



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To Public Works & Transportation - Jan 19/

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** January 3, 2005
From: Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Acting Director, Transportation **File:** 01-0100-20-RCYC1/2005-Vol01
Re: **RICHMOND COMMUNITY CYCLING COMMITTEE – PROPOSED 2005 INITIATIVES**

Staff Recommendation

That the proposed 2005 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.
Acting Director, Transportation
(4131)

| FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| ROUTED TO: | CONCURRENCE | CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER | |
| Recreation & Cultural Services | Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| REVIEWED BY TAG | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> | REVIEWED BY CAO | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <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 2004 activities and achievements and proposes a number of initiatives for 2005 that support the Committee's goal of encouraging greater and safer cycling in Richmond.

Analysis

1. 2004 Activities and Achievements

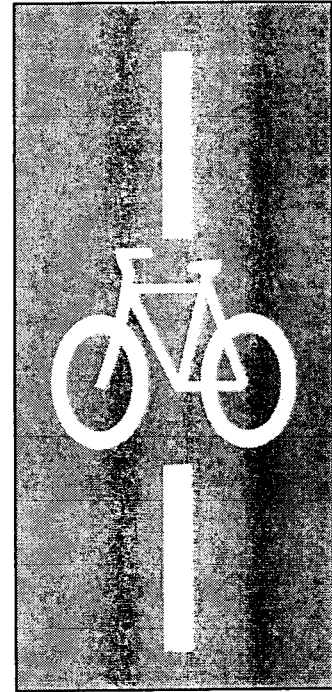
The RCCC undertook and participated in a number of activities in 2004 that contributed to enhanced cycling safety and increased education and awareness of cycling in Richmond. As highlighted below, the Committee's major 2004 activities and accomplishments include providing input on the construction of new cycling facilities, developing a new regional standard for a bike stencil to be placed on street loop detectors and staging Richmond's fourth annual bike tour during Bike Month in June 2004.

1.1 Expansion and Improvement of Richmond Cycling Network

The City continued to add to the local cycling network in 2004, which now comprises 34 km of bike routes, with the support of funding grants from TransLink and the Ministry of Transportation. The Committee provided input on the design and construction of the new transportation cycling infrastructure and worked with staff to address various cycling safety concerns in the city. Activities included:

- Westminster Highway Bike Route (Nelson Road Intersection) – the Committee worked with staff to include the provision of bike lanes within the scope of the road improvements completed at the Westminster Highway/Nelson Road intersection. This project provides approximately 100-m of bike lanes on either side of the intersection. The Westminster Highway bike route will be extended from Nelson Road to the Highway 91 Interchange in 2005-2006 as part of the road project to widen Westminster Highway in this section.
- Garden City Road Bike Route (Sea Island Way to River Road) – the extension of Garden City Road (Great Canadian Way) from Bridgeport Road to River Road was completed in Spring 2004. The Committee provided input on incorporating designated bike lanes on the new roadway and on the design and location of a bike ramp from Garden City Road to Patterson Road to facilitate cycling access to the Oak Street Bridge.
- Oak Street Bridge Ramp from West Sidewalk – the Committee reviewed and provided input on the construction of a paved pathway connecting the west sidewalk of Oak Street Bridge and Sea Island Way. The Committee also reviewed the existing Ministry of Transportation (MoT) cycling signage that directs cyclists to/from the Oak Street Bridge and provided comments to revise the plan in light of surrounding roadway changes associated with the extension of Garden City Road.

- Gibbons Drive Bike Connector – the Committee initiated investigation of the feasibility of creating a bicycle and pedestrian connector route along Gibbons Drive between Granville Avenue and River Road/Middle Arm Dyke Trail;
- Bike Stencil for Street Loop Detectors – the Committee developed a design for a stencil to be placed over the sensitive spots of street loop detectors that will indicate to cyclists where to align their bicycles in order to trigger a traffic signal change. The design was subsequently accepted as a regional standard by municipal traffic technicians. The Committee's 2005 initiatives will include the identification and prioritisation of locations for the stencil to be applied and the development of a complementary education and awareness campaign.
- Cycling Safety Improvements – the Committee worked with staff on various spot improvements to enhance safe cycling in the city such as the pilot installation of a physical barrier between the vehicle travel lane and the bike lane at Railway Avenue and Linfield Gate to prevent vehicles from travelling in the bike lane and the application of additional reflective material on the bollards along the off-street Westminster Highway bike route from No. 6 Road to No. 8 Road.



Bike Stencil for Street
Loop Detectors

1.2 Tourism Richmond Map

The City partnered with Tourism Richmond to create an updated map of the city that promotes Richmond's attractions, includes suggested "theme" visits (e.g., public art tour) and encourages alternative modes of transportation when touring the island (e.g., cycling). The Committee provided input into the content and layout of the map, including suggested cycling itineraries for residents and visitors.

1.3 4th Annual "Island City, by Bike" Tour – June 6, 2004

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 4th annual "Island City, by Bike" tour was based at Steveston Community Centre and featured two alternative routes: a short 12-km loop along the West Dyke Trail and a longer 22-km loop following the South Dyke Trail. Activities included a bike and helmet safety check prior to the ride plus a barbecue lunch and raffle prize draw at the finish. Numerous local businesses donated goods and services to the raffle draw and the event attracted close to 100 cyclists of all ages and cycling ability. This tour is fast becoming a popular community event as attendance has steadily grown from approximately 30 riders at the first event held in 2001.

1.4 City Centre Celebration – July 10, 2004

The Committee staffed a community information booth at the City Centre Celebration event. Committee members responded to a number of inquiries from event-goers regarding cycling

facilities in the city and other cycling topics, and distributed cycling-related brochures and maps of the city's on-street cycling network and off-street trails system.

2. Initiatives for 2005

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 Infrastructure Projects

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

- Westminster Highway Bike Route (Nelson Road to Highway 91 Interchange) – provision of bike lanes as part of the planned road improvement project to widen Westminster Highway to four lanes along this section, to be undertaken in 2005-2006;
- Garden City Road Bike Route (Capstan Way to Patterson Road) – extension of designated bike lanes, to be completed in Spring 2005 subject to approval of a cost-share grant from the Province of BC under its 2004/05 Cycling Infrastructure Partnerships Program;
- Shell Road Bike Route (Athabasca Drive to Horseshoe Slough Trail) – new designated bike lanes from Athabasca Drive to Steveston Highway and shared curb lanes from Steveston Highway to the Horseshoe Slough Trail, to be implemented in Summer 2005;
- Gibbons Drive Bike Connector – continue to investigate the feasibility of creating a bicycle and pedestrian connector route along Gibbons Drive between Granville Avenue and River Road/Middle Arm Dyke Trail;
- Bike Stencil for Street Loop Detectors – identification and prioritisation of locations for the bike stencil to be applied; and
- other planned road and development projects affecting cycling as well as minor improvements such as new curb cuts and the provision of additional bike racks on City property where warranted by demand.

2.2 City Centre Cycling Facilities

The Committee has identified a need to improve cycling access to/from and within the City Centre area. The recent approval of the implementation of the RAV rapid transit line presents a tremendous opportunity to incorporate cycling facility improvements as part of the design and construction of the system in Richmond. The Committee will provide direct input to City staff involved in the urban design and integration of the system into the local community. Potential areas of contribution include the identification of new cycling connections to/from the stations and opportunities for cycling facilities underneath the guideway. The Committee will also identify the need for cycling improvements in the City Centre outside the scope of the RAV project. This work is expected to be carried out as part of the forthcoming update of the *City Centre Area Plan*, which will include an update of the City's *On-Street Cycling Network Plan*.

2.3 Education and Awareness Initiatives

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

- 5th Annual "Island City, by Bike" Tour – assist in the planning, promotion and staging of the fifth annual bike tour of Richmond during Bike Month in June 2005. The community ride is set for Sunday, June 12th at Britannia Heritage Shipyard as a culminating event to the City's Environment Week activities.
- Richmond Version of Regional Cycling Guide – BEST is developing a broad regional cycling guide that will be distributed to the majority of households in the Lower Mainland in 2005-2006. The guide is intended to motivate readers to incorporate cycling in their daily lives and will include information on existing cycling routes as well as educational and safety components to assist new or infrequent cyclists in becoming safer and more assured cycle commuters. The City will partner with BEST to create a customized Richmond version of the cycling guide that will be distributed to 46,000 local households in Spring 2005. The Committee will work with staff and BEST to develop the customized content and design of the guide.
- Bike Stencil for Street Loop Detectors – develop an education and awareness campaign for cyclists and motorists on the purpose and use of the bike stencils in concert with their application in the city.
- Cycling Signage – work with MoT to finalize cycling signage plans to direct cyclists to/from Massey Tunnel and the Oak Street Bridge.
- Newspaper Article Series – continue the series of educational articles on cycling with potential future topics to include suggested itineraries for exploring Richmond by bike.
- Regional Cycling Data Collection – work with TransLink on its initiative to collect regional cycling mode data. This information will provide valuable baseline data for future monitoring of cycling activity and cyclists' use of existing infrastructure as well as help municipalities identify high demand cycling corridors that may require improvements to facilitate safer cycling.
- Bicycle Pavement Markings – participate in joint TransLink/Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) study to develop national guidelines and recommendations for the design and application of bicycle pavement markings on roads.

2.4 RAV Rapid Transit – Public Consultation for Preliminary and Detailed Design

The Committee will continue to provide input from a cycling perspective into the remaining public consultation phases for the RAV project to be conducted by RAVCo and the proponent: preliminary design (provide input on station design to the successful concessionaire); and detailed design (provide comments on detailed station design given the chosen technology, alignment, station locations, and approach to station design).

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. In 2004, the Committee provided valuable input and advice to the City regarding the planning and implementation of cycling improvements in Richmond and undertook significant cycling education and awareness initiatives such as staging a fourth annual bike tour for the community. The Committee's proposed 2005 initiatives would advance these 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)