streetscaping and improved accessibility. On street parking provides a buffer between vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

Alternative 1 is a roundabout to provide a more functional roadway and Alternative 2 is no roundabout – standard intersection.

Comments are required by Friday, December 11, 2009 with the Class EA project file filing in February 2010. Construction will begin in the summer of 2010 with a completion date of fall 2010.

- Niagara to GTA Corridor EA PIC #3

The Public Information Centre #3 was held on December 1, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Burlington with an attendance of approximately 40 people. The focus of this meeting was the key step of identifying and assessing alternatives that address the identified problems and opportunities. The next PIC #4 is scheduled for January 2010.

- QEW Widening – Mountain Road to Hwy 420

The Public Information Centre #2 was held on Thursday, November 26, 2009 at Club Italia in Niagara Falls.

- TDM Workshop #1, December 10, 2009

The first stakeholder workshop will be held on December 10, 2009 at the Quality Hotel on Ontario Street in St. Catharines. This workshop will be conducted to allow the project team to better understand the various organizations existing TDM initiatives that are currently being implemented as well and their effectiveness. Future TDM measures that are appropriate for the Niagara Region and are supported by each organization will also be discussed.

#### Education and Encouragement Task Force

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### Policy Task Force

- Public Information Centre Meeting on PPA 5-2009 Bicycling Policies

A statutory Public Meeting, under the Planning Act, in reference to PPA 5-2009 Bicycling Policies was held on December 1, 2009 in the Council Chamber at Regional Headquarters with five people in attendance. Ken Forgeron gave an overview of the policies and answered questions from members of the public regarding the signage and wayfinding portions of the policies. Comments provided made no significant change to the policies. A copy of the meeting notes will be distributed at the next RNBC meeting on January 19, 2010.

## ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Welland Avenue, St. Catharines

Paul Pattison reported that the city portion east of the QEW, a four lane section between Grantham Avenue and Bunting Road was recently resurfaced and with St. Catharines council's blessing was given a road diet in order to provide bike lanes. The proposed diet had been published in a news article as well a mailing and flyers distributed to the businesses along the street. The work had no sooner been completed and one of the merchants voiced strong objections claiming they had not been made aware that this work was being proposed and claiming that it was causing west bound traffic to back up particularly near Grantham Avenue. The St. Catharines Council, without any review of the situation or taking into consideration that traffic backup could have been result of construction work one block away, at Welland Avenue and the QEW, decided that the lines should be immediately erased at an estimated cost of \$70,000. Garden City Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (GCAST) viewed these actions by council as a major setback and is hopeful that the action undertaken does not affect other proposed road diet conversions in the city. The Region's proposed work west of the QEW, which is presently two wide lanes, appears that it can easily accommodate bike lanes. St.Catharines Council has supported bike lanes for this section west of the QEW through to Niagara Street.

- ICP Report 57-2009 – Terms of Reference and Priority Actions

This report went to the ICPPWC meeting on November 25, 2009 for consideration. The Terms of Reference were revised slightly to reflect current information. This report will go forward to Council on December 17, 2009 for ratification.

- Funding for Map Reprinting

Ken Forgeron apprised the committee that the committee has \$20,000 in rolled coins that will be dedicated towards the cost of reprinting of limited copies of the current Bicycle Map and/or preparing a 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the map.

## INFORMATION FOR DISTRIBUTION

There were no items for distribution at this time.

## ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Model Local Bicycle Policies
- Port Colborne Off Road Trail Proposal

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. to meeting again on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 in Committee Room 4 at 7:00 p.m.

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Brian Baty  
Chair

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Penny Pitt  
Administrative Assistant  
Clerk's Department