

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



Meeting of Thursday, August 25, 2005
Committee Room #2
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Brian Baty	- Regional Councillor (Vice-Chair)
Dave Hunt	- Public at Large and Cycle Ontario Alliance
Jan Somerwil	- Public at Large
Terri Donia	- Regional Niagara Planning (Guest)
Tim Whittle	- Niagara Regional Police Service
Dianne Coppola	- Public Health Department
Kithio Mwanzia	- Brock University Students' Union
Bob Romanuk	- Public at Large & Niagara Falls Trails and Bikeways Committee
Bill Dickson	- Public at Large
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Julie Bittner	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

Regrets:

Ron Leavens	- Regional Councillor
Frank Pravitz	- Ministry of Transportation
Paul Pattison	- Public at Large
John Reep	- Public at Large
Eric Flora	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

The meeting commenced at 7:05 p.m.

As there were some new members at the meeting, introductions of all the members were made. Dianne Coppola indicated that Marian Landry has been seconded to another Public Health program for the next six months. In the meantime, Dianne or another alternate will attend RNBC meetings in Marian's place.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The order of the agenda was revised, and with the addition of the agenda items listed below, the agenda was adopted.

Under new business:

- 2nd edition of the bicycling map (Regional Councillor Brian Baty)
- Queenston-Lewiston Bridge (Ken Forgeron on behalf of Paul Pattison)
- Niagara Falls Trails and Bikeways Masterplan update (Ken Forgeron)

Motion:

To accept the agenda of August 25th as revised.

Moved by: Bill Dickson

Seconded by: Bob Romanuk

Carried

2. Review of Previous Meeting Notes (July 14th, 2005)

Motion:

To accept and approve the meeting notes of July 14th.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded by: Bill Dickson

Carried

3. Business Arising

The Committee was provided updates on a number of "Action Items" which arose out of the July 2005 meeting notes:

- Environmental Assessment (EA) for Regional Road 20 was deferred until the October meeting as Councillor Leavens was not in attendance to speak on this item. **(Action Item)**
- Mr. Forgeron reported that completion of the memo to the NEDC regarding RNBC priority items was still outstanding, but would be completed in the near future. **(Action Item)**
- Mr. Dickson distributed a copy of a letter he had written to the Editor of *The Standard* on the licensing of bicycles. It is his understanding that the letter will be published in a future edition of the paper. He also reported that it was his understanding that Brantford and Hamilton are looking into the possibility of registering bicycles.
- Mr. Forgeron reported that the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee had received a letter from John Maloney, MP. The letter indicated that there is a draft agreement in place between CP Rail and the City of Welland over the issue of trail accessibility over the rail crossing north of Ontario Road in Welland. The Regional Niagara Accessibility Committee will be reviewing and submitting a report on the trail through Welland from the stand point of accessibility by the physically challenged. The RNBC will receive a copy of this report once it's completed. **(Action Item)**
- A copy of the new list of bicycle friendly businesses and services in Port Colborne was included as an Item for Distribution for consideration of Regional Bicycle Friendly Awards.

- Mr. Forgeron reported that the report on edge lines and bicycle transportation prepared by Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan for the City of Burlington was distributed to the RNBC.
- The letter of support for a program grant for Can Bike development across Canada was deferred as Peter Davies was not in attendance at the meeting. **(Action Item)**

Councillor Baty reported that the Planning Department has been asked to prepare a report on the issue of the *Line Fences Act* by Planning Services Committee

As Councillor Leavens was not in attendance at the meeting, the RNBC deferred discussion on whether Manfred Fast would be able to speak at a future RNBC meeting. **(Action Item)**

4. Presentation: Planning & Design Guidelines for Cyclists & Pedestrians

Ms. Terri Donia of the Region's Planning Department reported that the Niagara Model Urban Design Guidelines were endorsed by Regional Council on April 28th, 2005.

Ms. Donia explained that there were a number of provincial initiatives (eg. Growth Plan, Provincial Policy Statement) which focus development within communities and away from the agricultural community. The guidelines were developed to provide design principles and specific guidelines for a variety of development types and conditions which would be relevant to the Niagara Region.

Ms. Donia discussed a few specific areas which are related to cycling: For example, multi-use trails and bicycle routes should be linked to areas of employment, residential and commercial development. As well, bicycle parking should be included in "big box" developments for employees who wish to ride to work and for shoppers. Trails and bicycle routes should be linked to transit facilities. Bicycle parking and storage should be provided at the transit facilities.

Ms. Donia explained that the next step is to present the guidelines to the local councils and to forward the guidelines to developers. A copy of the guidelines will be sent to each person who was involved in helping create the guidelines, which included many industry people. She will be making a presentation on this topic at the October 20th Ontario Cycling Conference in Hamilton. Dave Hunt offered to provide some suggestions on other cycling related ideas to include in the presentation. **(Action Item)**

5. Revisiting the Regional Road 20 EA

This agenda was deferred until the October meeting.

6. Update on the New Bicycling Map

Mr. Forgeron brought a copy of the newest version of the draft bike map. This version shows the location of some of the woodland areas and also includes the urban insets for Niagara Falls, Fonthill/Welland and St. Catharines urban areas. Around the edge of the map could be the business cards for local business who have purchased advertising space. Mr. Forgeron requested the assistance of RNBC members in assisting with data collection and proofreading the map.

Councillor Baty told the RNBC that \$7,000 has been collected through map donations. He also indicated that Councillor Timms was interested in having 4,000 copies of the 1st edition of the map printed and distributed at the Grape and Wine Festival and at other events. The existing supply of maps is exhausted and some additional maps are needed as a bridge until the 2nd edition of the map is finished and printed. Mr. Forgeron said that he had received requests from other organizations, for example, CAA and wineries for additional copies of the 1st edition map. He reported that the cost to have the 4,000 copies of the 1st edition map printed would need to be taken from the money collected from the map donations. However, this would create a problem as to the funding for printing the 2nd edition of the map since the \$7,000 was to be used to print the second edition.

The RNBC questioned the need to have more copies printed as both the cycling and tourism seasons are essentially finished for 2005. As well, the RNBC said that once the 2nd edition of the map was printed, the 1st edition would be obsolete and any remaining copies would probably be thrown out.

The RNBC was not opposed to having another organization re-print the map as long as the money did not come from the RNBC's funds, which would jeopardize its ability to complete the new map project.

Motion:

To support the re-printing of the 1st Edition of the bicycle map by another organization as long as the money does not come from public/private donations to the RNBC's funds which are dedicated to printing the 2nd edition of the map.

Moved by: Bob Romanuk

Seconded by: Dave Hunt

Carried

7. Ideas for 2006 Bike-to-Work/School Week

Bicycle Friendly Awards

Dianne Coppola from the Public Health Department requested volunteers to sit on the panel to review Bicycle Friendly Award applications. Councillor Baty, Dave Hunt, Ken Forgeron and Bob Romanuk from the RNBC volunteered. Mr. Forgeron also volunteered Mr. Drew Semple from the Planning Department who would likely be interested in helping again this year.

Bike to Work/School Week

Ms. Coppola reported that Marian Landry is in the process of preparing a draft report on the 2005 Bike to Work Week (BTWW). The report would review the various components of the 2005 BTWW campaign. Her report will also contain a number of recommendations for 2006 including:

- Establishment of a BTWW Committee
- BTWW needs a more structured plan and a budget
- Continue with Like to Bike? education sessions
- Solicit support from bicycle shops and encourage their participation on the BTWW Committee.
- Arrange for the sale of the T-shirts through the Regional Clerk's Office
- Develop a media package
- Continue with prizes for 2006 as they are a very good incentive and were very well received.

Ms. Coppola emphasized that since BTWW is an RNBC initiative, that RNBC assistance is needed. Also, Councillor Baty volunteered to look into the possibility of utilizing Grade 12 students at E.L. Crossley Secondary School. The school has a Grade 12 Leadership Program and perhaps this type of project would fall within their guidelines. **(Action Item)**

Mr. Forgeron stressed that RNBC members are involved in multiple initiatives and that outside assistance from other organizations (like the Niagara Freewheelers or local municipalities) will be needed.

8. Review of Utilitarian Cycling

Mr. Jan Somerwil discussed several points in terms of cycling to work. These include:

Planning

Work groups need to be organized and encourage management to promote cycling to work and discourage driving a car to work.

Stimulate

Employers need to stimulate their workers to bike to work by increasing cyclists' safety and comfort, for example, by providing bike parking inside the workplace close to a changing area. As well, cars should be charged a fee to park in the company lot.

Propaganda

Employers should organize or encourage their employees to have a publicity campaign encouraging cycling to work.

Financial Consequences

All financial aspects like, bonuses, time and investment need to be studied.

Combination

Cycling to work may need to be combined with public transit. Some suggestions are to include bike parking at some bus stops, have places where bikes can be rented and have storage at rail/bus stations.

Mr. Somerwil suggested that a survey be organized in the Niagara Region and sent to area companies and businesses to find out what their opinion is in terms of “car-free” transportation.

Utilitarian cycling initiatives should be a regular item on RNBC agendas and committee members are encouraged to suggest topics for the October meeting. Mr. Somerwil was encouraged to suggest a topic for discussion at the October meeting. **(Action Item)**

9. Cycle Ontario Alliance Conference Agenda

The Cycle Ontario Alliance 2005 Bicycle Conference will be held at McMaster University on Saturday, October 22nd. Some of the many topics to be discussed include:

- Current cycling plans – How relevant and transferable are they?
- How effective are current cycling skill education programs?
- Facility design: eg. Provincial Highway Interchanges

Mr. Forgeron requested volunteers to help out at the conference. The Niagara Freewheelers also are encouraged to assist and participate. Hopefully, Peter Davies can bring this message to the membership. **(Action Item)**

10. Developing New Cycling Brochures

Deferred until October meeting.

11. Bicycling Initiatives & Brock University

Kithio Mwanzia of Brock University’s Students Union stated that one of their initiatives is to encourage more students cycling between May and September when the universal bus pass cannot be used by Brock students.

They would also like to develop a good biking culture for students while they are at Brock University in the hope that they will take this information with them when they leave school.

One concern is the lack of sidewalks and a bike path on St. David’s Rd. in Thorold. One initiative is to try and get the municipal governments in Thorold and St. Catharines to build a multi-purpose path down St. David’s Rd. Mr. Forgeron remarked that one option might be a multi-use trail down the middle of the roadway boulevard. Councillor Baty suggested approaching the Police Services Board regarding having the speed limit lowered on St. David’s Road. As well, another suggestion was made to contact the City of Ottawa as they have experience with centre lane trails. In any event, before any

road improvements occur, an EA will need to be prepared. Mr. Mwanzia believes that one maybe scheduled. This should be confirmed. **(Action Item)**

Mr. Romanuk suggested that another initiative might be to try and get bike racks installed on the local transit buses. This idea had been discussed at previous RNBC meetings, but was not well received by the local transit authorities. Mr. Flora will be reporting on this initiative which is increasingly being used in other Ontario jurisdictions. **(Action Item)**

12. Bikeway Planning & Development Workshop

Mr. Forgeron reported that he had received a notice from the Waterfront Trust regarding a one day workshop that they are hosting. The subject of the workshop is Bikeway Planning & Development and will look at the best practices in developing cycling infrastructure. Mr. Phil Bergen from the Region's Public Works Department will be attending. Mr. Forgeron requested an RNBC volunteer. Mr. Paul Pattison's name was brought forward as he has a background in engineering. Mr. Forgeron said he would contact Mr. Pattison to see if he was interested in attending. **(Action Item)**

13. Task Force Reports

Education and Enforcement

Mr. Whittle gave a report on 2005 cycling collisions to date. The statistics represent a "significant sample" of the number and type of collisions which have been reported.

There have been 30 reported accidents involving cyclists. Thirteen out of the 30 accidents which have occurred have resulted in injuries to the cyclist. However, there have been no fatalities. Almost half of the cyclists involved in the 30 accidents were between the ages of 16-29. In 12 accidents, fault was attributed to the cyclist, in 9 accidents the fault was attributed to the driver, in 8 accidents the fault was attributed to both cyclist and driver and in 1 accident fault was undetermined.

A copy of the Year 2005 Bicycle Collision Statistics is attached to the August meeting notes.

Encouragement

Discussed under Agenda Item #7.

Policy

No report.

Engineering

No report.

14. New Business

Queenston-Lewiston

Deferred as Mr. Flora and Paul Pattison were not in attendance for the meeting.
(Action Item)

Niagara Falls Trails and Bikeways Committee

Mr. Forgeron reported that last November the Niagara Falls Trails and Bikeways Committee started the process of updating their masterplan. Mr. Forgeron has received a copy of the draft masterplan and requested volunteers to review the draft and provide him with their comments.

15. Items for Distribution

- Photocopy of a brochure from McMaster University's Alternative Commuting and Transportation office. Mr. Mwanzia was encouraged to review this brochure as a model for possible application at Brock University.
- Photocopy of Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail News Ezine. Some of the items discussed include:
 - Trail Improvements on Toronto's Waterfront
 - Durham Embarks on Regional Cycling Plan Study (former RNBC member Peter Leyser is working on this plan).
- St. Catharines Standard article on how cycling itself and cycling spin offs means millions of dollars spent in Niagara and how that number will increase in the next 15 years.
- E-mailed New York Times article regarding Portland, Oregon's efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions in part by using light transit rail and streetcars, as well as cycling.
- E-mail discussing the new Transportation Emissions Guidebook. The first installment of the guidebook has recently been completed by the Center For Clean Air Policy.
- Excerpt from the Listserve of Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals re: Dangers of Bicycle Paths Next to Roadways. According to Mr. Somerwil, the experience in the Netherlands has been different then what is experienced in the United States. There may be a difference in the number of driveways and roads crossing these parallel, off-road pathways.

16. Items for Next Agenda

No Items were suggested.

15. Next Meeting: October 6, 2005

Committee Room #4, Regional Headquarters

MOTION:

To adjourn the August 25, 2005 RNBC meeting.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded by: Bob Romanuk

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes Taken by:
Julie Bittner

Reviewed by:
Ken Forgeron, MCIP, RPP
Senior Planner