



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** January 22, 2002
From: Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation **File:** 0100-20-RCYC1
Re: **Richmond Community Cycling Committee - Proposed 2002 Initiatives**

Staff Recommendation

1. That the proposed 2002 initiatives of the Richmond Community Cycling Committee regarding cycling education and awareness, as described in the attached report, be endorsed.
2. That staff report back to Council on the outcome of the proposed 2002 initiatives for the Richmond Community Cycling Committee.

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation

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Staff Report

Origin

The Richmond Community Cycling Committee (RCCC - previously named the Richmond Citizens Cycling Committee) was formed in 1993 to allow staff to work in partnership with the community to promote cycling in Richmond. Committee members have cycling interests ranging from daily commuting to recreational cycling. This report provides an update to Council of the Committee's 2001 activities and achievements and also proposes a number of initiatives for 2002 that support the Committee's focus on cycling education and awareness.

Analysis

1. 2001 Activities and Achievements

The RCCC embarked on a number of initiatives in 2001 that significantly advanced cycling education and awareness in Richmond, including publishing a series of articles on cycling in a local newspaper and co-staging the first annual bike tour of the city. The major 2001 activities and accomplishments are highlighted below.

1.1 Expansion of Richmond Cycling Network

The City continued to add to its 26-km cycling network with the support of grants from the provincial Cycling Network Program (CNP) and TransLink towards the construction of new transportation cycling infrastructure. While the CNP is now expected to be eliminated as part of the recently announced provincial financial plan, the Committee will continue to work with staff to identify, prioritize and endorse new cycling projects for cost sharing with other agencies such as TransLink.

In 2001, the Committee provided input on two projects for which the City received funding:

- *Westminster Highway Bicycle Route (Garden City Road to No. 7 Road)* – The City received funding from the CNP to provide designated bicycle lanes in both directions on Westminster Highway between Garden City Road and No. 6 Road and a separate bi-directional bikeway between No. 6 Road and No. 7 Road. Extension of the bikeway from No. 7 Road to No. 8 Road is contemplated as a separate future project.
- *Gilbert Road Bicycle Route (Granville Avenue to Dinsmore Bridge)* – The City received funding from TransLink to provide designated bicycle routes in both directions on Gilbert Road between Granville Avenue and the Dinsmore Bridge.

1.2 “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 10, 2001, as part of the Bike Month activities, the Committee and the City jointly staged a guided tour for the community of some of the city's cycling routes. The “Island City, by Bike” event attracted cyclists of all ages and ability and featured two alternative routes (12-km and 24-km loops) as well as refreshments and a raffle prize draw at the finish at Thompson Community Centre. Numerous local businesses donated

goods and services to the raffle draw and the event received broad media coverage, with news articles and photographs appearing in all four English- and Asian-language local newspapers. The enthusiasm of the participants, despite unfavourable wet weather, and the positive feedback received was testament to the success of the event.

1.3 New Traffic Sign

The Committee provided input and feedback on the creation of a new traffic sign that shows cyclists and motorists what cyclists should do when they approach a major intersection that has right turn lanes. The impetus for the new “Through Cyclists Merge Left” sign came from the Committee’s goal to aid operation of the #98 B-Line bus service, which makes a right turn from westbound Granville Avenue to northbound No. 3 Road. The sign was installed on Granville Avenue between Buswell Street and No. 3 Road and replaced the previous “Bike Lane Merges” sign. Unlike the old sign, the new sign clearly indicates the appropriate merge left movement into the through traffic lane for cyclists who are proceeding through the intersection. This lane change prevents unnecessary delays for motorists who might be prevented from turning right on a red light due to a cyclist waiting in the right turn lane. If the sign is found to be effective, the remaining “Bike Lane Merges” signs in the city will be replaced as part of the regular maintenance program.

1.4 “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:

- Overview of Richmond Community Cycling Committee (May 23, 2001) – introduced the Committee, described some recent cycling improvements achieved with the City and previewed future column topics.
- Bike Tour (June 6, 2001) – announced a bike tour of the city to raise awareness of cycling routes in Richmond. This event was part of Bike Month 2001.
- Cycle Commuting (July 25, 2001) – provided safety tips and practical advice for commuting by bicycle.
- New Traffic Sign (December 5, 2001) – described the new traffic sign installed for westbound traffic on Granville Avenue approaching of No. 3 Road, which illustrates the appropriate merge left movement for cyclists proceeding through the intersection.

1.5 City Web Pages on Cycling

The Committee began work on consolidating and enhancing the cycling-related material on the City’s web site to assist staff in emphasizing cycling within the site. This initiative is intended to provide up-to-date information related to cycling in Richmond that is more comprehensive and readily accessible for the local community as well as visitors.

1.6 Committee Name Change

The Committee approved a name change from the Richmond Citizens Cycling Committee to the Richmond Community Cycling Committee, as the new name better reflects who the Committee advocates for and represents.

2. Initiatives for 2002

In addition to providing input on the planning, design and implementation of major capital cycling infrastructure projects, the Committee's main focus will continue to be the implementation of various cycling education and awareness initiatives including the following:

- reviewing the design and implementation of the proposed 2002 capital project to complete the Williams Road Bike Route from No. 1 Road to the west dyke (subject to Council approval);
- providing input on the design of the extension of the Westminster Highway Bike Route from No. 7 Road to No. 8 Road, planned for implementation in 2003;
- planning, promoting and staging a second annual bike tour of Richmond during Bike Month in June 2002;
- continuing the series of newspaper articles with future topics to include tips on winter cycling, educating cyclists and motorists on the shared use of the road and publicizing applicable Motor Vehicle Act regulations;
- undertaking an inventory of the location of existing "Bike Lane Merges" signs in anticipation of the eventual replacement of these signs with the "Through Cyclists Merge Left" sign and identifying potential additional locations for the new sign;
- advancing work on the creation of enhanced web pages on cycling on the City's web site; and
- initiating production and distribution of a revised cycling map of Richmond that shows both on-street and off-street routes and investigating the possibility of including this map in the City's Leisure Guides.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact at this time. Staff will report to Council for specific approval of the implementation of any initiatives that have funding implications to the City.

Conclusion

The Richmond Community Cycling Committee continues to be an effective community forum for promoting cycling in Richmond. In 2001, the Committee provided valuable input and advice to the City regarding the planning and implementation of cycling improvements in Richmond and initiated a variety of cycling education and awareness measures with successful results. The Committee's proposed 2002 initiatives would build upon these past efforts to further encourage safe cycling in Richmond.



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

JC:jc