



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee
From: Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.
 Director, Transportation
Re: 2023 Active Transportation Initiatives

Date: February 15, 2023
File: 10-6500-01/2023-Vol
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Staff Recommendation

1. That the report titled “2023 Active Transportation Initiatives” dated February 15, 2023 from the Director, Transportation, be received for information; and
2. That a copy of the report 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 |
| Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Richmond RCMP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW | INITIALS: | APPROVED BY CAO |
| | | |

Staff Report

Origin

The City undertakes and supports a number of infrastructure projects, initiatives and on-going activities to support active transportation (human-powered transportation) around Richmond. In addition to projects and programs included in the capital budget, joint initiatives with the Richmond Active Transportation Committee and HUB Cycling are undertaken throughout the year to encourage walking, cycling and rolling trips in the City. The City also funds cycling skills education courses for all Grade 6 & 7 students and continues safety related campaigns for personal mobility devices, such as e-scooters.

This report provides an overview of the active transportation initiatives planned for 2023 to support the planning, development, improvement, and promotion of the City's active transportation network. The report also highlights the 2022 active transportation accomplishments. Input and collaboration with the cycling community is integral to the delivery of these initiatives.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

4.1 Robust, affordable, and accessible sport, recreation, wellness and social programs for people of all ages and abilities.

4.2 Ensure infrastructure meets changing community needs, current trends and best practices.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #6 Strategic and Well-Planned Growth:

6.3 Build on transportation and active mobility networks.

Analysis

As part of the planning and review of active transportation projects, staff meet monthly with the Richmond Active Transportation Committee (RATC) to seek input and feedback on infrastructure projects designed for cyclists, pedestrians and other micro-mobility devices. The committee also undertakes various activities in co-operation with the City to encourage, educate and raise awareness of active transportation. Committee members are local residents and/or employees who reflect a diverse range of ages and cycling skills. RATC will be providing input and participating in the active transportation initiatives planned for 2023 as identified in this report.

Planned 2023 Active Transportation Initiatives

Capital Projects - Active Transportation Network Expansion: Commence and continue design efforts and implementation of approved active transportation capital projects including:

- Complete the detailed designs for off-street multi-use pathways (MUP) on No. 2 Road (Steveston Highway to Williams Road), Shell Road (Hwy 99 to River Road) and Phase 3 of the Steveston Highway MUP (No. 2 Road to Railway Avenue).
- Commence construction of Phases 1 and 2 of the Steveston Highway MUP (Shell Road to No. 2 Road).
- Complete construction of the Westminster Highway MUP (Smith Crescent to Fraserside Gate). Construction of this project raised concerns from area residents in 2022 when construction commenced. Concerns included driveway access, on-street parking and vehicle speeds on Westminster Highway. Staff engaged with residents and coordinated with appropriate staff and the contractor to address concerns, which included some minor alterations to the design. Substantial completion is anticipated in summer 2023.
- Addition of bike lane delineators on Garden City Road from Granville Ave to Sea Island Way. Delineators between Granville Avenue and Railway Avenue have been installed as part of a pilot project.

E-Scooter and E-Bike Pilot Project: Continue to monitor the City’s pilot project, particularly regarding the operation of the public shared e-scooter and e-bike system and its impact on existing cycling infrastructure and users. A public survey using the Let’s Talk Richmond platform is planned for spring to seek feedback from e-scooter device operators and others sharing the road and pathways with these devices.

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, and installation of delineators to prevent motorists from encroaching into bike lanes.

Park, Road and Development Projects: 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 Province’s Fraser River Tunnel Project and through the development applications process.

Cycling Network Plan Update: Identify cycling network upgrades as determined in the plan to prioritize future capital projects for Council consideration.

Bicycle-Pedestrian Counters: There are currently seven counters that record pedestrian and bicycle counts by direction on various facilities across the City (Table 1). The data will track usage and help inform the need for and timing of future improvements. Further expansion of the network of monitors will be coordinated as part of future cycling facilities.

Table 1: Bike-Pedestrian Counters

| Bike Route | Location |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Great Canadian Way MUP | South of Brockwith Road |
| McCallan Road MUP | South of Westminster Hwy |
| No. 2 Road MUP | South of Steveston Hwy |
| Alderbridge Way MUP | East of No. 4 Road |
| River Road MUP | West of No. 4 Road |
| Bridgeport Road MUP | West of No. 6 Road |
| Railway Greenway | South of Maple Road |

Public Bicycle Parking: Research vendors and products to potentially trial secured bike parking facilities for public use.

Cost Share Grants and Awards: Continue to explore and apply for external grants related to active transportation projects. On February 16, 2023, the Province announced the City's application for Phase 2 of the Steveston Highway Multi-Use Pathway project has been approved to receive \$500,000 in cost-shared grant funding.

Promotion and Education of Active Transportation in 2023

Activities to encourage and promote active transportation as sustainable travel modes that also have significant health benefits are planned for 2023. RATC members and HUB Cycling will assist in the planning, promotion and staging of the following events in 2023:

- Cycling Go by Bike Week (May and September/October): The May 2023 event of this region-wide annual initiative organized by HUB Cycling will be held from May 29 to June 4, 2023. People cycling log their daily bike trips for a chance to win prizes and to help support cycling in Metro Vancouver. Staff and the RATC will assist in the planning and promotion of this event, which will include celebration stations in the city.
- Bike to School Week (May): An annual celebration where students of all ages are encouraged to bike, roll, or walk to school. The week long event will take place from May 29 to June 2, 2023. Cycling and rolling trips are logged by schools with prizes drawn at the end of the week.
- Cycling Bike to Shop Week (August): HUB Cycling stages this annual event to encourage people to ride to and shop at local businesses. Bike to Shop is both a 'support local' and tourism campaign, designed to bring people directly to local stores as well as travel to new areas. In the past, the event in Richmond has been focused in Steveston and includes participating businesses that offer promotions and discounts to participants.
- 21st "Island City, by Bike" Tour: The bike tour of Richmond is tentatively set for Sunday, June 11, 2023. Both a long and short route will seek to feature recent improvements to the active transportation network to raise community awareness of the neighbourhood facilities that support sustainable travel options.
- Bicycle Education for Students: Jointly with HUB Cycling and the Richmond School District, the City will facilitate in the expansion of cycling education courses to all Grade 6 and 7 elementary school students over a two-year period (i.e., approximately 19 schools per year). Students will learn the rules and responsibilities of riding on City streets and bike paths and receive hands-on practice with fundamental cycling skills on school grounds and local neighbourhood streets. HUB's fleet of bikes includes a range of specialized adaptive bikes that are available to children with physical and cognitive differences to help achieve a goal of 100 per cent participation.
- 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. RATC will be engaged to help enhance active transportation information and resources on the City's website.

- E-Scooter and E-Bike Safety Campaign: Staff continue social media posts to deploy safety and education regarding the use of e-bicycles and e-scooters, focused on raising awareness of the e-scooter pilot project, bylaws and the safe operation of e-scooters (Figure 1). Staff will continue to collaborate with the Richmond RCMP to educate and inform residents on the safe and lawful operation of e-scooters. An information handout to convey the rules and regulations of e-scooters in the city was developed by the Richmond Block Watch office (Figure 2). These were distributed on shared pathways, at road side and at community events in 2022. Similar outreach is planned for 2023.



Figure 1: Social Media Safety Campaign for E-Scooters and E-Bikes



Figure 2: E-Scooter Safety Information Card

- Promotion of Active Transportation Initiatives: Pursue additional opportunities and efforts that can be explored to enhance education and outreach regarding cycling and pedestrian safety in the City, including updating information on the City’s social media platforms. Continue to support HUB Cycling activities including learn to ride and bike maintenance courses.

2022 Active Transportation Highlights

The City continued to expand and enhance the active transportation network in 2022. RATC was engaged in the planning and implementation of the projects highlighted below:

Improvement of Existing Facilities

- Garden City Road Multi-Use Pathway (Lansdowne Road to Westminster Highway): Works in 2022 included completing the paving of the north section of the project and reconfiguring the bus stop area. The project provides a wider facility that is protected from vehicle traffic.
- Alderbridge Way Multi-Use Pathway (Fisher Gate to Shell Road): Completion of Phase 2 of the project along the north side of Alderbridge Way. Phase 1 of the MUP between No. 4 Road and Fisher Gate was completed in 2020.

- Cycling Network Plan Update: Updated City-wide cycling master plan that supports long-term mobility objectives, reflects best practices in cycling infrastructure design and current community needs, and includes a prioritized implementation strategy.

Promotion and Education of Active Transportation

- Go by Week (May and October 2022): Both the May and October 2022 events were held in-person and via digital programming to help with re-integration as restrictions eased for the COVID-19 pandemic. Richmond had 360 participants (a 13% increase compared to 2021). Collectively, Richmond participants logged 1,770 trips for a total distance of nearly 24,000 km.
- HUB Cycling Bike to Shop Week (August 13 to 21, 2022): The event in Richmond was focused in Steveston and included five participating businesses that offered promotions and discounts to participants.
- Bike to School Education for Students: In 2022, with revised delivery methods to comply with existing public health guidelines, a total of 1,627 students from 19 elementary schools (Attachment 1) received hands-on practice with fundamental cycling skills on school grounds and local neighbourhood streets.
- Cycling Education: HUB Cycling hosted learn to ride and bike maintenance courses in partnership with the City. Courses and online webinars totaled 137 attendees with 11 courses taught.
- E-Scooter and E-Bike Pilot Project: Use of the shared e-scooters has grown over the last year with trips continuing to be logged in the winter months. Since the shared e-scooter system deployed in May 2022, over 40,000 trips have been taken in 2022 with an average distance travelled of 1.6 kilometre. Lime provides in-app education and safety tips to avoid accidents and has hosted five in person First Ride safety events in 2022 in partnership with HUB Cycling. Staff report back annually on the status of the pilot project concurrent with the City's required reporting to the BC government. A report to Council providing a comprehensive update on the project is anticipated in Q2 2023.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The active transportation initiatives planned for 2023 will continue efforts to further encourage greater and safer use of pedestrian and cycling modes in Richmond. Active transportation also promotes physical activity and overall health and wellness outcomes. The Richmond Active Transportation Committee continues to participate and support the City's sustainable transportation objectives, 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.

February 15, 2023

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As the Richmond School District is an essential partner in the delivery of the cycling education courses for students, staff recommend that the report be forwarded to the Richmond Council-School Board Liaison Committee for information.



Sonali Hingorani, P. Eng.
Manager, Transportation Planning and New Mobility
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Att. 1: 2022 Summary of Bike to School Education for Students

2022 Summary of Bike to School Education for Students

| School Name | Dates of Instruction | # Students |
|------------------------------|---|------------|
| Daniel Woodward Elementary | October 12th, 13th, 14th | 56 |
| F. A. Tomsett Elementary | October 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 11th | 83 |
| General Currie Elementary | March 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, April 1st | 112 |
| J. G. Diefenbaker Elementary | November 1st, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th | 122 |
| James Gilmore Elementary | May 11th, 12th, 13th, 16th, 17th | 102 |
| James McKinney Elementary | June 16th, 17th, 20th, 22nd, 24th | 75 |
| James Whiteside Elementary | May 19th, 25th, 26th, 30th, 31st | 134 |
| Kathleen McNeely Elementary | March 28th, 29th, 31st, April 4th, 5th | 81 |
| Kingswood Elementary | September 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd | 84 |
| Manoah Steves Elementary | October 17th, 18th, 19th, 24th, 25th | 72 |
| Maple Lane Elementary | September 26th, 27th, 28th | 56 |
| McKay Elementary | November 4th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 14th | 78 |
| Quilchena Elementary | October 24th, 25th, 26th | 56 |
| R. J. Tait Elementary | November 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 14th | 51 |
| Thomas Kidd Elementary | June 7th, 8th, 10th | 50 |
| W. D. Ferris Elementary | May 27th, 31st, June 1st, 2nd, 3rd | 140 |
| Walter Lee Elementary | June 9th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th | 79 |
| William Bridge Elementary | October 25th, 26th, 28th | 56 |
| William Cook Elementary | October 12th, 13th, 17th, 19th, 20th | 140 |