



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee To Public Works + Transportation -
 From: Victor Wei, P. Eng. Date: December 14, 2007 Jan 23/08
 Director, Transportation File: 01-0100-20-
RCYC1/2007-Vol01
 Re: RICHMOND COMMUNITY CYCLING COMMITTEE – PROPOSED 2008
 INITIATIVES

Staff Recommendation

That the proposed 2008 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			
PRCS Planning and Projects	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
Community Recreation	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 2007 activities and achievements and proposes a number of initiatives for 2008 that support the Committee's mandate of encouraging more people to cycle more often in Richmond.

Analysis

1. 2007 Activities and Achievements

The RCCC undertook and participated in a number of activities in 2007 that contributed to enhanced cycling safety and increased education and awareness of cycling in Richmond.

1.1 Canada Line and No. 3 Road Corridor Streetscape Study

The Committee provided input on the detailed 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.

1.2 *City Centre Transportation Plan* Update – Definition of Cycling Network

The Committee and staff together developed the planned cycling network within the City Centre, which included the identification of key bicycle routes (major roads with designated bike lanes), "bicycle-friendly" routes (minor roads with signage, pavement markings and other features to facilitate cycling) and off-street multi-use pathways.

1.3 Expansion and Improvement of Richmond Cycling Network

The City continued to add to the local cycling network in 2007, which now comprises 36.6 km of bike routes (up from 34.5 km in 2006), 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:

- *Westminster Highway Bike Route*: the Committee provided input on the construction of designated bike lanes between No. 8 Road and Nelson Road, and between Graybar Road and the Highway 91 Interchange as well as wide shared curb lanes between McMillan Way and Graybar Road, which were provided as part of the road widening in this area. Construction of all the cycling facilities was completed in Fall 2007.
- *Railway Avenue Bike Route*: the Committee identified opportunities to improve the continuity of the bike lanes and worked with staff to revise the pavement markings at the Francis Road and Williams Road intersections to provide a continuous southbound bike lane as well as at the Hollymount Gate intersection to preserve a continuous northbound bike lane, thereby improving the safety of cyclists by maintaining their separation from vehicle traffic.

- Lynas Lane: the Committee worked with staff to widen the northbound curb ramp at Opal Place to facilitate cycling access to the off-street pathway.
- River Road, No. 2 Road Bridge Pathway: the Committee worked with staff to ensure preservation of a cycling-pedestrian pathway connection from River Road to northbound No. 2 Road following construction of the re-aligned River Road in this area.

1.4 Education and Promotion

- SFU Presentation: members attended a presentation at SFU Harbour Centre on European designs for cycling facilities, which featured examples of raised bike lanes similar to those planned for No. 3 Road.
- Earth Day (April 22, 2007): as part of the City's offering of community activities to celebrate Earth Day, members voluntarily led bike tours from the Steveston and West Richmond Community Centres along the dyke to the Terra Nova Rural Park.
- Bike to Work Week (May 27-June 2, 2007): the Committee worked with the program director of this new region-wide annual initiative to successfully stage an inaugural event in Richmond. Two bike commuter stations at City Hall and Flight Path Park attracted 50 and 30 cyclists respectively during a 2-hour period and equal numbers of cyclists were observed riding past the stations without stopping in:
- 7th Annual "Island City, by Bike" Tour (June 3, 2007): 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 annually jointly stage a guided tour for the community of some of the city's cycling routes. The 7th annual "Island City, by Bike" tour was based at Britannia Heritage Shipyard and featured short (9.0-km) and long (25.5-km) rides. 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 nearly 100 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.
- City Page Notice: the Committee drafted a notice for the City Page of the Richmond Review to encourage cyclists to ride on the road rather than the sidewalk, as riding on sidewalks is not only illegal but also less safe than riding on the road and is a hazard to pedestrians.
- Richmond Bike Map: the Committee initiated work on the format and content of a new cycling map for Richmond in anticipation of production in 2008.



Commuter Bike Station at City Hall
for Bike to Work Week 2007

2. Initiatives for 2008

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: detailed design of the 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: detailed design of local cycling connections to/from the ramp at the south end of the bridge.
- 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 Official Community Plan

Staff are planning to initiate an update of the *Official Community Plan (OCP)*, which should progress over the next two years and include an update of the principles, goals and objectives for the cycling component of the transportation section. The Committee will provide direct input to City staff on this initiative and potential areas of contribution include the investigation of 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:

- Richmond Bike Map: in partnership with TransLink, finalize the format, content and design of the map for production and distribution by Spring 2008. The City is seeking a 100% funding grant from UBCM to support its contribution to this project.
- 8th Annual "Island City, by Bike" Tour: assist in the planning, promotion and staging of the eighth annual bike tour of Richmond during Bike Month in June 2008. The community ride is set for Sunday, June 1st at Sea Island School as one of the City's Environment Week activities.
- Connections with Non English Speaking Community: explore means to promote cycling safety to Richmond's non-English speaking community. Opportunities include placing articles in non English newspapers, offering cycling workshops with multi-lingual instructors, and producing cycling safety literature and maps in multiple languages.
- 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 Feasibility Study for Public Bike-Share Program: through the City, provide input to TransLink regarding its feasibility study to determine the potential for successfully implementing an automated self-serve public bike system in Greater Vancouver, which would provide the public with access to bicycles via smart card or credit card activated kiosks located at regular intervals across an urban area.
- Location of Massey Tunnel Bike Shuttle Stop: work with TransLink and the Ministry of Transportation on the potential relocation of the existing bike shuttle stop to a site adjacent to the existing southbound bus stop on Highway 99 to consolidate and improve cycling access to transportation services through the tunnel.

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 divisional 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 divisional 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 2008 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.



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(on behalf of the Richmond Community Cycling Committee)