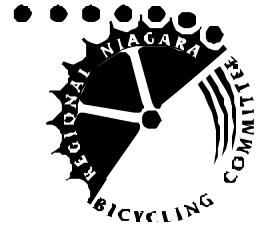


REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



Meeting of Thursday, June 13, 2002
Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Bob Romanuk	- Public at Large (Acting Chair)
David Hunt	- Public at Large
Paul Pattison	- Public at Large
Bill Rashleigh	- Public at Large
John Reep	- Public at Large
Dwight Alguire	- Public at Large
Hank Bauer	- Public at Large
Sean Charlebois	- Presenter
Judy Pease	- Town of Lincoln
John Helm	- Niagara Freewheelers
Tim Whittle	- Niagara Regional Police Service
Frank Pravitz	- Ministry of Transportation
Marian Landry	- Regional Niagara Public Health Department
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Eric Flora	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)
Jody Head	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

Councillors McMullan and Gabriel were unable to attend, so Bob Romanuk agreed to chair the meeting. Bob Johnson and Jan Somerwil passed on their regrets.

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Review of Meeting Notes of May 9, 2002

Motion:

To accept RNBC Meeting Notes of May 9, 2002.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded by: Paul Pattison

Carried

3. Business Arising

Ferry Crossing

The request concerning extended hours (during shoulder season) at the Port Robinson Ferry crossing has been passed onto the City of Thorold. The Region will be dealing with it through the bicycle component of the Regional Transportation Study and through the arterial roads review.

No Bike Signs

Tim Whittle raised concerns about the “No Bike Signs” posted on Government Road in Thorold that prohibit bicycles on the road, but directs them to the Welland Canals Parkway trail. This matter has been deferred to the August meeting until Bob Johnson can speak to this matter.

4.Presentation by Sean Charlebois

Sean Charlebois is a freelance writer who has produced a new series of visitor’s guides. The books will highlight B & Bs, food, wine, cycling and attractions in the local municipalities. The project will be expanding, adding different communities. The first guide has been published, “Twenty Wonders”, which focuses on the Jordan Village and Twenty Valley, and includes the Lincoln loop. He is looking for an RNBC partnership to help in establishing bike routes in other areas for upcoming books. Sean explained his next project is Port Dalhousie and he would be interested in receiving input on a cycling route for that area. It was suggested that Dwight Alguire be contacted for information concerning Port Dalhousie, with some assistance from Frank Pravitz. Tim Whittle had some ideas for a possible route involving “Canals Old and New”. John Reep said he has a book discussing present and future projects involving Buffalo and area bicycling network. Sean can be contacted at 905-684-3737 or by e-mail at current@niagara.com .

5.Multi-Use Trail

Judy Pease from the Town of Lincoln attended the meeting to do a presentation explaining the background on the Lincoln Multi-Use Trail System. A copy of the study will be placed in the RNBC reference library. The main focus of the study is to assist the Town and the public in providing alternative means of safe travel. The Ministry of Citizen Culture & Recreation provided a grant of \$11,000. The Town of Lincoln also allocated funds. In 2001, they hired consultants to develop a Master Plan that was approved by Council. The Town are in the process of updating the Official Plan, taking into consideration all of the study’s recommendations. Any further questions or comments can be directed directly to Judy at the Town of Lincoln. Summary notes and maps were distributed for information. Bicycle lanes on Regional Road 81 have been identified as a high priority. The Waterfront Trail in Prudhommes also is included.

6.Eric

Eric Flora distributed copies of the following: (i) Bikeways Master Plan Project Status Report prepared by Marshall Macklin Monaghan, and (ii) Map 8 Draft Bikeways Network (dated June 6, 2002). Tim Whittle questioned why Concession 6 (between RR55 and Niagara Falls boundary) was removed from the draft network. The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Works Department formally requested this section be removed. For

similar reasons, in the Town of Grimsby, Woolverton Rd was removed from the network. Eric also advised Tim that Regional Road 20/Lundy's Lane will not be part of the revised network since other parallel routes are being considered (ie. McLeod Rd).

Eric noted that the portion of RR81 between Victoria Ave and 7th Street has been identified as a possible highway diversion route for incident management purposes (preliminary Commercial Vehicle Routing Plan established as part of the Arterial Road Systems Plan study). A copy of the preliminary plan will be distributed with the minutes. Eric noted that the draft Planning & Design Guidelines are currently under review by Regional staff and project Technical Steering Committee members. Dave Hunt inquired about the Engineering Task Force viewing the draft Planning and Design Guidelines. Eric indicated that they will be incorporated into the draft document and any review can take place when the draft document is circulated in September. A motion was subsequently passed requesting that the draft Planning & Design Guidelines be distributed to the Engineering Task Force once review by Regional staff is completed. Eric will check with Dave McLaughlin on the status of the Policies Statements section of the study and follow up with Dave Hunt.

The draft report is expected to be ready from the consultants by the end of this August, and will be circulated to the local area municipalities in early September for their review and comments. The RNBC members who are part of the community stakeholders group will be given copies of the draft report as well. It is not known at this time if a separate stakeholder meeting will be held once the draft report is ready. A final report is expected to be presented to the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee at the October 8 meeting for their review and approval, prior to going to Public Works Committee and Regional Council.

The Region has been invited to present the bikeways network to the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council Bicycle and Pedestrian Sub-committee on October 9, 2002.

A joint Public Information Centre, in conjunction with the Arterial Road Systems Plan study, is being held Thursday, June 27 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Brock Room at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel on Schmon Parkway. The draft network and findings of the tourism market assessment will be the key items presented/discussed. RNBC members are encouraged to attend.

Recommendation:

That the Engineering Task Force see the draft Planning & Guidelines as soon as staff are finished their review, but prior to the September public meeting on the bicycling master plan.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded by: Paul Pattison

Carried

7. Mapping of Roadways

Frank Pravitz presented an overview of a proposal he has submitted to the consultants (i.e. Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan), a copy of which is attached to the meeting notes. Committee members are asked to review it and bring any comments or concerns to the next meeting. Frank believes that the committee should try to promote cycling to tourists. This project should improve the quality of information available to cyclists. The underlying idea is to create an information base for the use of cyclists, create a marketing package and ultimately a promotional product. More details will be provided at the July 11th meeting. Councillor McMullan expressed interest in this project at the April 11th meeting of the RNBC. Possible consultant assistance may be needed.

8. Joint Meeting

Tim Whittle, John Helm, Bob Romanuk and Bill Rashleigh attended the joint meeting. Highlights of the meeting included the possibility of a joint map to be prepared including all 3 regions for cycling during the World Cycling Championships. Also, before the next bike show, when reserving a space, we should all request to be in the same area, so we can jointly promote our regions. The next meeting will be October 18th in Hamilton. There was considerable support for Niagara's Bicycle Friendly Awards Program.

9. Task Force Reports

Encouragement Task Force

Marian Landry reported that Bike Week was a success. She distributed an information package. She wanted to thank Bob Romanuk for getting all the documentation on the web site. Marian reported that 5,000 Bike Week flyers were distributed throughout the Niagara Region to bike shops, libraries and municipal offices. We published 5,000 of Bicycle Friendly brochures, and two entries have already been received. Marian will be mailing out letters with brochures, to strategic work places to encourage them to take steps to make their locations more bicycle friendly. Marian requested some funding for postage. However, a significant number of businesses can be reached through e-mail. NETC has a directory that can be accessed.

Motion:

That up to \$500 made available to mail out invitational letters to companies to promote making their places of business as bicycle friendly and to in turn, encourage them to apply for a bicycle friendly award.

Moved by: Bill Rashleigh

Seconded by: John Helm

Carried

Marian wanted the Committee's input concerning future presentations to the winners and it was agreed that gold, silver and bronze plaques would be given out, with certificates for everyone participating. Marian will get information on prices for the plaques and bring it to the August meeting. **(Action Item)**

The Task Force was congratulated for all of its work on a good Bike Week Program.

Engineering Task Force

Frank Pravitz reported on their recent meeting and the main discussion was about the 2002 Resurfacing Program. Frank said that Ron Tripp will be meeting with him soon to discuss signage along bike routes. Highlights of discussions included improvements Netherby Road, Glenridge Avenue, Sodom Road, R.R. 55, Victoria Avenue, Ontario Street, R.R.#20 and Stanley Avenue. He said paved shoulders are being put on some roads that are not on the network. A copy of the program was distributed for viewing.

John Helm thanked Public Works for its efforts on installing bicycle facilities on various roads.

Education Task Force

Tim Whittle reported that Bike Fun Day in Niagara Falls was a success, with the help of Peter Davies and Bob Romanuk. On June 4th, Cogeco aired information on cyclists rights.

Tim reported that there had been a total of 25 collisions involving bicyclists this year, one being a fatality. A summary sheet was distributed. There are less collisions this year than last at this time, but more sidewalk accidents. It was also reported that the age of the cyclists involved in the accidents are of driving age (i.e. 30-39 years old). They should be targeted for information.

9. Welland Canal Parkway

The current practice of allowing people cross Lock 7 in Thorold is through an informal agreement. It was suggested if we tried contacting the St. Lawrence Seaway, or a great number of cyclists start using it, they may shut down access. It was agreed that we would not pursue this matter at this time.

10. **Information for Distribution**

Ken Forgeron distributed the following items for information:

- Project update on the Bikeways Master Plan;
- Articles relating to bicycle friendly award;
- Article on bicycle patrols in the casino area;
- Article on bicycle tour from Queenston to Prudhommes;
- Article on Ontario Trails Conference (an economic benefits study of trails mentioned)

12. **Next RNBC Meeting (Summer Social & Meeting)**

Thursday, July 11, 2002 – 6:30

PAUL & WILLIE PATTISON'S HOUSE (Directions & information mailed separately)

Meeting Notes Taken by:

Jody Head

Reviewed & Amended by Ken Forgeron, Regional Planning

Attachment