

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



Meeting of Thursday, April 10, 2003
Committee Room #4
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Brian McMullan	- Regional Councillor (Chair)
Bob Romanuk	- Public at Large
Dwight Alguire	- Public at Large
David Hunt	- Public at Large
Jan Somerwil	- Public at Large
Paul Pattison	- Public at Large
John Helm	- Public at Large
Marlaine Koehler	- Waterfront Regeneration Trust
Frank Pravitz	- Ministry of Transportation
Tim Whittle	- Niagara Regional Police Service
Jackie Gervais	- Regional Niagara Public Health Department
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Phil Bergen	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)
Julie Bittner	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

Regrets:

Marian Landry	- Regional Niagara Public Health Department
Bob Johnson (Transportation)	- Regional Niagara Public Works

1. Adoption of Agenda

With the addition of a few agenda items discussed later in these meeting notes, the agenda was adopted, as revised.

Motion:

To accept the agenda as amended.

Moved by: Jan Somerwil

Seconded by: Dave Hunt

Carried

2. Review of Meeting Notes of February 13, 2003

D. Hunt noted that the joint bike ride between Toronto and Niagara cyclists is not the "main event" for Bike Week as stated under Item 6 "Proposals for Bike Week", third paragraph of the February 13th meeting notes. Also, the third sentence in the same paragraph states that, "Once in St. Catharines a lunch would be provided...." This sentence should be changed to read, "A lunch stop would be part of the ride."

Under Item 6, first paragraph, fourth line, where it says, "The application form for the awards will be updated to include a website address for individuals to access support materials," B. Romanuk wanted to know if M. Landry intended the website to be the

RNBC website. J. Gervais said that she thought that the RNBC website was the intended site.

Motion:

To accept RNBC Meeting Notes of February 13, 2003, as revised.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded by: Paul Pattison

Carried

3. Business Arising

K. Forgeron discussed three items, which were raised at the last meeting. The first item was a concern regarding the pledge sheet for the Greater Niagara Circle Trek and whether there would be any controls on the sheet to ensure that the money collected is, in fact, turned in. K. Forgeron said he had a discussion with a representative from the Greater Niagara Circle Trek and there will be no controls on the pledge sheets this year. This issue will need to be looked at next year.

The second issue was the proposed widening and expansion of Regional Road 20 and whether there would be a provision for cycling from South Pelham Street to Highway 406. K. Forgeron reported that there would be a standard 0.5 metre edge space, but no formal bike lane.

The third issue was the use of a more sophisticated traffic lighting system. This system would have some traffic lights turn to "flash" during the evening hours. K. Forgeron said that he discussed this issue with Nick Rosati of the Public Works Department. N. Rosati said that research had been done regarding the use of this system and it was found that accidents increased. Therefore, the Public Works Department has recommended against using the flashing light system.

4. Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail Investment Program

K. Forgeron introduced Marlaine Koehler who is from the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail Investment Program (Waterfront Regeneration Trust). M. Koehler provided a brief background on the program. She explained that the Trust is a non-profit charitable organization, which has gone through a major administrative review and change. The Trust consists of a team of three people and their focus is on the expansion, enhancement and promotion of the Lake Ontario Trail. The Lake Ontario Waterfront Trust is working with partners to create a consolidated package to expand the Trail. They were successful in obtaining a \$9.2 million grant under the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Program, which will be added to the contributions of municipalities, conservation authorities and community groups. By the end of 2006 there will be a substantially marked trail to Brockville from Niagara-on-the-Lake. Some other Niagara-area projects include the constructing of paved shoulders and signage along the Trail in Grimsby, Lincoln, St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake; extending the Twenty Valley Trail in Jordan; creating a gateway facility at Charles Ansell Park; and building the Waterfront Trail through Charles Daley Park.

K. Forgeron distributed copies of a report submitted to Planning Services Committee on March 26. The report shows five projects that Regional Niagara has partnered with the Trust on. Included in the report is a map, with insets, which indicates which projects are planned over the next three years.

M. Koehler said that last summer an end-to-end tour of the Waterfront Trail was coordinated with the Toronto Star. This tour led to a six part newspaper series and was helpful in raising the profile of the Trail.

M. Koehler said that a marketing committee (including a representative from NETC) had been created to develop a marketing plan. Target groups have been identified as recreational cyclists, families and active adults. Suggested tactics were to use a website to get information to people about the Trail, having material printed and distributed to promote the Trail and the third suggestion was creating packages of weekend excursions. The CIBC has promised \$250,000 over the next three years to help in the area of promotion. MapArt has produced one of the first publications and will provide assistance again in the future.

In 2003 implementation of the signage program will begin. Each community will have a trail head sign, which will include a legend, a sponsor panel, directional arrows and it will show how the trail connects to other trails in the community.

An interactive user website will be developed featuring community profiles, which will include local amenities and maps, distances, and connecting links to other websites. Waterfront Trail events from May through October will be listed. Also, people will be able to create itineraries and know from looking at the site what they can see along the way.

A map book and a guidebook will be reprinted as research has shown that even though people enjoy looking at a website, if they are really interested in a trail, they will buy a map book. MapArt is currently looking for a way to produce and distribute a map/guidebook. In addition to the map book, a brochure will be produced, hopefully in time for the National and World Cycling Championships in Hamilton this summer/fall.

A meeting will be organized in 2003 with a packaging supplier. One area will be looked at an itinerary will be created.

P. Pattison asked about the Lakeshore Road construction that is scheduled for 2003. K. Forgeron said that it is described and mapped in the Planning Services report. The entire Waterfront Trail is in various stages of completion. For other portions of Lakeshore Road, environmental assessments will need to be done in order to see how a trail could be developed as there are a number of environmental and property issues to address.

D. Hunt asked about signing implementation and whether the Program pays for the signage and installation. M. Koehler said that the Program pays for the signage and the municipality is responsible for installation and maintenance. There will be some cost sharing arrangements made with the municipalities.

5. Funding Request for Waterfront Trail Promotion & Communication Program

K. Forgeron said that a funding request had been made previously, but we hadn't been able to participate because of concerns that until we were successful in obtaining SuperBuild funding we wouldn't be able to provide the money. Regional Niagara has been asked to contribute \$3,000 towards the Waterfront Trail Promotion & Communication Program. The Freewheelers will be asked to consider a contribution of \$1,500 and the RNBC are requested to fund the remaining \$1,500. K. Forgeron has spoken to B. Johnson who has indicated that there are sufficient funds available for this request if the RNBC decides to support the initiative.

Motion:

That the RNBC agrees to provide \$1,500 to the Waterfront Trail Promotion & Communication Program

Moved by: Bob Romanuk

Seconded: Jan Somerwil

Carried

6. Highlights from the Toronto International Bike Show

K. Forgeron distributed a report (DPD 43-2003) prepared for the Planning Services Committee on the RNBC/NETC successful participation at the Toronto International Bike Show. K. Forgeron passed along to RNBC members the Planning Committee's appreciation for the work that was done in putting together the display and staffing the display booth. K. Forgeron reported that almost all of the promotional material which was available at the Bike Show was distributed. D. Hunt commented that the location of the Region's display was very good and suggested that we should try to get that spot again next year. Ken Forgeron agreed to follow-up on this suggestion with NETC.

7. Topics for the Spring Joint Meeting of Bicycling Committees

The spring Joint Meeting of Bicycling Committees will be hosted by the Region of Niagara on June 14th and will be held at Niagara Falls City Hall. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a lunch and a ride after the meeting. There will be discussions on the struggle to develop the Millennium Trail, Bike Week, the Bike Friendly Awards Program, Velo Ontario, Hamilton's work on the Commuter Challenge, Master Plan updates from Hamilton and Niagara and the maps to be provided for people coming to the National and World Cycling Championships. K. Forgeron requested other topics that could be included on the agenda. T. Whittle suggested having a representative from the World Cycling Championship's organization attend to discuss what will be happening at the event. K. Forgeron will look into T. Whittle's suggestion. **(Action Item)**

8. Update on Regional Bicycle Mapping Project

Chair McMullan reported that good progress was being made on the Regional Bicycle Mapping Project. The biggest change from what was originally contemplated was that Regional staff would work on the project as opposed to Niagara College staff. It was determined that the Region has the capabilities in-house to do the project and the cost would be less as only actual staff time would be charged. Niagara College had hoped to tap into Federal grant money.

Once the project advances, it would be distributed to the RNBC sub-committees for comment. P. Bergen has a rough draft of the actual map based on meetings that have taken place. F. Pravitz will work with Regional staff and go over the routes and discuss textures and colours for the routes. The Freewheelers organization has provided detailed maps and are letting us utilize their information.

For the May RNBC meeting there will be a recommendation on the two RFPs (re: advertising) and a draft product that has had input to show to the committee. Decisions will need to be made quickly in order for the map to be printed and completed by the end of June. B. Romanuk asked if this map would be distributed free of charge. B. McMullan said that it had not yet been decided. F. Pravitz said that they were looking at having advertising to help offset the cost. B. Romanuk asked if the map would be as sophisticated as originally planned with the ability to add different layers. B. McMullan said that all of the layers would not be available by the June deadline, but more layers would be added in future editions. F. Pravitz said that you will be able to call up the map, but in order to create the bike route and add layers, other themes would need to be added later. B. McMullan said that one of the big issues was whether the map could be GIS based. It has been possible to do so. P. Bergen said that they were hoping to get map out in pdf. format before the printing as that can take 30 days or more.

F. Pravitz said he created a working document (work plan) that that included legends, approaches and a matrix of ways to categorize roads. A lot of information was borrowed from other maps that he had seen. He said that the idea is to map Regional roads and their suitability for cycling using various approaches and techniques. K. Forgeron said that he would like to show the 12 scenic routes in a trip tik style on-road cycling map. Both Hamilton and Burlington have said that there will be a demand to provide information on routes that people can ride in Niagara for visitors who are attending the World Cycling Championships. For the October Worlds the product should be available and we have committed to provide a joint map with Burlington and Hamilton to show routes in some form of a map.

P. Bergen asked what urban insets needed to be included on the map. Having all 12 municipalities shown on inset maps would probably be too much. With advertisements being included to help offset the cost, and the inclusion of safety tips, space will be at a premium. The Committee suggested not including any municipalities in the insets or

else including only the three large urban centres: St. Catharines, Welland and Niagara Falls.

B. McMullan said that a discussion had been held whereby the inclusion of safety tips would be added to the map. It had been suggested that the decision of which safety tips should be included would be referred to the Educational Task Force. K. Forgeron said that the Bicycling Committees in Toronto and Hamilton said we could use their safety information as long as they were credited. T. Whittle said that they would have a meeting with the Educational Task Force and review the material and organize it in terms of most desirable to least desirable. They would provide the information to P. Bergen in the beginning of May. B. Romanuk suggested that more valuable information than just safety could be put on the map. He suggested considering the brochure that M. Landry had put together on overcoming excuses as to why you shouldn't ride your bike to work and how to make cycling more enjoyable. F. Pravitz said that they are trying to strike a balance between utilitarian and recreational interests. It was suggested that the people who use this map are already familiar with cycling and that safety and/or education could be scaled back.

B. McMullan said that a second draft will be ready by the May RNBC meeting. Additional funds would be needed for the completion of the mapping. This work includes the work being done in-house. This investment would form a good base for future virtual reality initiatives. F. Pravitz said a sub-committee would need to be developed to do quality control on this project.

Motion:

To approve up to a maximum of \$6,000.00 to be charged against the RNBC account for the completion of the mapping project.

Moved by: D. Alquire

Seconded: B. Romanuk

Carried

A meeting of members of the mapping task force will be held following this evening's RNBC meeting.

9. Regional Bicycle Master Plan – Status

K. Forgeron said that Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan has done additional work to incorporate the comments provided at the RNBC December meeting. They are close to completing the work and are going to focus on the budget issues. The intent is to try and have the Plan ready in May or early June.

D. Hunt asked if the Committee would have a chance to review the draft. K. Forgeron said that he would like to have the draft report accessible from the website.

D. Hunt wanted to know if the changes made to the report would be in bold or italics in order for the Committee to see what changes were made. K. Forgeron said that they changes will be available for the Technical Steering Committee.

Motion:

To accept K. Forgeron's verbal presentation.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded: Dwight Alquire

Carried

10. Task Force Reports

Education and Enforcement

Police Week

During Police Week a RNBC display may be set-up at local malls as long as volunteers from the RNBC are available to staff the display. T. Whittle also provided a number of dates for bicycling activities including Bicycle Safety & Maintenance Day in Niagara Falls on May 31. Volunteers are needed for this event to help put the children through the course.

B. McMullan reported that we had received a letter from the Chief of Police acknowledging receipt of our letter requesting Paul Pattison be appointed to the Chief's Safety Committee. Presently, no Safety Committee meetings have been held and no other response from the Chief has been received.

Engineering

F. Pravitz reported that the Engineering Task Force has not formally met recently. The main focus right now has been on the Regional Bicycle Map Project. With the recent departure of R. Tripp, the Engineering Task Force now does not have a representative from Public Works – Engineering. Will someone else be assigned? **(Action Item)**

F. Pravitz has contacted R. Scholtz from the Regional Public Works Department in regards to the 2003 road resurfacing program taking place this summer in order to include any new paved shoulders in the map project.

Encouragement Task Force

2003 Bicycle Friendly Awards Brochure

J. Gervais circulated to the Committee copies of the 2003 Bicycle Friendly Award Brochure. This year the brochure will be printed on buff coloured paper and will have blue ink instead of black. The website address is printed on the bottom of both the front and back page of the brochure. This year 2,000 copies of the brochure will be printed.

Motion:

To approve the printing of 2,000 copies of the Bicycle Friendly Awards 2003 Information and Application Form.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded: Bob Romanuk

Carried

B. Romanuk noticed that on the back of the brochure, in fine print, a sentence has been left off where it discusses the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. J. Gervais will pass that information on to M. Landry in order for the correction to be made before final printing.

Bicycle Friendly Awards for Workplaces

J. Gervais also distributed to the Committee copies of Bicycle Friendly Awards for Workplaces information. This information has already been distributed to 81 workplaces and will be posted on the web as well. J. Gervais requested that the committee review the information and provide any comments or changes. The Committee requested that the words "bicycling trails" be changed to "bicycle routes," as the word trails may give the impression that these are off-road areas. Also, the word "staffs" should be changed to "staff." Dave Hunt inquired where it says, "Invite a cycling enthusiast to speak about bicycling trails in the Niagara Region during Bike Week..." does this mean that the Region will be supplying the speaker. J. Gervais said that these suggestions were to help workplaces become more bicycle friendly and that the Region would not be supplying the speakers

Motion:

To approve, accept and post on the website the Bicycle Friendly Awards for Workplaces.

Moved by: Paul Pattison

Seconded: Dave Hunt

Carried

School Package

J. Gervais asked if the RNBC could underwrite the cost of printing the Bicycle Friendly Award school packages. There are 165 schools and the cost to print one package for each school would be, approximately, 48 cents. The Youth Connection nurses would distribute the packages to the schools. This delivery method would also allow the nurses to "talk up" the information contained in the package and encourage a school's participation in the Bicycle Friendly Awards.

Motion:

To approve up to a maximum of \$200.00 be charged against the RNBC account for the cost of printing 165 Bicycle Friendly Award school packages.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded: Paul Pattison

Carried

Bike Week Flyer

J. Gervais advised that a colour needs to be chosen for the 2003 Bike Week flyer. The colour last year was lime green with blue ink. The Committee decided to let M. Landry use her discretion and choose the paper colour.

It was noticed by B. Romanuk that the "url" is missing from the pamphlet. J. Gervais will pass this information on to M. Landry.

Motion:

To approve the printing of 5,000 Bike Week flyers and have M. Landry use her discretion in choosing the paper colour for the flyer.

Moved by: Bob Romanuk

Seconded: Jan Somerwil

Carried

11. Information Items for Distribution

K. Forgeron distributed and provided some highlights on the following items:

- Bikeways, Trails and Parks map from the City of Hamilton
- Information from the Velo Quebec web page discussing the positive economic impact that bicycle trails have on communities. K. Forgeron reported that he passed this information to Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan for consideration in the Regional Bicycle Master Plan.
- Copy of a newspaper article which appeared in the Hamilton Spectator expressing disappointment in the large amount of money being spent on the National and World Cycling Championships in comparison to the amount of money spent annually in the City developing local bicycle infrastructure.
- Copy of the letter sent to Niagara Regional Police Chief, Gary Nicholls from Regional Council Brian McMullan requesting Paul Pattison represent cyclists on the Traffic Task Force.
- Brochure on the 2003 Greater Niagara Circle Trek ride, which is being held May 3rd and 4th.
- Burlington Waterfront Trail map.
- Information brochure, which was handed out at the Toronto International Bike Show on the National and World Cycling Championships.
- Copy of a Globe and Mail newspaper article indicating that a sharp decline in cycling injuries to children has occurred since legislation making helmets mandatory has come into effect.

- Notice about a new publication on the history of Short Hills Provincial Park. The book was prepared by The Friends of Short Hills Park and is on sale for \$10.00. You can obtain copies by contacting Dave Hunt.

12. Next RNBC Meeting

The next RNBC meeting will take place on Thursday, May 8th in Committee Room #3.

*J. Somerwil requested a discussion be held at the May 8th meeting on Round-a-Bouts.
J. Somerwil distributed to Committee members excerpts from "Sign up for the Bike: Design Manual for Cycle-Friendly Infrastructure," and asked Committee members to read over the material for the next meeting.*

Meeting Notes Taken by:
Julie Bittner
Reviewed by Ken Forgeron, MCIP, RPP, Senior Planner