

**REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING NOTES**



**Meeting of Thursday, November 2, 2006**  
**Committee Room #4**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Bob Romanuk	- Public-at-Large (Acting Chair)
Dianne Coppola	- Regional Niagara Public Health
Peter Davies	- Public-at-Large
Tim Whittle	- Niagara Regional Police Service
Gregg Dame	- Public-at-Large and Port Colborne Trails and Bikeways Committee
Dave Hunt	- Public-at-Large/Cycle Ontario Alliance
Frank Pravitz	- Ministry of Transportation
Paul Pattison	- Public-at-Large
Peter Leyser	- City of St. Catharines
Eric Flora	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)
Julie Bittner	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

**Regrets:**

Ken Forgeron	- Planning Department
Brian Baty	- Regional Councillor
Ron Leavens	- Regional Councillor

The meeting commenced at 7:08 p.m.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

***Motion:***

***To accept the agenda of November 2, 2006 as revised.***

***Moved by: Dave Hunt***

***Seconded by: Gregg Dame***

***Carried***

With the addition of the agenda items listed below, the agenda was adopted:

- Healthy Eating and Living Conference – to be discussed under New Business (Dave Hunt)
- Lakeshore Road, Mountain Road and O'Reilly's Bridge – to be discussed under Task Force Reports (Paul Pattison)

**2. Review of Previous Meeting Notes (September 21, 2006)**

***Motion:***

***To accept and approve the meeting notes of September 21, 2006.***

***Moved by: Peter Davies***

***Seconded by: Dave Hunt***

***Carried***

### **3. Business Arising**

The Committee was provided updates on a number of "Action Items" which arose out of the revised September 21, 2006 meeting notes:

- Mr. Flora reported that he has not received a response from McCormick Rankin regarding arranging a meeting to discuss the RNBC's ideas on the Portage Road Plaza project. Mr. Flora will follow-up with the consultant and report back to the RNBC at the next meeting.
- Mr. Romanuk reported that he has not contacted Mr. Tom Jamieson regarding whether a student could be utilized to evaluate parking areas around bike trails.
- Mr. Flora reported that has not had an opportunity to discuss the signage program with Frank Pravitz.

### **4. Student GIS Bike Mapping Project**

Mr. Pravitz said that two students had been hired and some possible projects are: mapping of loop rides, development of themed bike rides and updating the bike map. A set-up meeting will be arranged to discuss the students' work agenda. Some of the tasks will need input from Public Works, such as the construction program and the Hot Mix program and how they might affect the bike network. Mr. Flora said that he would contact our Engineering Division in regards to receiving this information.

### **5. Regional Bikeways Signage Program**

Mr. Flora and Mr. Pravitz need to meet and discuss the Regional Bikeways Signage Program. They are currently waiting until after the RNBC strategic planning session to see whether this project will be considered an RNBC priority.

Currently, there is no Regional policy on bicycle signage and there is no signage on the bicycle network. It has been discussed at previous RNBC meetings that the first stage of a signage program would be a pilot project and then the remainder of the project would be implemented over a number of years.

### **6. Bike Racks on Buses**

Mr. Flora reported that Ken Forgeron and Virginia Stewart had a discussion regarding a possible pilot project within the cities of Niagara Falls and St. Catharines. Ms. Stewart indicated that staff at Niagara Falls Transit are interested in pursuing this suggestion. Presently, the cities of Hamilton, Mississauga and Burlington are outfitting their buses with bike racks.

Mr. Flora stated that both the cities of St. Catharines and Welland have indicated that they will not outfit their buses with bike racks unless Council directs them to do so. Mr. Flora suggested that the RNBC continue to lobby the municipalities to put bike racks on buses.

Mr. Whittle said that it is important that the RNBC has an opportunity to provide input if it comes to the point that the bike racks are to be installed on buses as we want to make sure that they are installed on appropriate routes, for example, on buses going to Brock University.

Mr. Flora said that he has contacted an OCTA representative and asked to be provided with a summary of how many other municipalities have bike racks on their buses and he has requested other relevant statistics. He suggested that once we review this information we should continue to push for this by raising the issue at a future Transportation Strategy Steering Committee.

#### **7. Active Transportation Plan for Pelham - Highlights**

Mr. Hunt reported that a meeting was held the previous Friday. The original Active Transportation Plan was completed two years previous so the two facilitators reviewed the Plan with the group and updates and additions were made to it. What came from this meeting is the need for a Citizens Advisory Committee to be formed to look at transportation issues within the Town of Pelham.

The group will meet again in December to review the Plan again and discuss how to implement some of the strategies and discuss what steps should be taken in creating the Citizens Advisory Committee.

#### **8. Development & Design of 2007 Staff Bicycle Parking Structure**

Mr. Hunt reported that Mr. Forgeron has requested that a small group of RNBC members put together a plan as to how the permanent structure should be designed and where it should be located. This needs to be done as soon as possible as the money for this project needs to be included in the budget. Tim Whittle, Dave Hunt and Bob Romanuk volunteered to put together the plan. Mr. Flora said that he will advise Mr. Mahendra Shah, the Project Manager, as to what was discussed by the RNBC and what is being done.

#### **9. Progress on 2006 Newsletter/Annual Report**

Mr. Romanuk said that he has developed a list of possible articles and topics to be included in the newsletter. If any members have any suggestions for articles please let him know as soon as possible. The focus of the newsletter will be on what the RNBC benchmarks are to date and what other goals will be addressed in the future. A summary of the RNBC Strategic Planning Sessions will be part of the report as well. The report will be modeled after the Freewheelers newsletter.

#### **10. Crossing the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge & New Plaza Project**

Mr. Pattison reported that the signage for the Canadian side is now in place. He has not had the opportunity to see if the signage in the U.S. is in place

Mr. Flora reported that in regards to the new plaza project, the consultant asked for the Region's comments, which have been provided. To date the Region has not heard back from the consultant.

### **11. Preparing for the RNBC Strategic Planning Sessions**

Ms. Coppola asked any members who have not already submitted their rsvp to please do so as soon as possible. Besides RNBC members, invitees include Virginia Stewart and Bruce Timms. An agenda and pre-session work will be sent out next week.

### **12. New Brochure on Bike Lanes**

Mr. Flora reported that the Public Works Department is developing a policy on bikeway facilities. One part of the policy is the development of a cycling brochure. Mr. Flora has suggested that the brochure be developed by the Region's Transportation Engineering Division. Once the brochure is developed, Mr. Flora will ask that the brochure be reviewed by the RNBC.

### **13. Task Force Reports**

#### Encouragement

Ms. Coppola provided the RNBC with an update on the revised Bicycle Friendly Awards Program. The new format will be 8 x 11 and contains general information about the awards, an area which provides assistance in completing the form and the middle pages where people fill out the form. When returned, staff will pull out the middle section containing the application form. The application will be available to download as well. Ms. Coppola will send out a pdf. version of the revised form to the members requesting feedback.

In terms of printed copies of the application form, Ms. Coppola would like feedback from the committee as to where they think the copies should be made available. Mr. Romanuk suggested following up with some of the locations which have had applications available in the past to see how many were taken and how many were thrown out.

#### Engineering

- Lakeshore Road (St. Catharines) – Notice of Completion has been e-mailed to members.
- O'Reilly's Bridge (Welland) – Public Information Centre will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Mountain Road (Niagara Falls) – Public Information Centre will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Lundy's Lane between Highland and Main St. (Niagara Falls) – Public Information Centre to held on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- St. David's Road Pedestrian/Cycling Study – Public Information Centre tentatively scheduled for November 28<sup>th</sup>. The project consultant, Eric and Kris Jacobson would like to meet with representatives from the RNBC to discuss this project.

- Lake Street (Grimsby) – A request has been made to the Region to fund the bike facilities on this section of the roadway. Mr. Flora will submit a report to the Planning and Public Works Committee in the new year.
- McLeod Rd. Study (Niagara Falls) – This study is currently in the data collection stage.

#### Education

Mr. Whittle reported that approximately 7 or 8 years ago a computer based bicycle safety game was designed. The game is now in Windows format and Mr. Whittle will bring copies to the next meeting. He suggested that a cost sharing arrangement be made between the RNBC and the police in order to have 200 cds made and distributed to local schools. The game will also be available on the Niagara Regional Police website. **(Action Item)**

#### **14. New Business**

Ms. Coppola reported that the Healthy Eating/Active Living Conference will be held on November 29/30. Ms. Coppola will provide the committee with information from the conference at the next meeting. **(Action Item)**

Mr. Gregg Dame announced that he was resigning from the committee.

#### **15. Items for Distribution**

- E-mail from Dave Hunt dated October 21, 2006 regarding a pilot project involving Segways.
- Ministry of Transportation news release dated October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 regarding the launch of a pilot project allowing the use of e-bikes on Ontario roads.

#### **16. Items for Next Agenda**

None suggested.

#### **17. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the committee's annual Christmas Social. Details will be sent to members at a later date.

***MOTION:***

***To adjourn the November 2, 2006 RNBC meeting.***

***Moved by: Dave Hunt***

***Seconded by: Paul Pattison***

***Carried***

Meeting adjourned at 9:26.

Meeting Notes Taken by:  
Julie Bittner, RNBC Recording Secretary