

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING  
COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 11, 2008  
Red Onion Restaurant  
260 Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON  
6:00 p.m.



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**In Attendance:**

Brian Baty	-	Regional Councillor (Chair)
Barb Henderson	-	Mayor, Township of Wainfleet/Regional Councillor
Eric Flora	-	Niagara Region Public Works
Ken Forgeron	-	Niagara Region Integrated Community Planning
Dianne Coppola	-	Niagara Region Integrated Community Planning
Dave Hunt	-	Public-at-Large
Bob Romanuk (Acting Chair)	-	Public-at-Large/N.F.Trails & Bikeways Committee
Pat Maloney	-	Public-at-Large
Peter Davies	-	Niagara Freewheelers
Paul Pattison	-	Public-at-Large
Scott Elliott	-	Niagara Region Police Service
Dave Evans	-	Public-at-Large
Frank Pravitz	-	MTO/Public-at-Large
Penny Pitt	-	Administrative Assistant, Clerk's Department

**Regrets – Betsy Foster**

**1. Other Business**

With Councillors Baty and Henderson detained at Special Council Meeting, the committee appointed Bob Romanuk as Acting Chair for the meeting. The councillors joined the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted with the addition of items under Items for Consideration, Encouragement Task Force, and Items for Information.

**3. Review of Previous Meeting Notes of October 30, 2008.**

**Motion:**

***To approve the amended Agenda and the RNBC Meeting Notes of October 30, 2008.***

***Moved By: Pat Maloney***

***Seconded By: Dave Hunt***

***Carried***

**4. Review of Previous Action Items**

**Action Item 32 – Hwy 406 to Port Robinson Rd.**

Presentations were made to Thorold, Welland and the PPWC on plans for a roundabout at the East Main St./406 intersection, flyover at Port Robinson Road, interchanges at Woodlawn Rd and Merritt Rd. More updates are expected in January.

Action Items 20, 29, 30, 31  
Completed and removed

***Motion:***

***To accept Action Items as updated.***

***Moved By: Dave Hunt***

***Seconded By: Pat Maloney***

***Carried***

5. **Items for Consideration**

RNBC Strategic Plan – Priority Actions

Team leads for all three Objectives of the RNBC Strategic Plan prepared and provided draft plans of strategic action and priority ranking to the committee (see attached). After discussion it was decided to review the draft plans in detail at the January 2009 meeting. Members were asked to review all draft plans and consider how to sequence the priorities over the next three years. Objective 3 will require more consideration as not all items were addressed by the working group.

Proposed Regional Policy Plan Amendment on Bicycling Policies and Mapping

Ken Forgeron and Dave Hunt provided a draft Proposed Regional Policy Plan amendment on bicycling to the committee. The document was for information at this time and will be discussed in more detail in January. The policies currently in use are those in Section 9F of the Regional Policy Plan and the proposals outlined in the 2005 Master Plan. The committee was advised to come to the January meeting prepared to discuss this very important initiative in which will help guide bicycle transportation planning throughout the Niagara Region. The amendments must go through the formal public review process under the Planning Act and then approval by Council.

Proposed Regional Policy Plan Amendment 3-2008 - Wine Country Policies

Transportation staff recently met with Hillary Dawson, President, Wine Council of Ontario and discussed the proposed regional roadway capital projects along the Wine Route (identified in the report entitled *Energizing Niagara's Wine Country, 2007*). The Region will keep the Wine Council informed of all related projects. An updated spreadsheet showing the roads projects along the wine route is available for the RNBC to review, if requested. The RNBC is requested to provide comments on PPA3-2008. The Policy Task Force will provide comments on the proposed policy. **(ACTION ITEM)**

Closing the Gaps: Phase II of the Waterfront Trust Investment Program

The Waterfront Trust has been urged by the Province to develop a Phase II Program focused on filling the gaps along the Waterfront Trail. Niagara should be ready with projects that could be undertaken if a federal/provincial infrastructure program is announced in January 2009. Ken Forgeron has developed a list of candidate projects that he hopes will be supported by affected local municipalities. **(ACTION ITEM)**

2009 Budget for RNBC

Councillor Baty informed the committee that Council was in the midst of Budget Review. He expressed the need to meet with Mike Trojan, CAO and affected commissioners to coordinate a budget for RNBC. Budget needs of Committees of Council need to be addressed in an equitable and consistent manner.

### Development Model Local Bicycling Policies

Ken Forgeron apprised the committee that many municipalities were developing Official Plans and secondary plans for future community bicycling policies and mapping. Local municipalities were looking to the Region for guidance. The Policy Task Force will work on developing model bicycling policies that municipalities can either adopt/adapt. **(ACTION ITEM)**

## **6. Task Force Reports**

### Engineering/Network Task Force

**GTA Corridor PD 18-2008** – letter distributed to the RNBC. The MTO's Project Manager will meet with the RNBC prior to the next PIC, as per the committee's earlier request.

**Bikeways Network Data** – The Region's IT/IDM-GIS group has received the mapping from the consultant and is reviewing the results. The data has been built to allow it to be linked to other tabular data (construction, financials, etc) and other GIS layers so it will have a broader use for land use planning and future mapping projects (3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Bike Map).

**Transportation Project Activity Report**– November 19, 2008 PPWC approved and then Council approved November 27<sup>th</sup>; this report was previously emailed out to committee members.

**Lakeshore Road (Lakeport Road to Niagara Street), City of St. Catharines** – EA preferred alternative involves providing 1.5m wide on-road bike lanes on each side of the roadway. The total asphalt width will be 10.0m. This project has been approved to proceed to detailed design.

**East and West Line Bridge Rehabilitation/Expansion** project in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, PIC was held November 19 and the PIC panels have been emailed out to committee members. The bridge will be designed to have 1.5m bike lanes; this section of East-West Line is a candidate roadway for assumption by the Region as part of its overall Transportation Sustainability Services Review study (not final yet).

**Stoney Creek Urban Boundary Expansion (SCUBE)** project – City of Hamilton – copy of Notice of Study Completion previously emailed out to the committee. The City of Hamilton is aware of the Region's cycling network along Regional Road 81 (former Hwy 8) and the Waterfront Trail along Winston Road /North Service Rd as an on-road paved shoulder facility. I previously provided these comments to the City's Project Manager. However, the RNBC is encouraged to review the web and provide their respective comments as well.

**St. David's Pedestrian and Cycling Needs Assessment EA** – Regional staff met with MTO staff on November 5. The MTO has requested the Region look at additional alternatives, in addition to the ones reviewed as part of the original EA. The approved EA will need to have an addendum completed, along with additional public consultation. This is subject to Regional Council budget approval.

### Education and Enforcement Task Force

- At this time there was no report for this task force.

#### Encouragement Task Force

- Public Health Update

Dianne informed the committee about three issues pertinent to the work of the committee: new Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS), a provincial grant related to walkable communities and her pending secondment to the newly established Department of Integrated Community Planning (ICP).

- As of January 2009 Public Health will be guided by new Ontario Public Health Standards that require us to “be accountable for our programming through research, surveillance and knowledge exchange – lined to performance measures”. More attention is to be paid to advocacy, policy and environmental supports, and working in partnerships. The built environment has also been added as a component related to Public Health’s work on issues such as obesity prevention, healthy eating, healthy weights, physical activity, injury prevention, road safety etc.
- Canada Walks/Ontario Communities WalkON – Green Communities Canada and Walk & Bike for Life have received a \$250,000 grant from Trillium (over 3 years) to deliver a comprehensive walkability strategy that will benefit all Ontarians. This grant is taking work done by 6 Central West Heart Health Programs including our own Healthy Living Niagara and expanding it to other areas in the province. A “Centre of Excellence” website is one component of this initiative.
- ICP secondment – Effective January 5/09 Dianne will be seconded to the new ICP department to help develop/oversee an integrated strategy for healthy active living inclusive of evaluation metrics, active transportation and an assessment of the TREKZONE strategy framework. This may necessitate a change in Public Health staff support to this committee, pending the finalization of the RNBC strategic actions and workload review. Dianne will keep the committee apprised of her status.

- Ken Forgeron will pursue obtaining a budget for the production of facts sheets (re: Web based Scenic Bike loops) for distribution at the Bike Show in March 2009. The suggestion was made to have a lap top present at the show to demonstrate how to use the website. **(ACTION ITEM)**

#### Policy Task Force

- The development of Model Bicycling Policies for Local Official Plans – discussed under agenda item #5

### **7. Items for Information:**

- Port Colborne Main Street Community Improvement Plan: Bicycling Considerations  
Ken Forgeron informed the committee that as part of their community improvement plan Port Colborne is planning to create a more walkable, bicycle friendly street with links to the Greater Niagara Circle Route.
- Moving St. Catharines Bicycling Policy and Infrastructure Initiatives Forward  
Frank Pravitz reported that the Garden City Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (GCAST) would like have a meeting with the Region on projects of mutual interest.
- Good Bicycle Practice  
Ken Forgeron suggested that the handout could be distributed to schools, etc. as an educational tool on safe bicycle techniques. Dave Evans will review it and forward to Scott Elliott. **(ACTION ITEM)**

- Bicycle Tourism Travel Interview  
Frank Pravitz informed the committee that an article regarding this interview would be published in the spring in a major U.S. travel magazine distributed across the Northeast U.S.
- Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Project – Active Transportation: Making it work in Canadian Communities  
A new TAC project will result in a synthesis of practices and recommendations for the development and implementation of active transportation strategies (walking, cycling, and other non-motorized forms of travel). This publication will assist all levels of government in identifying and understanding critical factors, needs and challenges for successful implementation of active transportation strategies for Canadian communities. Completion of the project is expected by the end of 2009.

## **8. Information for Distribution**

The following items were distributed at the meeting:

- Correspondence from the RNBC to Mayor McMullan regarding the City's Proposed Cycling and Policy Initiatives Report
- Report to Staff – Transportation and Environmental Services
- St. Catharines Standard – "There's more to bike lanes than lost parking spots"
- Niagara News – "Residents happy with new bike lanes"
- Niagara This Week -"NOTL named a place to visit"
- Niagara This Week – "Shared lanes don't mix with bike lanes: City"
- Niagara This Week – "Council calls for more tickets for sidewalk-riding cyclists"
- Tribune – "City wins award"
- Quarterly Web Report – showcasing public interest in bicycling information including mapping
  - Walk on Steps to Strides
  - How walkable is your community? Newsletter Fall 2007
  - Checklist (iCANwalk)
  - WalkON clip-on strobe

## **9. Items for Next Agenda**

- Review of Strategic Objectives 1,2 & 3
- Ontario Bicycle Route
- Items for presentation at the Ontario Bicycle Tourism Forum on January 22, 2009
- Region Policy Plan Amendments
- Public Health Summit-Overview
- Summary of hits on website for 2008

## **10. Announcements**

The RNBC received a letter of resignation from Councillor Henderson. Councillor Baty thanked her for her passion and interest in the RNBC and for her time in supporting the committee.

Correspondence from Acting Deputy Chief of Police, Bob Wright, was received announcing the approval and endorsement of Constable Scott Elliott to act as a representative from the Niagara Regional Police Service on the RNBC. Constable Elliott joined our meeting and provided the committee with a copy of his impressive resume. His extensive background in Police Bike Training and Instructor of Police Cyclist Courses will be a tremendous asset to the committee. Constable Elliott was introduced to the committee and in return committee members introduced themselves and their affiliations.

#### **11. Meeting Adjournment**

**Motion:**

***That the meeting be adjourned at 9:45 p.m. to meet again on Thursday, January 8, 2009.***

***Moved By: Dave Hunt***

***Seconded By: Frank Pravitz***

***Carried***

**Meeting Notes Reviewed by:** Ken Forgeron, Integrated Community Planning, Eric Flora, Public Works and Dianne Coppola, Public Health

**Meeting Notes Recorded by:** Penny Pitt