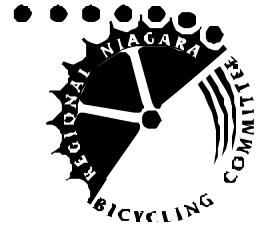


**REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES**



**Meeting of Thursday, May 8, 2003
Committee Room #3
7:00 p.m.**

Present:

Brian McMullan (part-time)	- 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 Reep	- Public at Large
Peter Davies	- Niagara Freewheelers
Tim Whittle	- Niagara Regional Police Service
Marian Landry	- Regional Niagara Public Health
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Bob Johnson	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)
Phil Bergen	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)
Brian Hughes (part-time)	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)
Julie Bittner	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

Regrets:

Dave Arnott - Public at Large

1. Adoption of Agenda

With the addition of one new agenda item – Highway 406/Thorold-Fonthill Spur, the agenda was adopted as revised.

Motion:

To accept the agenda as amended.

Moved by: Paul Pattison

Seconded by: Dave Hunt

Carried

2. Review of Meeting Notes of April 10, 2003

On page seven it stated that “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.” Dave Hunt noted that he did not make that comment.

Also, in the second line of that same comment, the word “they” should be changed to “the”.

Motion:

To accept RNBC Meeting Notes of April 10, 2003, as revised.

Moved by: Bob Romanuk

Seconded by: Dave Hunt

Carried

3. Business Arising

K. Forgeron said that the Niagara Freewheelers Executive had unanimously agreed to provide \$1,500 to the Lake Ontario Investment Fund over the course of three years. The Niagara Freewheelers also felt that they should provide an equal amount to the Greater Niagara Circle Route Campaign. This is a significant amount from a small club.

Chair B. McMullan read aloud to the Committee a letter from Marlane Koehler of the Waterfront Regeneration Trust thanking the Committee for their \$1,500 donation.

K. Forgeron reported that he had made arrangements with Norm Miller, who is a representative from the Hamilton 2003 Road World Championships, to speak at the June 14th meeting of the Joint Bicycling Committees regarding the National and World Cycling Championships.

4. Round-a-Bouts and Accommodating Bicycle Flows

J. Somerwil distributed to Committee members an article on round-a-bouts and reported that it was important that round-a-bouts are looked at from the perspective of the cyclist. The American design manual of round-a-bouts focuses on the vehicle and not on the cyclists. As the article is written in Dutch, J. Somerwil translated the main points of the report (side notes in English) and suggested that the Committee spend some time reviewing the designs in order to have a discussion at the next meeting.

K. Forgeron asked about the timing of a round-a-bout pilot project in Niagara either this year or next. B. Johnson said that two possible locations for a pilot project were Queenston or St. David's. However, another two or three locations were also being looked at. A number of issues first needed to be addressed including making sure that cyclists and pedestrians can be accommodated safely. J. Somerwil emphasized that vehicles entering a round-a-bout must be at near 90° in order to slow down speeds.

5. Update on the Regional Bicycle Mapping Project

P. Bergen reported that he had a sample of the layout, but not of the actual map. At the last meeting the Committee discussed advertising location options. The Committee needs to finalize the layout so that NETC can be notified as to what the advertising space is.

The Committee had a discussion as to whether the insets should be of the three major urban areas (Welland, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls) or if other smaller municipalities

(eg. Grimsby) should be included. In the end, the Committee decided to only have the three large urban areas shown as insets.

P. Bergen asked the Committee if everyone was satisfied with the amount of ad space versus the amount of safety panels. He also told the Committee that input would be needed as to the design of the front panel.

J. Somerwil asked if the paper the map would be printed on would be waterproof. P. Bergen said he would contact Gary Hardy in NETC and the printer about the cost of using waterproof or plastic paper.

Chair B. McMullan said that only one proposal to the RFP, from NETC, was received. Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce had anticipated submitting a bid, but due to a drop in tourism, they decided to concentrate on current projects and not take on any new projects. NETC will attempt to sell about \$20,000 in advertising.

Motion:

To approve the design layout as presented and formally award the contract to NETC for the printing, selling and advertising of the map.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded by: Jan Somerwil

Carried

B. Johnson reported that F. Pravitz will be providing his comments on the map to P. Bergen by Friday, May 16. The RNBC will have an opportunity to provide comments on the draft map at its June 12th meeting.

Chair B. McMullan suggested that the Committee consider having the maps sold for a nominal amount as people would value the map more if a cost was put on it. The Committee could still give maps away if they wished, for example, at bike shows.

6. Bike Week Program Update

M. Landry reported that 2,000 Bike Week flyers were printed instead of 5,000 as originally planned. The 1,500 Bike Week flyers would be distributed at the Health Fair being held at the Pen Centre on May 9 and at the 22 libraries throughout the Region. M. Landry also handed out Bike Week flyers to the Committee to distribute. The information from the flyer has been posted to the RNBC website. D. Hunt clarified that under the heading Toronto/Niagara Bike Ride that the lunch available at the Blue Star Restaurant would be paid for by the participants of the Welland ride themselves. M. Landry said that the website would be changed to reflect this clarification and D. Hunt offered to provide the wording to be used.

Bike Friendly Awards

M. Landry reported that 175 packages went out to the schools and that the information has been posted on the website. A workplace resource package went out to 80 workplaces through the Occupational Health Nurses.

K. Forgeron asked if there was an opportunity to present bicycle safety tips and suggested that perhaps the Freewheelers could help present the information if given the opportunity. P. Davies suggested providing information regarding how to behave on trails and information on the interaction between cars and bicycles. B. Romanuk said that he could put this information on the website along with information on trail etiquette.

M. Landry reported that the following activities would be occurring during Bike Week:

- On May 15 two Bike Week Committee members (Vince Catone and Randy Benn) will appear on COGECO to speak about bicycle safety issues.
- M. Landry will be speaking about Bike Week events on CHSC (1220) on May 22 at 8:50 a.m.
- The Region will be releasing a media release on May 21
- Gord Singleton will be at Chapters to discuss bicycle touring. He will also be discussing this topic on the radio.

7. Greater Niagara Circle Trek Highlights

M. Landry circulated to Committee members an article, which appeared in the Standard, Review and Tribune about the Greater Niagara Circle Trek event. Included in the article were both a picture and an interview with RNBC member Paul Pattison and his wife. This full page article raised awareness for the route and promoted cycling as a health and fitness activity for all ages.

K. Forgeron reported that a cheque presentation was made by the Freewheelers for their \$1,500 donation to the campaign. M. Landry reported that Healthy Living Niagara also donated \$8,000 to the campaign. Additional financial information will be provided at the next meeting.

K. Forgeron said that T. Whittle had made an interesting observation. Although, the money raised is great, raising the profile is very important also as a way to promote and garner public support.

T. Whittle suggested that some people may shy away from having to gather pledges and suggested that instead, each individual who wished to participate in the ride could pay \$5.00 for a hamburger, drink, etc. The emphasis should be on getting people out to the event to participate.

8. 2003 Construction and Resurfacing Program

Deferred until the next meeting.

9. Announcements

K. Forgeron reported that they had more than enough agenda items for the Joint Meeting in Niagara Falls. Some of the agenda items include: curb lanes, an update on the Hamilton and Niagara Bicycle Master Plans, Velo Ontario, Bike Friendly Awards program for Niagara, Burlington and Hamilton, mapping issues, Toronto International Bike Show de-briefing and the World Cycling Championships. If someone will lead a discussion on utilitarian cycling K. Forgeron will add it to the agenda.

B. Romanuk said that lunch reservations had been made at Mick & Angelo's Eatery and Bar and that the route for the ride after the meeting would take the participants past the restaurant. A meeting location map will be sent via e-mail for those individuals who are attending.

10. Task Force Reports

Education and Enforcement

T. Whittle announced that the Bicycle Events List, which he listed at the last RNBC meeting, is included on the Bike Week flyer distributed earlier in the meeting by M. Landry.

T. Whittle thanked P. Pattison, K. Forgeron and D. Hunt for coming out at area malls and helping staff the RNBC display during Police Week. Volunteers are still needed to staff the display at the Seaway Mall on Friday and Saturday.

Also, volunteers are needed on May 31st to help put the kids through the bike safety course during the Niagara Falls Fun Day annual event at the Optimist Park (Dorchester Road).

A number of Bike Rodeos are scheduled to take place in a number of schools over the next few weeks.

Engineering

The Engineering Task Force has been concentrating on the mapping project and has not met on any engineering issues.

Policy Task Force

K. Forgeron mentioned that Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan have completed their final draft report and it will be distributed to the four task force chairs as well as to Councillors B. Timms and B. McMullan by the end of May.

11. Other Business

York/Glendale Intersection

J. Somerwil questioned whether the inclusion of a cycling lane around the York/Glendale intersection was ever discussed at previous RNBC meetings. P. Pattison recalled that it was discussed three or four years ago when both Niagara College and Niagara-on-the-Green developments were being established in that area. He thought that a number of discussions were held and that bicycling infrastructure was to be provided as part of the draft plan approval process. B. Johnson said that cyclists will be accommodated; however, it has not been decided whether it will be an on or off road facility.

B. Johnson said that RNBC would be treated as a commenting agency and would have the chance to review the intersection design.

Highway 406 Twinning and the Thorold-Fonthill Spur

K. Forgeron said that Regional Councillor Timms raised some concerns at Regional Council in regards to the type of culvert design that the MTO would be putting in for the cycling/pedestrian underpass beneath Highway 406. He said that he would rather see the existing type of flyway design than the proposed box culvert design proposed by the MTO. The existing type of design would provide more space and more flexibility should a future light rail system be required. Council referred this issue back to the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee, however, Council also wanted this concern brought back to both the RNBC and the Smarter Growth Committee. At the last TSSC a motion was passed.

“That the Ministry of Transportation be requested to provide a new overpass over the new Highway 406 to preserve the railway corridor.”

K. Forgeron indicated that the RNBC never debated the type of link or design as we were happy to have any access at all. B. Johnson said that when we discussed it with the MTO we only said that we wanted a connection to continue the link and never expressed whether it should be a full overpass or a roadway with a tunnel underneath.

Motion: “That the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee continues to support provisions for maintaining bicycling and pedestrian access under Highway 406 along the abandoned Thorold-Fonthill Spur rail line considered to be an integral part of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Network.”

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded by: Peter Davies

Carried

Some excellent redesign suggestions were made. J. Somerwil said that the walls in the tunnel should be inclined (i.e. v-shaped), not vertical, in order to reduce the risk of claustrophobia. It gives an impression of a wider space. B. Hughes suggested that perhaps the centre section of the overpass could be removed, leaving two box culverts and open space between. This would reduce the distance one would have to travel in a confined space. Moreover, it would provide more light. B. Hughes was requested to pass on these design change suggestions to Ralph Scholtz who could provide further comments to the MTO.

12. Information Items for Distribution

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

- News from the Route (Greater Niagara Circle Route), Volume 1, Issue 1, March 2003
- Pedestrian Underpass General Arrangement (Highway 406/Thorold-Fonthill Spur)
- Newspaper article titled, "Turner Applauds Niagara Circle Trek Efforts."

13. Possible Agenda Items for the June 12th RNBC Meeting

- Round-A-Bouts
- Bike Map Progress
- Bike Report from Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan
- Traffic lights reverting to yellow from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. (N. Rosati)
- Joint Bicycle Committee Meeting Agenda
- 2003 Construction and Resurfacing Program

14. Next RNBC Meeting

The next RNBC meeting will take place on Thursday, June 12 at **6:00** p.m. at the home of Paul Pattison (24 Wollsley St., St. Catharines). Everyone is asked to contribute \$10.00 towards the food, which includes dessert. Please call and rsvp Paul at 905-685-0316.

Motion: To start the June 12th RNBC meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Moved by: Dave Hunt

Seconded by: Paul Pattison

Carried

Meeting Notes Taken by:

Julie Bittner

Reviewed by Ken Forgeron, MCIP, RPP, Senior Planner