



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: December 13, 2018

From: Lloyd Bie, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation

File: 01-0100-20-
RCYC1/2018-Vol 01

Re: Richmond Active Transportation Committee – Proposed 2019 Initiatives

Staff Recommendation

1. That the proposed 2019 initiatives of the Richmond Active Transportation Committee, as outlined in the staff report titled “Richmond Active Transportation Committee - Proposed 2019 Initiatives” dated December 13, 2018 from the Director, Transportation, be endorsed.
2. That a copy of the report titled “Richmond Active Transportation Committee – Proposed 2019 Initiatives” be forwarded to the Richmond Council-School Board Liaison Committee for information.

Lloyd Bie, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation
(604-276-4131)

Att. 1

| REPORT CONCURRENCE | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| ROUTED TO: | CONCURRENCE | CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER |
| Parks Services Recreation Services Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE | INITIALS: | APPROVED BY CAO |

Staff Report

Origin

The Richmond Community Cycling Committee was formed in 1993 to allow City staff to work in partnership with the community to promote commuter and recreational cycling in Richmond. In 2013, Council approved the evolution of the Committee into the Richmond Active Transportation Committee (RATC) to reflect a broader mandate that includes skateboarding, in-line skating and low-speed scooters. The Committee provides input and feedback to the City on infrastructure projects designed for these modes and undertakes various activities in co-operation with the City that encourage, educate and raise awareness of active transportation.

This report reviews the 2018 activities of the RATC and identifies a number of initiatives for 2019 that would support its mandate to provide input and advice to the City on issues in the planning, development, improvement, and promotion of an active transportation network that supports a greater number of trips by cycling, walking and rolling. The Committee's activities contribute towards the City's sustainability goals articulated in Richmond's *Official Community Plan* and *Community Energy and Emissions Plan* to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by prioritizing and funding walking, rolling and cycling infrastructure. The Committee's initiatives also support the goals and actions of the City's *Community Wellness Strategy* and, in turn, Richmond's long-term health, liveability and vibrancy.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #2 A Vibrant, Active and Connected City:

Continue the development and implementation of an excellent and accessible system of programs, services, and public spaces that reflect Richmond's demographics, rich heritage, diverse needs, and unique opportunities, and that facilitate active, caring, and connected communities.

2.3. *Outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.*

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #3 A Well-Planned Community:

Adhere to effective planning and growth management practices to maintain and enhance the livability, sustainability and desirability of our City and its neighbourhoods, and to ensure the results match the intentions of our policies and bylaws.

3.3. *Effective transportation and mobility networks.*

Analysis

The RATC undertook and participated in a number of activities in 2018 that contributed to enhanced cycling and rolling opportunities, and increased education and awareness of active transportation in Richmond.

Planning, Expansion and Improvement of Active Transportation Network in 2018

The City continued to improve Richmond's active transportation network in 2018, which now comprises over 72 km of on- and off-street bike and rolling routes (excluding dyke trails). The Committee provided feedback on the planning, design, construction, and/or improvement of the following facilities.

Construction of New Facilities

- *Westminster Highway (No. 8 Road-Nelson Road)*: Conversion of the directional shoulder bike lanes to a two-way off-street multi-use pathway (MUP) on the south side including new and upgraded accessible bus stops (Figure 1). The completed section now provides a continuous off-street pathway 5.5 km in length between No. 6 Road and McMillan Way.
- *River Drive (Van Horne Way-No. 4 Road)*: Substantial completion of an off-street MUP on the south side with pedestrian lighting. The MUP will be completed by Spring 2019 and will fill a critical gap in cycling and pedestrian facilities that provides a link between the Tait neighbourhood and the Bridgeport Canada Line station and transit exchange.
- *Great Canadian Way (Van Horne Way-Bridgeport Road)*: Upgrade of the existing off-street pathway and sidewalk on the west side to an MUP with pedestrian lighting (Figure 2). Wayfinding signage will be installed in early 2019. At its northern end, the new MUP connects to the existing MUP on Van Horne Way that in turn links to the Canada Line Bridge. At its southern end, the new MUP will connect to an MUP being constructed as part of the frontage requirements of developments on the west side of Garden City Road between Sea Island Way and Capstan Way. Collectively, these improvements are part of the City's continued efforts to upgrade existing and establish new cycling facilities that are physically separated from adjacent vehicle traffic, particularly in the City Centre.



Figure 1: Westminster Highway MUP with accessible bus stop



Figure 2: Great Canadian Way MUP

- Local Street Bikeways: Progress was made on the following bike routes that use a combination of local streets with low traffic volumes and speeds and off-street connecting pathways.
 - Midtown: Initiation of a new north-south bike route east of and parallel to Gilbert Road that will link Steveston Highway and Granville Avenue. One existing pathway was upgraded and one new pathway constructed to provide off-street connections as part of Phase 1 south of Francis Road. Completion of the route from Francis Road to Granville Avenue is planned as Phase 2 in 2019.
 - Parkside: This existing north-south bike route along Ash Street between Williams Road and Granville Avenue was extended to Westminster Highway with the upgrade of existing pathways through Garden City Park and Anderson School. Pavement markings and signage will be implemented in early 2019 to complete the extension.
 - Odlin Road: Initiation of a new east-west bike route located primarily along Odlin Road between its eastern terminus (east of No. 4 Road) and Aberdeen Canada Line Station. The existing pathway through Odlin Park was upgraded and improvements made to the east leg of the Browngate Road-Hazelbridge Way intersection to facilitate the through movement of cyclists. Completion of the route with the construction of a new MUP between Odlin Road and Brown Road is planned in 2019.



Figure 3: Wayfinding Signage on Shell Road Trail

Improvement of Existing Facilities

- Trail Wayfinding: Street name signs based on Parks' Wayfinding Strategy were installed at the cross streets along the Shell Road and Bridgeport Trails to orient cyclists who may be unfamiliar with the routes (Figure 3).
- Quick Fixes: The City participated in a regional initiative organized by HUB Cycling (a non-profit organization that works to improve cycling conditions in Metro Vancouver) to address minor maintenance and improvement measures identified by the local Richmond HUB Committee. The quick fix items included new signage and pavement markings (Figure 4) and the addition of green paint at conflict points.
- TransLink Initiatives: The Committee provided input into the design work for TransLink's planned construction of a secure bike parkade at the Bridgeport Canada Line Station, anticipated in 2019.



Figure 4: Stencils added to Bike Path to Delineate from Sidewalk

Design of Planned Facilities

The Committee provided feedback on the progress of design for the following planned active transportation improvement projects.

- Steveston Highway (Shell Road-Mortfield Gate): Construction of a two-way off-street paved pathway on the south side as Phase 1. Future phases would extend the pathway westward to No. 2 Road where it would link to the off-street pathway currently being constructed on No. 2 Road south of Steveston Highway.
- Garden City Road Bike and Pedestrian Paths: Currently, southbound cyclists and two-way pedestrians share the use of a paved shoulder on the west side of Garden City Road between Lansdowne Road and Westminster Highway. This project would construct a delineated protected southbound bike path and two-way pedestrian path to improve the safety of users.
- Railway Greenway: Upgrade of the remaining intersections to the ultimate standard as exists at Steveston Highway and the north side of Francis Road (i.e., curb and gutter, concrete landing pad, relocated traffic signal pole, pathway markings).
- No. 6 Road Multi-Use Pathway: Construction of a two-way off-street paved pathway for pedestrians and cyclists on the west side of No. 6 Road between Cambie Road and Bridgeport Road. There are currently discontinuous pedestrian and no cycling facilities on this road section, which is a planned cycling route.

Promotion of Active Transportation Network in 2018

The Committee participated in the following activities in 2018 to promote cycling and other active transportation modes in Richmond.

- Bike to Work Week (May and October 2018): The Committee worked with the organizer (HUB Cycling) of this region-wide annual initiative to continue to successfully stage these events in Richmond. A total of 524 riders who reside in Richmond registered on-line for both events (up from 519 in 2017) including 126 new bike commuters (up from 109 in 2017). These riders collectively logged 2,333 trips for a total distance of 28,431 kilometres thereby avoiding the emission of 6.2 tonnes of greenhouse gases (Figure 5).

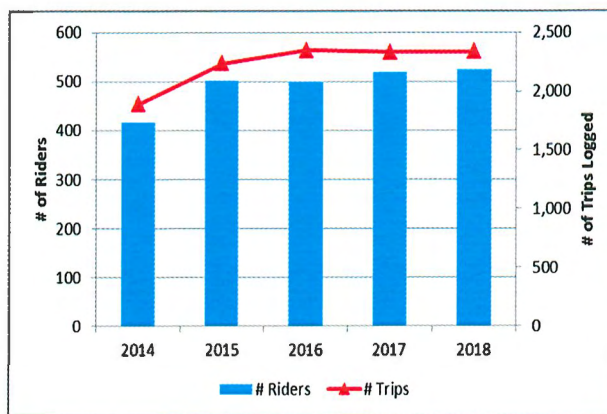


Figure 5: Participation of Cyclists who reside in Richmond in Bike to Work Week

A total of four celebration stations for cyclists were held in Richmond including two sponsored by the City at the Canada Line Bridge for both the Spring and Fall events. Collectively, these celebration stations logged 416 cyclists, which is comparable to past years.

- 18th Annual “Island City, by Bike” Tour (June 10, 2018): Each year in June, as part of regional Bike Month activities and the City’s Environment Week events, the Committee and the City jointly stage guided tours for the community of some of the city’s cycling routes (Figure 6). The 18th annual “Island City, by Bike” tour was based at Thompson Community Centre and offered short (eight km) and long (25 km) rides with escorts provided by volunteer members of the Richmond RCMP bike squad. The short loop featured the Railway Greenway and the Crabapple Ridge Neighbourhood Bike Route while the long ride went out to Iona Island. Activities included a bike and helmet safety check prior to the ride plus a barbecue lunch and raffle prize draw at the finish. Richmond RCMP also provided registration services for an anti-theft bike initiative. The event attracted 80 cyclists of all ages and ability, which is comparable to attendance at past recent events.



Figure 6: Committee Members at 2018 Bike Tour Event

- Update of Cycling & Recreational Trails Map: The new map is a partnership with Tourism Richmond that now includes information on Richmond attractions. The updated edition will be distributed in early 2019 to community centres, libraries and other civic facilities as well as handed out at various City events (Figure 7).
- Participation in City Events: Committee members provided information on how to get around Richmond in fun, safe and environmentally friendly ways at the following City events: Public Works Open House (May 14, 2018) and All Aboard! (August 18, 2018) at the Steveston Interurban Tram Building.

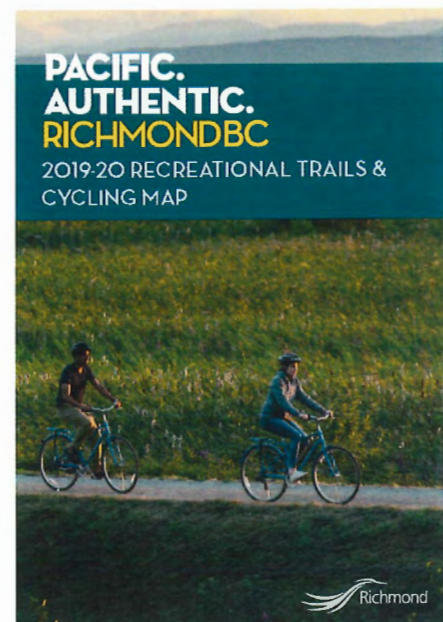


Figure 7: Map Cover

- HUB Cycling Bike to Shop Day (June 26, 2018): HUB Cycling staged the third annual Bike to Shop Days event to encourage people to ride to and shop at local businesses. The event aims to show people how easy, fun and convenient it can be to shop by bike. For the first time, HUB Cycling hosted a guided ride from the Marine Gateway Canada Line station to Steveston that attracted 35 participants, 33 of whom had never ridden across the Canada Line Bridge. A celebration station in Steveston (No. 1 Road-Bayview Street) attracted 274 people over a two-hour period (Figure 8). The



Figure 8: Bike to Shop Day Station

station provided local and regional cycling information, snacks, free bike tune-ups, and chances to win prizes. Local merchants offered discounts to participants.

- ***Public Bike Share Pilot Program:*** The Committee provided feedback on potential station locations to support the anticipated expansion of the station network in the peak cycling season of Spring-Summer 2019.

Active Transportation Education in 2018

The City provided funding to HUB Cycling to operate cycling education courses for local residents with input from the Committee. The City’s support for cycling education generates multiple benefits including increased safety, encouragement of a life-long healthy activity and sustainable mode of travel, and potential to reduce traffic congestion around schools as more students choose to ride a bike, all of which align with the City’s Official Community Plan goals. The City also leveraged additional funding support from TransLink to expand the number of elementary school students who received on-bike training.

- ***Bike to School Education for Students:*** As shown in Table 1, a total of 588 students from six elementary schools participated in either two or five day bike education courses held in co-operation with Richmond School District. The courses include in-class lessons, on-bike playground cycling safety training for younger students and neighbourhood road ride education for older youth. The courses were well received and enjoyed the enthusiastic participation of all students and teachers (Figure 10).

School Spotlight: Blundell Elementary

I just wanted to let you know how terrific the HUB program was at Blundell. All the instructors were knowledgeable, skilled and extremely caring for our students. A special thank you for going above and beyond to be inclusive with students with special needs.
- Grade 6 Teacher




Table 1: Cycling Education Courses

| School | # of Classes | # of Students | Grades |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------|
| Westwind | 4 | 112 | 6-7 |
| Blundell | 3 | 84 | 5-7 |
| James Gilmore | 3 | 84 | 5-7 |
| RM Grauer | 3 | 84 | 4-6 |
| Lord Byng | 4 | 112 | 3-6 |
| William Cook | 4 | 112 | 4-5 |

Figure 10: Teacher Feedback

In addition to the school program delivery, HUB Cycling was invited to deliver a presentation at a Student Environmental Sustainability Conference held by Diefenbaker Elementary School in October 2018. Two break-out sessions for approximately 70 students in total were delivered on the topic of active transportation.

- ***StreetWise Education for Adults:*** One course targeted to seniors was held in co-operation with the Minoru Place Activity Centre. A total of 16 riders (the number of participants is limited to maintain the teacher-student ratio) took part in a five hour course to enable them to build their cycling skills and gain confidence riding on city streets. A follow-up survey of participants indicated a 21% increase in cycling frequency as well as a shift towards riding all year round.

Proposed Active Transportation Network Initiatives in 2019

The Committee will provide input at the earliest conceptual stage on the prioritization, planning, design, and implementation of the following projects that expand and/or improve the network of infrastructure that can be used by active transportation modes.

- *Planned Active Transportation Network Expansion*: Planned City capital projects include further progress on the Crosstown and Midtown Neighbourhood Links and completion of the Odlin Road bike route. The implementation of several off-street paved multi-use pathways includes Alderbridge Way (Shell Road-No. 4 Road) and Sexsmith Road (Beckwith Road-Charles Street). Conceptual design will also be initiated for the northern extension of the Shell Road Trail (Highway 99 Overpass to River Road). See Attachment 1 for project locations.
- *Active Transportation Network Spot Improvements*: Potential projects include localized improvements to existing on-street cycling facilities such as improved pavement markings (e.g., green painted bike lanes at potential conflict areas), additional signage, new ramps to facilitate access to off-street pathways, installation of delineators to prevent motorists from encroaching into bike lanes, and the expansion of bicycle parking including additional on-street bike corrals.
- *Planned Park, Road and Development Projects*: The Committee will review additional City and external agency projects that impact existing or would incorporate new active transportation infrastructure as part of the overall project such as the George Massey Tunnel Crossing Improvement and TransLink's bike parkade at the Bridgeport Canada Line Station.

Project costs associated with the expansion and improvement of the active transportation network for 2019 are accommodated in the City's annual capital budget and considered as part of the annual budget review process. Some of these projects are eligible for financial contribution from external agencies (e.g., ICBC and TransLink). If successful, staff will report back on the amount of financial contribution obtained from these external agencies through the annual staff reports on ICBC and TransLink cost-sharing programs respectively.

Proposed Education and Promotion of Active Transportation in 2019

The Committee will encourage and promote active transportation as sustainable travel modes that also have significant health benefits via the following activities.

- *Public Bike Share Pilot Program*: The Committee will continue to provide input on the deployment and operation of the pilot program.
- *19th Annual "Island City, by Bike" Tour*: Assist in the planning, promotion and staging of the seventeenth annual bike tour of Richmond during Bike Month in June 2019, which is set for Sunday, June 9th at Britannia Heritage Shipyard. Both the long and short routes will seek to feature recent improvements to the active transportation network to raise community awareness of the neighbourhood facilities that support walking, cycling and rolling activities.

- *Bike to Work and School*: Assist in the planning, promotion and staging of this region-wide event during May and October 2019, which includes the provision of celebration stations in Richmond for cyclists.
- *Bicycle Education for Students and Adults*: In co-operation with HUB, the Richmond School District and a variety of community agencies, expand the delivery of safe cycling education courses to additional elementary schools and new immigrants.
- *Promotion of Active Transportation Network*: Continue to participate in City events related to health and transportation to raise the awareness of new active transportation facilities both locally and regionally. Continue to update, revise and enhance related information on the City's website and Facebook site.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

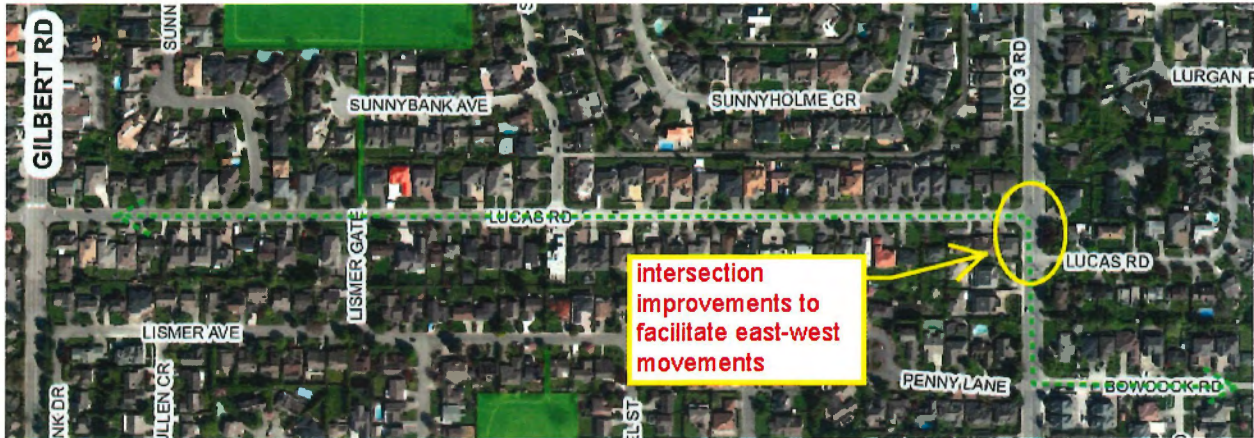
The Richmond Active Transportation Committee continues to build its diversity of users' experience to support its broader mandate that includes other rolling transportation modes. The Committee's proposed 2019 initiatives would continue efforts to further encourage greater and safer use of active transportation modes in Richmond, which in turn will support progress towards meeting the City's target for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as well as the travel mode share targets of the City's *Official Community Plan*. Active transportation also promotes and/or increases physical activity and overall health and wellness outcomes in line with the City's *Community Wellness Strategy*.



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Att. 1: Location of Planned Active Transportation Network Projects for 2019

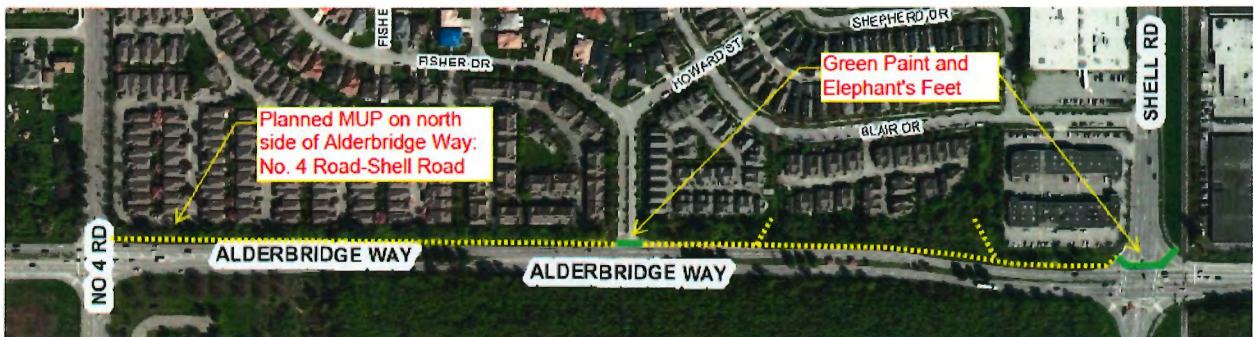
Location of Planned Active Transportation Network Projects for 2019



Crosstown Neighbourhood Link: Phase 3



Odlin Road Bike Route



Alderbridge Way (No. 4 Road-Shell Road) Multi-Use Pathway

Location of Planned Active Transportation Network Projects for 2019



Midtown Neighbourhood Link: Phase 2



Sexsmith Road (Beckwith Rd-Charles St)
Multi-Use Path