



**To:** Public Works and Transportation Committee      **Date:** December 23, 2011  
**From:** Victor Wei, P. Eng.      **File:** 01-0100-20-  
Director, Transportation      RCYC1/2011-Vol01  
**Re:** **RICHMOND COMMUNITY CYCLING COMMITTEE – PROPOSED 2012  
INITIATIVES**

1. That the proposed 2012 initiatives of the Richmond Community Cycling Committee regarding cycling-related engineering and education activities, as described in the report from the Director, Transportation, be endorsed.
2. That a copy of the report from the Director, Transportation entitled "Richmond Community Cycling Committee - Proposed 2012 Initiatives" be provided to the Council School Board Liaison Committee for information.

Victor Wei, P. Eng.  
Director, Transportation  
(604-276-4131)

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ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Parks Planning, Design & Construction ...		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 to promote cycling as a healthy and sustainable mode of travel. This report reviews the Committee's 2011 activities and achievements and proposes a number of initiatives for 2012 that support the Committee's mandate of encouraging more people to cycle more often in Richmond.

### Analysis

#### 1. 2011 Activities and Achievements

The RCCC undertook and participated in a number of activities in 2011 that contributed to enhanced cycling safety and increased education and awareness of cycling in Richmond.

##### 1.1 Expansion and Improvement of Cycling Network

The City continued to add to the local cycling network in 2011, which now comprises nearly 60 km of bike routes, with the support of funding grants from external agencies including TransLink and the BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure. The Committee provided feedback on the design and construction of the following facilities.

- Minoru Blvd Bike Route: installation of bike lanes and signage on Minoru Boulevard between Granville Avenue and Alderbridge Way.
- Lynas Lane Bike Route: installation of sharrows and signage to this existing route between River Road and Granville Ave.
- Crabapple Ridge Bikeway: substantial completion of construction (i.e., upgrade of off-street pathways) of this first neighbourhood bike route that connects Terra Nova to Steveston via local roads and pathways west of No. 1 Road.
- Continuity of Bike Lanes: implemented pavement markings and signage to allow through cyclists to travel in the right-turn lane rather than merging with vehicle traffic in the adjacent through lane at intersections where the bike lane is dropped prior to the intersection in order to provide a right-turn only lane. The City has received a number of positive comments from cyclists as a result of this improvement.
- Neighbourhood Bikeways: the Committee focused on the design and development of the second such route – the Parkside Bikeway that will follow Ash Street and ultimately connect South Arm to Westminster Hwy through the McLennan neighbourhood and uses a



Minoru Blvd Bike Lanes



Granville Ave at No. 3 Road



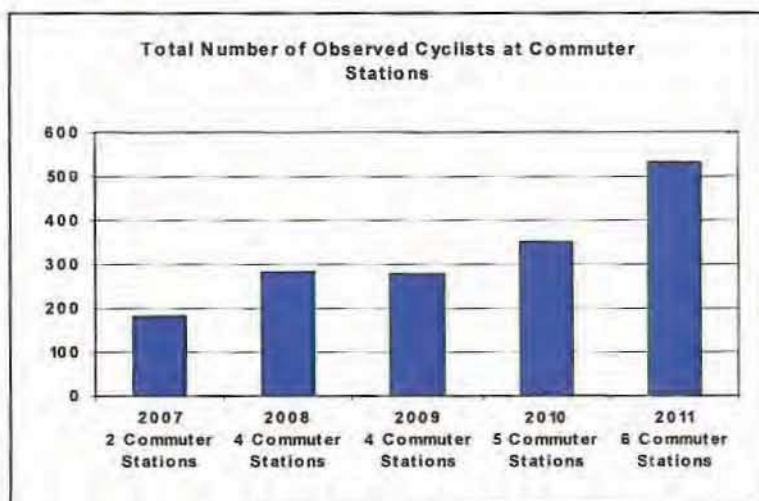
combination of local roads with lower traffic volumes and off-street connecting pathways to connect local destinations such as schools and neighbourhood centres as well as link up to the city's existing on-street cycling network (at Williams Road in the south and Westminster Hwy in the north).

- ***Cycling Network Improvement Program***: continued installation of the overlay of bike stencils on loop detectors along designated bike routes so that cyclists know where to position themselves in order to trigger a change in the traffic signal.
- ***Development Applications and Road Improvement Projects***: the Committee provided input on proposed cycling facility improvements associated with new developments and road improvement projects including the No. 1 Road and Moncton Street improvements and associated improvements in the Steveston Village area.

## 1.2 Education and Promotion

The Committee participated in the following activities to promote cycling in Richmond and increase members' knowledge of regional cycling topics that could benefit Richmond.

- ***Bike to Work Week (May and November 2011)***: the Committee worked with organizers of this region-wide annual initiative to successfully stage these events in Richmond. During the May event, bike commuter stations at City Hall, Thompson Community Centre, Canada Line Bridge, and Richmond-Brighouse Station recorded a total of 345 cyclists during a 2-hour period. During the November event, 169 cyclists were recorded at bike commuter stations at Thompson Community Centre and the Canada Line Bridge during a 2-hour period. As shown in Figure 1, the number of cyclists observed on city streets during the 2-hour period of the events (i.e., stopping at the commuter station or passing by) continues to grow. Similarly, as shown in Table 1 below, the trend in statistics for registered participants at Richmond workplaces shows a continued increase in not only the total number of participants but also the number of kilometres ridden.



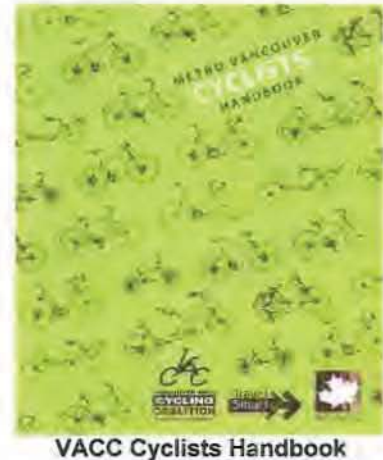
**Figure 1: Cyclists Recorded at Commuter Stations**

**Table 1: Annual Bike to Work Week Statistics for Richmond Workplaces**

Statistic	Year					Avg Annual Change
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
# Participants who Logged Trip on Website	203	415	354	314	337	21%
# of Richmond Workplace Teams	42	66	71	105	76	21%
Tonnes GHGs not Emitted (estimate)	2.1	8.0	3.8	3.0	5.6	73%
# Kms Ridden	9,980	26,895	19,350	24,831	26,121	44%
# Trips by Bike	955	2,348	1,002	1,925	1,883	45%



- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual "Island City, by Bike" Tour (June 12, 2011): 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 a guided tour for the community of some of the city's cycling routes. The 11<sup>th</sup> annual "Island City, by Bike" tour was based at South Arm Community Centre and featured short (6.5-km) and long (22-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. Local businesses donated goods and services to the raffle draw and the event attracted 90 cyclists of all ages and cycling ability.
- VACC Cyclists Handbook: the Committee provided input on the content of cycling handbook produced by the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition that is targeted to novice cyclists and newcomers to Canada. Electronic copies are available through the City's website and the City also obtained hard copies of the handbook in five different languages that reflect the community's diverse cultures (i.e., English, simplified Chinese, Punjabi, Tagalog, and Korean) for distribution to local community groups.
- UBC "Cycling in Cities" Research: the Committee welcomed Professor Meghan Winters of SFU who is part of the "Cycling in Cities" research team based at UBC that is investigating what factors encourage or discourage the use of bicycles for transportation and which types of transportation infrastructure are associated with increased or decreased risks of injuries to cyclists. Professor Winters presented the results of the newest research: the creation of bikeability maps for the Greater Vancouver area. These maps depict the bikeability of a city (or neighbourhoods within a city) based on five factors: topography, destination density, connectivity of the road network, bike route separation between bikes and vehicles, and bike route density. Compared to other cities in the region, Richmond averages a "medium" bikeability. The city scores high on topography but low on bike route separation (as do all municipalities). Destination density is higher only in the City Centre and Steveston areas and connectivity is generally good outside the ALR areas but bike route density could be improved. Staff notes that increasing destination density across the city is in line with a goal of the OCP (2041) Update to densify and introduce more mixed uses and improved pedestrian and cycling links around neighbourhood centres.
- TransLink Regional Cycling Strategy: the Committee welcomed Kamala Rao of TransLink who presented the agency's recently approved *Regional Cycling Strategy* that has two simple goals of (1) more people make more trips by cycling (measured by mode share), and (2) cycling is safer (measured by cyclist collisions per 100,000 trips and the percentage of women cycling). Eight focus areas (e.g., cycling network, bike-transit integration, education, etc) contain 19 strategies to support achievement of the goals. TransLink is currently developing a funding and implementation plan to support the strategy.



### 1.3 Other Cycling-Related Initiatives

The Committee provided input on the following City initiatives with cycling-related elements:

- Official Community Plan (2041) Update: review of and feedback on the draft cycling policies to be included in the Mobility & Access section of the OCP update include the conceptual long-term cycling network; and



- Memorial Bike Rack: in recognition of the passing of a founding member of the Committee in July 2011, the Committee worked with staff to develop a bike rack that will feature a memorial plaque. The bike rack would replace one of the existing bike racks located around the perimeter of the north plaza of City Hall.

## 2. Initiatives for 2012

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 Cycling Network Expansion & Improvement Projects

The Committee will provide input at the earliest conceptual stage on the prioritisation, planning, design, and implementation of the following projects that expand and/or improve the cycling network:

- Planned Cycling Network Expansion: detailed design of intersection improvements at Garden City Road and Granville Avenue and determination of appropriate engineering measures to support Phase 1 of the Parkside Bikeway;
- Railway Avenue Corridor Trail System: design of this major north-south pedestrian and cycling greenway that will connect Steveston with the Middle Arm Greenway;
- Planned Park, Road and Development Projects: review of additional projects that impact existing cycling facilities or would incorporate new cycling infrastructure as part of the overall project;
- Cycling Network Improvement Projects: work with staff to identify other localised improvements to existing cycling facilities such as additional lighting, pavement markings and signage; and
- Promotion of Completed Routes: develop new and/or enhanced promotional campaigns to raise the awareness of new cycling facilities both locally and regionally, such as news releases, regular City notices in local newspapers and wide distribution of cycling maps.

### 2.2 Education and Encouragement Initiatives

The Committee will encourage and promote safe cycling as a sustainable travel mode that also has significant health benefits via the following activities:

- 12<sup>th</sup> Annual "Island City, by Bike" Tour: assist in the planning, promotion and staging of the twelfth annual bike tour of Richmond during Bike Month in June 2012, which is set for Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Terra Nova Rural Park. Both the short and long routes will utilize the Crabapple Ridge Bikeway to raise community awareness of this new neighbourhood bike route.
- Bike to Work Week: assist in the planning, promotion and staging of this region-wide event during May and November 2012, which includes the provision of bike commuter stations throughout the city;



- Richmond 2012 Bike & Trails Map: provide input into the update of the 2010 edition of the Richmond cycling map that will incorporate recent improvements to the local cycling network including the Crabapple Ridge Bikeway, and be integrated with the City's trails map to create a single comprehensive cycling and trails map that features safety tips as well as suggested scenic routes. The new map will be distributed to community centres, libraries and other civic facilities as well as handed out at various City events.
- Streetwise Cycling Workshops: work with the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition and a variety of Community Associations to host and promote a number of safe cycling education courses at various community centres throughout Richmond.
- City Page and City Website: provide education and awareness notices for both cyclists and motorists in the City Page of the *Richmond Review* (e.g., to complement the planned installation of 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 continue to update, revise and enhance cycling-related information on the City's website and Facebook site.



### 2.3 City Initiatives with Cycling-Related Components

The Committee will provide input on the following City initiatives that have cycling-related elements:

- Official Community Plan (2041) Update: the Committee will provide direct input to City staff on the finalization of the cycling-related policies within the Mobility & Access section of the OCP including any revisions/additions to the *On-Street Cycling Network Plan* in areas outside the City Centre, particularly with respect to the development of a finer grid of neighbourhood cycling links that safely and conveniently connect residents to their local service centre to encourage cycling rather than driving for short trips (i.e., those less than three kilometres).

### Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to the City.

Cycling infrastructure projects are presented separately 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 2012 initiatives would continue efforts to further encourage greater and safer cycling 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 sustainability goals of the City's Official Community Plan (2041) Update. 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)