



REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Richmond City Council **DATE:** April 7th, 2000
FROM: Councillor Lyn Greenhill, Chair **FILE:** 6450-09
RE: **SAFETY TIPS FOR HAND-CYCLING ON ROADWAYS**

The Public Works & Transportation Committee, at its meeting held on Wednesday, April 5th, 2000, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the information leaflet entitled: "Safety Tips for Hand-Cycling on Roadways", as presented in the attached report (dated March 13, 2000 from the Manager of Transportation), with an additional picture of a hand cycle, be endorsed for distribution by the City to hand-cyclists through various community groups and organizations.

Councillor Lyn Greenhill, Chair
Public Works & Transportation Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that staff recommended the following:

That the information leaflet entitled: "Safety Tips for Hand-Cycling on Roadways", as presented in the attached report (dated March 13, 2000 from the Manager of Transportation), be endorsed for distribution by the City to hand-cyclists through various community groups and organizations.

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

On September 27, 1999, Council endorsed the production of an educational brochure entitled, "Important Safety Tips for Scooter Users" in partnership with a number of community groups and private sponsors. After some discussion on scooter safety, members of Council also expressed concerns about the safe use of hand-cycles on Richmond roadways. At the same meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

"That the use of racing wheelchairs by disabled individuals be referred to staff for discussion with the sports and health communities and ICBC to address traffic safety concerns."

This report presents the traffic safety issues related to the use of hand-cycles on roadways and proposes that an educational traffic safety leaflet be produced for distribution to various organizations that serve hand-cyclists.

ANALYSIS

1. Dialogue with Hand-Cycling Organizations

Over the past several months, staff have been having discussions with various stakeholder groups on traffic safety issues related to the use of hand-cycles on roadways. These groups include the Richmond Committee on Disability and other local as well as North America-wide hand-cycling organizations. From these discussions, the following key safety issues were identified:

- Compliance with traffic regulations that apply to cyclists;
- Instability of hand-cycles at higher speeds, on corners, and on steep hills;
- Measures that can be introduced to improve the visibility of hand-cyclists by other road users;
- Equipment that can be used to improve the ability of hand-cyclists to see other road users;
- Suitable roadway conditions for hand-cycling; and
- Actions to minimize injury to hand-cyclists during a fall.

2. Response to the Hand-Cycling on Roadways Safety Issues

To respond to the traffic safety issues identified in discussions with various disabled persons and hand-cycling organizations, staff have developed the attached "Safety Tips for Hand-Cycling on Roadways" leaflet. The leaflet contains information to assist hand-cyclists in planning and taking a safe trip when travelling on roadways. A draft copy of this leaflet has been sent to various stakeholders and the input received has been incorporated in the final version of the leaflet.

3. Distribution of the Leaflet

Staff are now proposing to send copies of this leaflet to a number of community groups and organizations, including the Richmond Committee on Disability, BC Paraplegic Association, Rick Hansen Foundation, BC Wheelchair Sports, and ICBC. These organizations will be asked to distribute the leaflet to their membership to improve the awareness of safe practices for operating hand-cycles. The information will also be available on the City's website and will be placed on the City Notice Board to reach a wider audience.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The hand-cycling safety tip leaflets will be printed in-house at minimal cost to the City, as part of the City's regular operating budget for reproduction.

CONCLUSION

After much dialogue with various disabled persons and hand-cycling organizations, staff have identified a series of traffic safety issues relating the use of hand-cycles on roadways. As part of an overall effort to reduce the potential of traffic accidents and personal injuries involving hand-cyclists, an educational leaflet containing road safety tips for hand-cycling has been produced. Various organizations representing the disabled community have been consulted in the preparation of this leaflet to incorporate their suggestions. Staff are now seeking endorsement from Council to distribute the safety tip leaflet to hand-cyclists through a number of community groups and organizations.

Tegan Smith, M.C.P.
Transportation Planning Analyst

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Safety Tips for HAND-CYCLING on Roadways

March, 2000

Hand-cyclists should respect all traffic regulations that apply to cyclists.

Hand-cyclists should be cautious that these special cycling vehicles can be unstable at speeds higher than 30-35 km/hr, on corners, and on steep hills.

To be seen by drivers and other road users, hand-cyclists should:

- wear a brightly coloured helmet, a highly reflective vest, and brightly coloured clothing.
- have red flashing lights on the back and white flashing lights on the front of the hand-cycle for use in dark conditions.
- have highly reflective strips mounted on the front and back of the hand-cycle.
- have a fluorescent orange safety flag mounted on the back of the seat.

To be able to see other road users, hand-cyclists should have:

- a rear-view mirror mounted on the hand-cycle or helmet.
- lights mounted on the front and back of the hand-cycle for use in dark conditions.

In planning a trip, hand-cyclists should consider the following:

- use bicycle lanes wherever possible.
- travel on streets with low traffic volumes when bicycle lanes are not available.
- travel on streets without on-street parking as it is difficult for drivers of vehicles entering or leaving parking spaces to see hand-cycles because of their low height.

To prevent or minimize injury during a fall, hand-cyclists should:

- always strap feet in leg supports.
- ensure that the hand-cycle has a chain-guard.

This list of safety tips for hand-cycling on roadways was produced by the Transportation Department, City of Richmond in consultation with various North American hand-cycling organizations.

134

For more information please call 276-4032.



City of Richmond