



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: December 10, 2019


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

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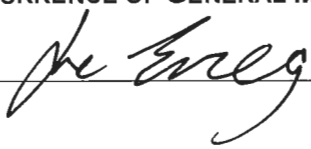

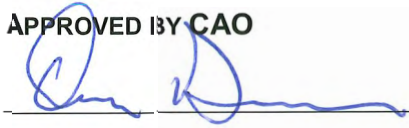
Re: **Richmond Active Transportation Committee – Proposed 2020 Initiatives**

Staff Recommendation

1. That the proposed 2020 initiatives of the Richmond Active Transportation Committee, as outlined in the staff report titled “Richmond Active Transportation Committee - Proposed 2020 Initiatives” dated December 10, 2019 from the Director, Transportation, be endorsed.
2. That a copy of the report titled “Richmond Active Transportation Committee – Proposed 2020 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. Committee members are local residents and/or employees who reflect a diverse range of ages and cycling skills. Several members, including a co-Chair, are also members of HUB Cycling's local Richmond-YVR Committee, which enables direct and on-going communication with the agency.¹

This report reviews the 2019 activities of the RATC and identifies a number of initiatives for 2020 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 Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.

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:

Leadership in effective and sustainable growth that supports Richmond's physical and social needs.

6.3 *Build on transportation and active mobility networks.*

¹ HUB Cycling is a regional non-profit organization that works to improve cycling conditions in Metro Vancouver.

Analysis

The RATC undertook and participated in a number of activities in 2019 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 2019

The City continued to improve Richmond's active transportation network in 2019, which now comprises 78 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

- No. 2 Road (Steveston Highway-Dyke Road): Completion of a two-way off-street multi-use pathway (MUP) on the east and west sides including pedestrian lighting, raised crosswalks and upgraded accessible bus stops (Figure 1). The completed MUP connects to the Steveston Greenway (south of Andrews Road) and will connect to a future MUP on the south side of Steveston Highway between No. 2 Road and Shell Road.
- No. 6 Road (Bridgeport Road-Cambie Road): Substantial completion of an off-street MUP on the west side (Figure 2). The path provides safe walking and cycling access, particularly for employees of the adjacent industrial land uses, along a street that has a relatively higher proportion of truck traffic.



Figure 1: No. 2 Road MUP



Figure 2: No. 6 Road MUP

- Alderbridge Way (No. 4 Road-Fisher Gate): Substantial completion of an off-street MUP on the north side as Phase 1. Phase 2 will complete and extend the pathway east from Fisher Gate to Shell Road in Q3 2020. The pathway will connect to the Shell Road Trail at its eastern terminus and to the Garden City Lands at its western terminus.
- 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.

- 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 in 2018. Pavement markings and wayfinding signage were added in early 2019 to complete the extension.
- Saunders-Woodwards: Initiation of a new east-west bike route located primarily along Saunders Road and Woodward Road between No. 4 Road (with connection to McNair Secondary School) and Railway Avenue (with connection to the Railway Greenway). An existing pathway on the west side of No. 3 Road at Saunders Road was upgraded and bicycle detection added at the Woodward Road-No. 2 Road signalized intersection. Completion of the route is planned in 2020.
- *Secure Bicycle Parking*: An action item within the City's *Community Wellness Strategy* is the provision of secure bicycle parking for visitors to City facilities. As a first step, an automated secure bicycle parking facility has been installed at the Minoru Centre for Active Living through a partnership between the City and the operator. The facility is anticipated to become operational for the public in early 2020 as part of the opening of the Fitness Centre at the site.

Improvement of Existing Facilities

- *Quick Fixes*: The City participated in a regional initiative organized by HUB Cycling to address minor maintenance and improvement measures identified by the local Richmond-YVR HUB Committee. The quick fix items included the upgrade of painted pavement markings to thermoplastic markings for improved visibility and durability, and the addition of green paint at conflict points (Figure 3).
- *Cycling Access to Minoru Centre for Active Living*: Construction of an off-street bike path on eastbound Granville Ave to provide improved cycling access to the Minoru Centre for Active Living.



Figure 3: Enhanced Crosswalk on Saunders Road at Garden City Road

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-No. 2 Road)*: Construction of a two-way off-street paved pathway on the south side in two phases with Phase 1 comprising Shell Road to Mortfield Gate, and Phase 2 comprising Mortfield Gate to No. 2 Road. Construction of Phase 1 is anticipated in Q3 2020. Future phases will extend the pathway westward to connect with the Railway Greenway.

- Charles Street (Sexsmith Road-Bridgeport Station): Extension of the existing off-street pedestrian and cycling paths on Sexsmith Road (Beckwith Road-Charles Street) with an off-street multi-use pathway along the north side of Charles Street to provide a seamless connection to the Bridgeport Canada Line Station and transit exchange for pedestrians and cyclists. Construction is anticipated in Q3 2020.
- Railway Avenue (Steveston Highway-Williams Road): Revision of the existing pavement markings for the northbound on-street bike lane to create both a wider bike lane and a wider adjacent parking lane to improve the safety of cyclists (i.e., provide a greater buffer between a cyclist and the adjacent door zone of the vehicle). Revision of the pavement markings is anticipated in Q2 2020.

Promotion of Active Transportation Network in 2019

The Committee participated in the following activities in 2019 to promote cycling and other active transportation modes in Richmond.

- Bike to Work Week (May and October 2019): 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 465 riders who reside in Richmond registered on-line for both events including 128 new bike commuters. While the number of participants was less than 2018 (likely due to wet weather), these riders collectively logged 2,680 trips for a total distance of 33,358 km (17% increase from 2018) thereby avoiding the emission of 7.2 tonnes of greenhouse gases (Figure 4).

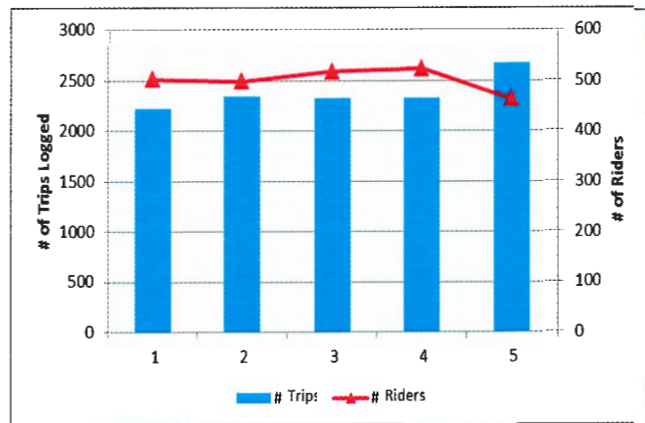


Figure 4: Participation of Cyclists who reside in Richmond in Bike to Work Week

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.

- 19th Annual "Island City, by Bike" Tour (June 9, 2019): 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 5).



Figure 5: Safety Check at 2019 Bike Tour Event

The 19th annual "Island City, by Bike" tour was based at Britannia Heritage Shipyard and offered short (8.5 km) and

long (23 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 featured the Parkside Neighbourhood Bike Route. 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 100 cyclists of all ages and ability, which is comparable to attendance at past recent events.

- *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: Move for Health Week (May 12, 2019) where members led a guided bike ride for the public, Thompson Community Centre Picnic (June 21, 2019) and the Community Directions Fair (October 5, 2019) as part of the City's renewal of the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.
- *HUB Cycling Bike to Shop Day (June 2, 2019):* HUB Cycling staged this annual 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. Due to popularity, HUB Cycling again hosted a guided ride from the Marine Gateway Canada Line station to Steveston that attracted 36 participants (Figure 6). The ride ended at a celebration station in Steveston at the Steveston Farmers and Artisans Market. The station provided local and regional cycling information, snacks, free bike tune-ups, and chances to win prizes. Local merchants offered discounts to participants.



Figure 6: Bike to Shop Day Guided Ride

- *Public Bike Share Pilot Program:* The Committee continued to provide feedback on user experience as well as potential station locations in support of the expansion of the station network in the peak cycling season of Spring-Summer 2019.

Active Transportation Education in 2019

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:*** A total of 347 students from four elementary schools participated in either two or five day “Ride the Road” bike education courses held in co-operation with Richmond School District (Table 1). The courses include in-class lessons, on-bike playground cycling safety training for younger students and neighbourhood road ride education for older youth. 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% participation. The courses were well received and enjoyed the enthusiastic participation of all students and teachers (Figure 7).

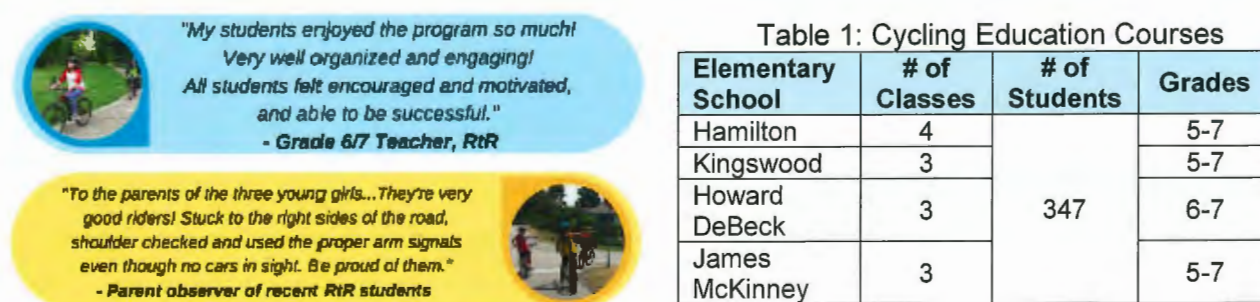


Figure 7: Feedback on Ride the Road Courses

- ***StreetWise Education for Adults:*** Two courses for adults were held in co-operation with Richmond Multicultural Community Services and Immigrant Services Society of BC. A total of 41 attendees took part in a five hour course to enable them to build their cycling skills and gain confidence riding on city streets. Immigrant service providers consistently report to HUB Cycling that the course is one of the most positive and helpful settlement supports that can be provided to newcomers and their families.
- ***Basic Bike Maintenance:*** Two courses, one targeted at seniors and one for the general public, were held in co-operation with Minoru Place Activity Centre and Steveston Community Centre respectively. A total of 31 attendees learned how to make sure their bike is safe and in good working order before riding as well as basic bike maintenance skills.

Proposed Active Transportation Network Initiatives in 2020

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.

- ***Update of Cycling Network Plan:*** Development of 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. This work is anticipated to be completed by Q2 2020.

- 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 Phase 1 of Steveston Highway (Shell Road-Mortfield Gate) and Charles Street (Sexsmith Road-Bridgeport Station). See Attachment 1 for project locations. In addition, the design of cycling facilities will be initiated along the following five corridors:
 - No. 2 Road (Steveston Highway-Williams Road);
 - Steveston Highway (No. 2 Road-Railway Avenue);
 - Shell Road (Highway 99 Overpass-River Road);
 - Gilbert Road (Granville Avenue-Elmbridge Way); and
 - River Road (McCallan Road-No. 2 Road).
- 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.
- 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 2020 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 2020

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 provide input from a user perspective on the evaluation of the pilot program that will end in March 2020.
- Potential Public E-Scooter Share Pilot Program: Amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act approved in October 2019 give the Province the ability to establish a regulatory framework to allow for pilot projects in communities to test new personal motorized mobility technologies such as e-scooters. The Committee will provide input on the City's potential consideration of a pilot e-scooter share program once the provincial regulatory framework is finalized, which is anticipated in Q2 2020.
- Bicycle Education for Students and Adults: The Committee will support the contractor, the Richmond School District and a variety of community agencies in the expansion of cycling

education courses to all Grade 6 and 7 elementary school students over a two-year period plus similar courses for adults including seniors and new immigrants.

- 20th Annual “Island City, by Bike” Tour: Assist in the planning, promotion and staging of the twentieth annual bike tour of Richmond during Bike Month in June 2020, which is set for Sunday, June 14th at the Minoru Centre for Active Living. 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 2020, which includes the provision of celebration stations in Richmond for cyclists.
- 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. Both the Committee and HUB Cycling will be invited to attend the annual Public Works Open House event in May 2020. The Committee will also continue to update, revise and enhance active transportation information on the City’s website and Facebook site.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

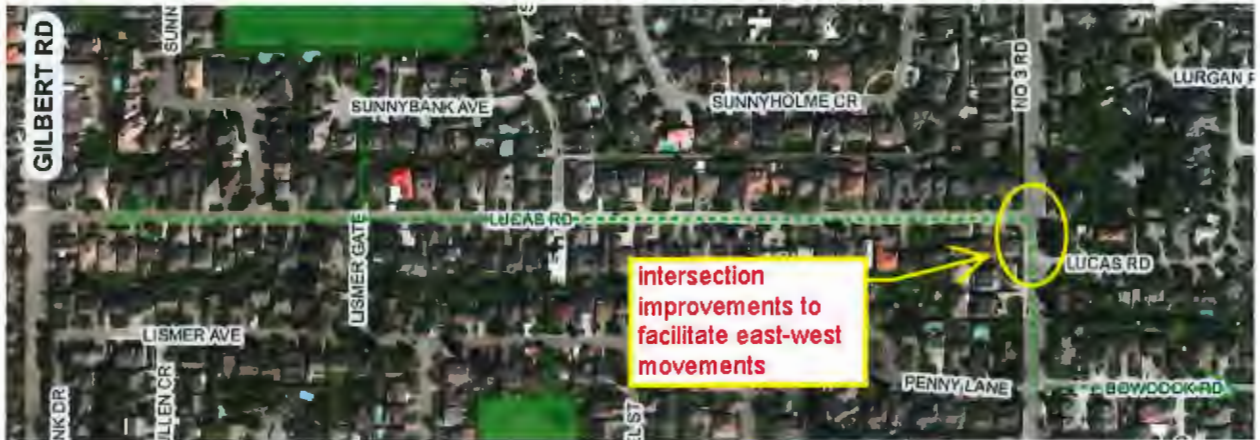
The Richmond Active Transportation Committee continues to build its diversity of users’ experience to support its broader mandate that includes other rolling transportation modes. The Committee’s proposed 2020 initiatives would continue efforts to further encourage greater and safer use of active transportation 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 2020

Location of Planned Active Transportation Network Projects for 2020



Crosstown Neighbourhood Link: Phase 3



Odlin Road Bike Route



Steveston Highway (Mortfield Gate-Shell Road): Phase 1 - Multi-Use Pathway

Location of Planned Active Transportation Network Projects for 2020



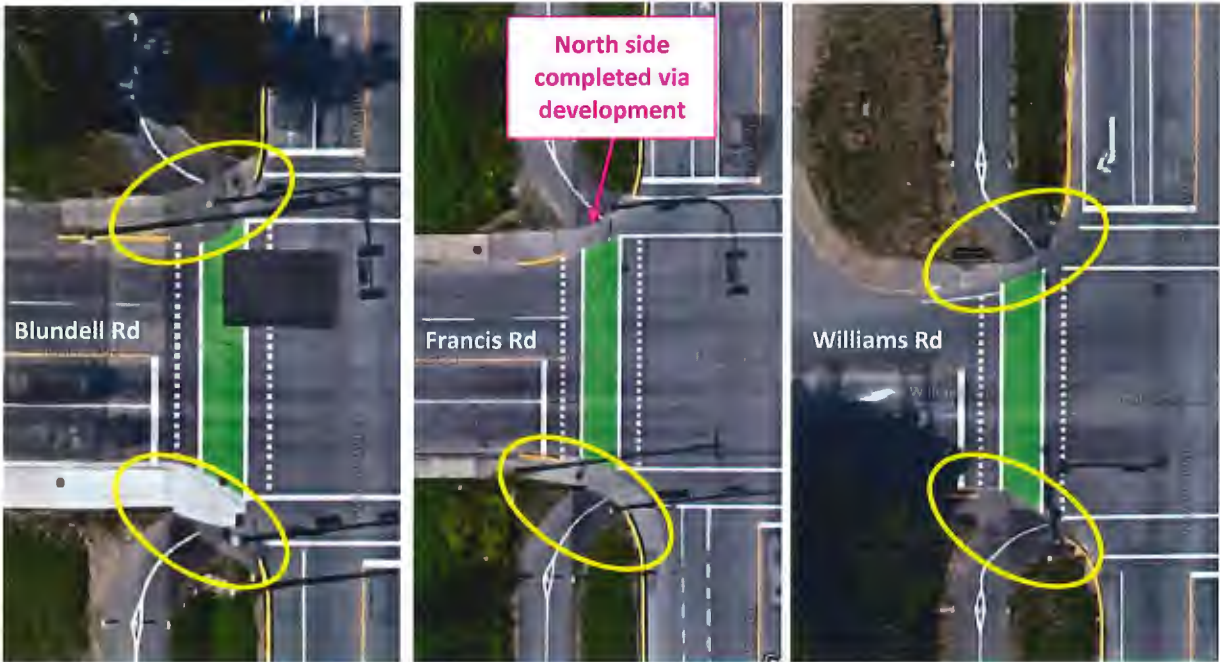
Midtown Neighbourhood Link: Phase 2

Garden City Road (Lansdowne Road-Westminster Hwy): Separate Off-Street Pedestrian & Bike Paths Multi-Use Path



Charles Street (Sexsmith Road-Bridgeport Stn): Multi-use Path on North Side

Location of Planned Active Transportation Network Projects for 2020



Blundell Road-Railway Ave Francis Road-Railway Ave Williams Road-Railway Ave
Upgrade of Railway Greenway Intersections: Curb, Gutter, Sidewalk, Relocate Signal Pole, Signage, and Pavement Markings



Westminster Hwy (Smith Cr-Fraserside Gate): Multi-use Path on West Side