



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee *To Public Works! Transportation - Jan. 17, 2007* Date: December 12, 2006
 From: Victor Wei, P. Eng. File: 01-0100-20- RCYC1/2006-Vol01
 Director, Transportation
 Re: RICHMOND COMMUNITY CYCLING COMMITTEE – PROPOSED 2007 INITIATIVES

Staff Recommendation

That the proposed 2007 initiatives of the Richmond Community Cycling Committee regarding cycling-related engineering and education activities, as described in the attached report, be endorsed.

Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation
(4131)

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ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Parks Design, Construction & Programs ..		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>He Wei</i>	
Community Recreation		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>		
REVIEWED BY TAG		YES	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>GJ</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ACTING)	
				YES	NO
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>WJ</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The Richmond Community Cycling Committee (RCCC) was formed in 1993 to allow staff to work in partnership with the community to promote commuter and recreational cycling in Richmond. The Committee provides input and feedback on cycling infrastructure projects and undertakes various cycling education and awareness activities. This report reviews the Committee's 2006 activities and achievements and proposes a number of initiatives for 2007 that support the Committee's goal of encouraging greater and safer cycling in Richmond.

Analysis

1. 2006 Activities and Achievements

The RCCC undertook and participated in a number of activities in 2006 that contributed to enhanced cycling safety and increased education and awareness of cycling in Richmond. As highlighted below, the Committee's major 2006 activities and accomplishments include providing input on the design of new cycling facilities along No. 3 Road as part of the City's No. 3 Road Corridor Streetscape Study and staging Richmond's sixth annual bike tour during Bike Month in June 2006.

1.1 Canada Line and No. 3 Road Corridor Streetscape Study

The Committee provided critical input on the conceptual design of the cycling facilities planned for No. 3 Road as well as the connections between the local cycling network and the bicycle-pedestrian bridge that will be part of the Canada Line bridge over the north arm of the Fraser River.

- No. 3 Road Corridor Streetscape Study – the Committee provided feedback on potential concepts for cycling facilities on No. 3 Road as part of the planning and design process to develop a master plan for the No. 3 Road corridor. The Committee was instrumental in defining the concept of raised bike lanes that was subsequently endorsed by Council at its June 12, 2006 regular meeting.
- Bike/Pedestrian Lane on Canada Line Bridge – the Committee also provided input on the routing of cycling facilities to connect the Canada Line bike-pedestrian bridge with Richmond's local cycling network as well as cycling facilities on Sea Island.

1.2 Expansion and Improvement of Richmond Cycling Network

The City continued to add to the local cycling network in 2006, which now comprises over 34 km of bike routes, with the support of funding grants from TransLink and the Ministry of Transportation. The Committee provided input on the planning, design and construction of the new transportation cycling infrastructure and worked with staff to address various cycling safety concerns in the city. Activities included:

- Garden City Road Bike Route – the Committee provided input on the construction of designated bike lanes between Capstan Way and Cambie Road, which were completed in Spring 2006 and resulted in continuous bike lanes on Garden City Road from River Road to

Granville Avenue. The Committee also reviewed a revised road design for northbound Garden City Road at Westminster Highway, which will enable the provision of a northbound through bike lane on the south leg of the intersection.

- Railway Avenue Bike Route – the Committee identified and worked with staff to address a traffic safety concern at Steveston Highway where the southbound bike lane was discontinued to allow on-street parking. Council approved the elimination of on-street parking in this section at its March 27, 2006 regular meeting to allow the continuation of the southbound bike lane and thus enhance the safety of cyclists.
- Dyke Road – the Committee worked with staff on the placement of “Share the Road” signage between No. 2 Road and No. 3 Road in order to raise the awareness of motorists to the potential presence of cyclists. Bike stencil pavement markings will be added in 2007 to support the new signage.
- Bike Racks in Steveston – the Committee identified a need for more bike racks in the Steveston Village area and worked with staff to formulate a prioritised list of locations for additional bike racks. Five bike racks have been ordered and will be installed by early 2007.
- Monteith Road – Committee members worked with staff to modify the barrier at the east end of Monteith Road to facilitate access by cyclists to the trail that leads east to Gilbert Road.
- Massey Tunnel Bike Shuttle Stop – the Committee provided input on a proposal from TransLink to relocate the Massey Tunnel bike shuttle pick up/drop off site to the southbound transit stop in order to consolidate in one location the options for cyclists to travel through the tunnel.
- Potential New North-South Bike Route – Committee members identified a gap in north-south cycling routes in west Richmond between Garden City Road and Railway Avenue and initiated a process to identify a potential new north-south bike route along either Gilbert Road or No. 3 Road.

1.3 6th Annual “Island City, by Bike” Tour – June 4, 2006

Each year in June, Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST) organizes Bike Month, an awareness and education campaign to promote cycling as a sustainable and environmentally responsible transportation alternative. As part of these Bike Month activities and the City’s Environment Week events, the Committee and the City jointly staged a guided tour for the community of some of the city’s cycling routes. The 6th annual “Island City, by Bike” tour was based at Britannia Heritage Shipyard and featured two alternative routes: a short 9.0-km loop along the West Dyke Trail and a longer 25.5-km loop taking in the West and Middle Dyke Trails and the Railway Avenue bike route. Activities included a bike and helmet safety check prior to the ride plus a barbecue lunch and raffle prize draw at the finish, which featured a gift certificate for a children’s bike camp as the grand prize. Numerous local businesses donated goods and services to the raffle draw and the event attracted around 85 cyclists of all ages and cycling ability. Attendance at this community event has steadily grown from approximately 30 riders at the first event held in 2001.

2. Initiatives for 2007

In addition to providing input on the planning, design and implementation of major capital cycling infrastructure projects, the Committee proposes to undertake various cycling education and awareness activities and participate in cycling-related initiatives with other City departments and external agencies.

2.1 Review of Cycling Network Projects

The Committee will provide input at the earliest conceptual stage on the prioritisation, planning, design, and implementation of cycling facility projects.

- No. 3 Road Corridor Streetscape Study – development of a master plan for the No. 3 Road corridor, particularly with respect to the detailed design of cycling and end-of-trip facilities to enhance cycling access to the Canada Line and the City Centre area.
- Bike-Pedestrian Lane on Canada Line Bridge – location, alignment and design of local cycling connections to/from the ramp at the south end of the bridge as well as cycling facilities on Sea Island.
- Spot Improvements – identification of localised improvements to existing facilities such as revised pavement markings at various intersection approaches to create designated bicycle lanes for through cyclists.
- Planned Road and Development Projects – review projects that impact existing cycling facilities or would incorporate new cycling infrastructure as part of the overall project.

2.2 Update of *On-Street Cycling Network Plan*

Staff have initiated an update of the *City Centre Transportation Plan (CCTP)*, which will include an update of the City's *On-Street Cycling Network Plan* in conjunction with the development of transit-oriented development (TOD) policies for cycling improvements in the City Centre area. The Committee will provide direct input to City staff on this initiative and potential areas of contribution include the identification of new cycling connections to/from the Canada Line stations as well as new cycling connections to the Olympic Oval site. The Committee will also examine potential revisions/additions to the *On-Street Cycling Network Plan* in areas outside the City Centre, particularly for neighbourhoods that are experiencing significant residential growth and are relatively distant from existing cycling facilities.

2.3 Education and Awareness Initiatives

The Committee will encourage and promote safe cycling via the following activities:

- 7th Annual "Island City, by Bike" Tour – assist in the planning, promotion and staging of the sixth annual bike tour of Richmond during Bike Month in June 2007. The community ride is set for Sunday, June 3rd at Britannia Heritage Shipyard as one of the City's Environment Week activities.
- New Bike Stencil Pavement Markings – develop education and awareness campaigns for both cyclists and motorists to complement the planned installation of two new pavement marking designs to facilitate cycling: (1) bike stencils placed on loop detectors at various intersections throughout the city to indicate where cyclists should align their bicycles in order to trigger a change in the traffic signal; and (2) bike stencils and chevrons along cycling routes that use wider lanes shared with motor vehicles (as opposed to designated bike lanes).
- Newspaper and Newsletter Articles – provide safety-related articles and notices on cycling for publication in multiple languages in local newspapers and agency newsletters (e.g., Block Watch).
- City Website – continue to update, revise and enhance cycling-related information on the City's website.

2.4 Regional Cycling-Related Initiatives

The Committee will contribute to the following regional cycling-related initiatives:

- TransLink Regional Greenways Network – work with TransLink on the planning, design and implementation of its multi-year phased initiative to develop a regional greenways network of off-street multi-use pathways designed to serve cycling for transportation (as opposed to recreational cycling). TransLink has identified the following greenway links within Richmond that will connect to the Canada Line bike-pedestrian bridge: (1) to Richmond City Centre with connections to Sea Island; and (2) across Richmond, likely via Shell Road, to the Massey Tunnel bike shuttle stop.
- TransLink-UBC "Cycling in Cities" Project – work with TransLink on its joint research study with UBC to determine the demographic characteristics of people who currently cycle and the neighborhood characteristics associated with increased cycling in order to identify factors that can be change to increase cycling as a transportation mode.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to the City at this time. Cycling infrastructure projects are presented for Council approval as part of the annual Major Capital Works Program process. The various education and awareness initiatives can be undertaken within existing departmental work programs and will not require additional resources. Staff will report to Council for specific approval should the implementation of any initiatives have funding implications to the City. Staff attendance at Committee meetings, which occur outside regular office hours, result in some overtime cost to the City. This overtime cost can be absorbed in the departmental operating budget provided the current service level is maintained.

Conclusion

The Richmond Community Cycling Committee continues to be an effective community forum for enhancing the city's cycling environment and promoting safe cycling in Richmond. The Committee's proposed 2007 initiatives would continue efforts to further encourage greater and safer cycling in Richmond. Upon Council endorsement of these initiatives, staff will forward a copy of this report to the Council/School Board Liaison Committee for its information.



Joan Caravan
Transportation Planner
(4035)
(on behalf of the Richmond Community Cycling Committee)