



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee *To PW+T - JANUARY 22, 2003*
Date: January 6, 2003
From: Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation File: 0100-20-RCYC1
Re: RICHMOND COMMUNITY CYCLING COMMITTEE - PROPOSED 2003
INITIATIVES

Staff Recommendation

That the proposed 2003 initiatives of the Richmond Community Cycling Committee regarding the various cycling related engineering and education tasks, as described in the attached report, be endorsed.

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation

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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 2002 activities and achievements and proposes a number of initiatives for 2003 that support the Committee's goal of encouraging cycling in Richmond.

Analysis

1. 2002 Activities and Achievements

The RCCC undertook a number of initiatives in 2002 that enhanced cycling safety, education and awareness in Richmond, including providing input on the construction of new cycling facilities and co-staging the second annual bike tour of the city. The Committee's major 2002 activities and accomplishments are highlighted below.

1.1 Expansion of Richmond Cycling Network

In 2002, the City continued to add to its cycling network, which now comprises 34.5 km of bike routes, with the support of grants from TransLink and ICBC. Richmond now has the second highest total of dedicated bike lanes in the region. The Committee provided input on the construction of the new transportation cycling infrastructure and worked with staff to identify, prioritize and endorse new cycling projects for cost sharing with external agencies. Projects reviewed included:

- Williams Road Bike Route (No. 1 Road to West Dyke) – the City received funding from TransLink and ICBC to provide designated bicycle lanes in both directions on Williams Road between No. 1 Road and the west dyke. Construction of this section completed the Williams Road bike route, which now has continuous designated bike lanes in either direction between No. 5 Road and the west dyke.
- Garden City Road Bike Route (north of Capstan Way) – the City will be extending Garden City Road north of Sea Island Way to Bridgeport Road in 2003. The Committee provided input on incorporating cycling facilities into the new roadway.
- Knight Street Bridge – TransLink plans to undertake improvements to the Knight Street Bridge in 2003 to enhance cycling safety. Committee members participated in a site tour of the facility with TransLink staff and provided feedback on the proposed improvements.
- Shell Road Bike Route (Athabasca Drive to Horseshoe Slough Trail) – the Committee reviewed and endorsed the City's application to TransLink for cost-sharing the construction of bike lanes and shared curb lanes on Shell Road between Athabasca Drive to Horseshoe Slough Trail.
- Dyke Road (between No. 2 Road and No. 3 Road) – Committee members identified a concern with speeding traffic along Dyke Road, particularly between No. 2 Road and No. 3 Road, which is a popular cycling route. The Committee is working with City staff to identify feasible options to address the issue.

- Westminster Highway Bike Route (No. 6 Road to No. 7 Road) – the Committee worked with staff to develop the design for this first section of the Westminster Highway off-street bicycle path as an extension of the bike route eastward from Garden City Road. The completion of this project will establish an east-west cycling connection between Hamilton and west Richmond.

1.2 Second Annual “Island City, by Bike” Tour

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. On June 30, 2002, as part of these Bike Month activities, the Committee and the City again jointly staged a guided tour for the community of some of the city’s cycling routes. The 2nd annual “Island City, by Bike” tour explored Sea Island and featured two alternative routes (12-km and 20-km loops to MacDonald Beach and Iona Island, respectively). Activities included a bike and helmet safety check prior to the ride plus a barbecue lunch and raffle prize draw at the finish at Sea Island School. Numerous local businesses donated goods and services to the raffle draw and the 2002 event attracted over 85 cyclists of all ages and ability — more than double the number of participants at the inaugural tour in 2001.

1.3 “Cycling in Richmond” Newspaper Articles

Throughout the year, Committee members contributed a series of articles on cycling for publication in the *Richmond News*. The articles covered a range of cycling education and awareness topics:

- “Happy New Year’s Cycling” (January 2002) – provided safety tips for riding at night and during wet winter conditions, including advice on reflective clothing and lighting, and identified practical accessories to make cycling more fun year-round.
- “Celebrate Bike Month with Sea Island Ride” (June 2002) – announced the second annual bike tour of the city to promote cycling and raise awareness of cycling routes in Richmond. This event was held as part of Bike Month 2002.
- “Drive Right, Cycle Right” (June 2002) – this City Notice Board bulletin appeared during Bike Month and provided safety tips for both motorists and cyclists on how to share the road safely.
- “Cold Weather is No Excuse to Stop Pedalling” (December 2002) – provided advice for winter riding and identified a number of Internet web sites related to cycling.

1.4 City Web Pages on Cycling

The Committee continued work on developing a distinct section on cycling within the City’s web site. A framework for the cycling pages was developed that will consolidate and enhance the cycling-related material available on the City’s web site. The section will provide information related to both local and regional cycling for residents and visitors as well as cycling safety tips and information about upcoming cycling events and activities.

2. Initiatives for 2003

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 initiatives and actively participate in the Richmond Trail Strategy, which is being developed by the Parks Department.

2.1 Review of Cycling Infrastructure Projects

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

- Westminster Highway Bike Route (No. 7 Road to No. 8 Road) – continued extension of the Westminster Highway Bike Route from No. 7 Road to No. 8 Road, planned as an off-street two-way multi-use pathway on the south side;
- Garden City Road Bike Route (north of Capstan Way) – provision of designated bike lanes on the new extension of Garden City Road north of Sea Island Way to Bridgeport Road, to be implemented in 2003; and
- other planned road projects affecting cycling and minor improvement such as pavement markings to identify traffic signal loop detectors and bike routes with shared curb lanes.

2.2 Education and Awareness Initiatives

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

- 3rd Annual "Island City, by Bike" Tour – assist in the planning, promotion and staging of the third annual bike tour of Richmond during Bike Month in June 2003. The community ride is tentatively set for Sunday, June 8th at Sea Island School as a culminating event to Environment Week.
- Cycling Web Pages – finalize the content and structure of an enhanced section on cycling within the City's web site with the upload of the pages anticipated in early 2003.
- Newspaper Article Series – continue the series of educational articles on cycling with potential future topics to include the launch of the new cycling web pages on the City's web site and advice on making cycling around Richmond easier (e.g., use of traffic signal detector loops).
- City Cycling Map – investigate opportunities to produce a cycling map of Richmond with TransLink, which intends to produce an updated regional cycling map in 2003.

2.3 Richmond Trail Strategy

The Committee will provide input and feedback to the City's Parks Department on the Richmond Trail Strategy, which will identify a framework and prioritised implementation strategy for a comprehensive city-wide network of interconnected trails, greenways, blueways, and cycling routes. Initiatives within this strategy will seek to address identified concerns with potential cyclist /motorist conflicts on Dyke Road and Railway Avenue in the vicinity of Steveston Highway.

2.4 Treatment of Right-Turn Lanes on Streets with Designated Bike Lanes

The Committee will undertake an inventory of the location of existing right-turn lanes on streets with designated bike lanes in order to establish a consistent City policy with respect to the presence or absence of right-turn arrow pavement markings in the right turn lanes and signage wording (e.g., existing "Bike Lane Merges" versus potential "Through Cyclists Merge Left").

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. Various education and awareness initiatives (e.g., bike tour, enhanced web pages) 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.

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 2002, the Committee provided valuable input and advice to the City regarding the planning and implementation of cycling improvements in Richmond and expanded on its past successes regarding cycling education and awareness through such initiatives as staging a second bike tour for the community and contributing articles on cycling to local media. The Committee's proposed 2003 initiatives would advance these efforts to further encourage safe cycling in Richmond.



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

Richmond Cycling Community Committee – Members

Tony Adema	Larry Pamer – Chair
Frank Bernstein	Jeffrey Patterson
Eleanor Carlisle-Smith	John Reinders
Klaas Focker	Michelle Steiger
Mark Heath	John Watson

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