



**To:** Public Works and Transportation Committee

**Date:** December 15, 2016

**From:** Victor Wei, P. Eng.  
Director, Transportation

**File:** 01-0100-20-  
RCYC1/2016-Vol 01

**Re:** **Richmond Active Transportation Committee – Proposed 2017 Initiatives**

**Staff Recommendation**

1. That the proposed 2017 initiatives of the Richmond Active Transportation Committee, as outlined in the staff report titled “Richmond Active Transportation Committee - Proposed 2017 Initiatives” dated December 15, 2016 from the Director, Transportation, be endorsed.
2. That a copy of the above report be forwarded to the Richmond Council-School Board Liaison Committee for information.

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

Att. 2

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

## 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 2016 activities of the RATC and identifies a number of initiatives for 2017 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.

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

*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:

*3.3. Effective transportation and mobility networks.*

### Analysis

The RATC undertook and participated in a number of activities in 2016 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 2016

The City continued to add to Richmond's active transportation network in 2016, which now comprises nearly 71 km of on- and off-street bike and rolling routes. The Committee provided feedback on the planning, design, construction, and/or improvement of the following facilities.

- *Parkside Neighbourhood Link*: Completion of this north-south route on Ash Street between Williams Road and Garden City Park with the upgrade of the special crosswalk on Blundell Road to a pedestrian signal and the addition of pavement markings and signage (Figure 1). A future phase will extend the route north to Westminster Highway to connect to the planned perimeter trails around the Garden City Lands.



Figure 1: Parkside Wayfinding Signage

- Crosstown Neighbourhood Link: Upgrade of special crosswalks to pedestrian signals to facilitate cyclists crossing major arterial roads at No. 2 Road-Colville Road and Gilbert Road-Lucas Road. Currently under development, the east-west Crosstown Neighbourhood Link is aligned between Blundell Road and Francis Road and will link the Railway Greenway to the Parkside Neighbourhood Link on Ash Street.

- Green Surface Treatment: Addition of green-coloured anti-skid surface complete with bike stencils within bike lanes at strategic locations where there is a higher potential for conflicts between cyclists travelling straight through and motorists needing to cross the bike lane in order to merge or make a turn. The vibrant colour is the approved national standard that is intended to highlight and raise awareness to both cyclists and motorists to watch out for each other and use caution when in the area. The green treatment was added within the bike lane at southbound No. 2 Road south of the No. 2 Road Bridge (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Green Surface in No. 2 Road Bike Lane

- Railway Avenue Greenway: Enhancements to the northern section of the greenway that included: upgrade of the special crosswalk at Westminster Highway-McCallan Road to a pedestrian signal; the addition of signage and “sharrow” pavement markings on McCallan Road between Westminster Highway and River Road; construction of a paved ramp from River Road to the Middle Arm Trail; and addition of new crosswalk with green surface treatment on River Road at McCallan Road (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Railway Greenway Crossing at River Road-McCallan Road

- New Crossing on Granville Avenue: The Committee provided feedback on the design for a new pedestrian-cycling crossing to be located on Granville Avenue at the main entrance to the new Minoru Complex between Minoru Gate and Gilbert Road.
- Detailed Design for Road Improvement Projects: The Committee provided feedback on the progress of detailed design for the following planned roadway improvement projects that each include the provision of a two-way paved multi-use pathway: No. 2 Road (Steveston

each include the provision of a two-way paved multi-use pathway: No. 2 Road (Steveston Highway-Dyke Road) and Lansdowne Road (Minoru Blvd-Alderbridge Way).

- River Road*: The Committee, other cyclists and members of HUB Cycling and the BC Cycling Coalition provided feedback on road safety improvement options for potential implementation on River Road between No. 6 Road and Westminster Highway at its December 2016 meeting. Feedback was obtained from one of the individuals who spoke on this topic at the November meeting of the Public Works & Transportation Committee; the other individual who spoke was invited but was unable to attend. The individual who wrote a letter to Mayor and Councillors on the topic (also published in the Richmond News) was invited but did not attend. Staff will address the Council referral to “examine the circumstances and the area around the accident that occurred on River Road on November 6, 2016 and report back” in a separate report anticipated to be presented in early 2017.
- George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project*: As part of staff’s participation in the Cycling Working Group established by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for the Project, the Committee provided feedback on potential alternative north-south cycling routes in Richmond that would parallel Highway 99 given that cycling facilities will not be provided within the highway right-of-way.

Promotion of Active Transportation Network in 2016

The Committee participated in the following activities in 2016 to promote cycling and other active transportation modes in Richmond.

- Bike to Work Week (May and October 2016)*: The Committee worked with organizers of this region-wide annual initiative to continue to successfully stage these events in Richmond. Region-wide, the two events recorded year-over-year increases for the number of people registered online (a combined total of over 17,400 cyclists) and the number of commutes logged (nearly 96,000, up 12 per cent from 2016). A total of 692 riders who work in Richmond registered on-line for both events (up from 543 participants in 2015), and collectively logged 5,906 trips for a total distance of 84,000 kilometres thereby avoiding the emission of 18.2 tonnes of greenhouse gases (see Figure 4). Within this group were three teams from the City of Richmond comprising 33 cyclists. Together, the City teams logged 321 trips for a total distance of 2,947 kilometres, thus avoiding the emission of 639 kilograms of greenhouse gases.

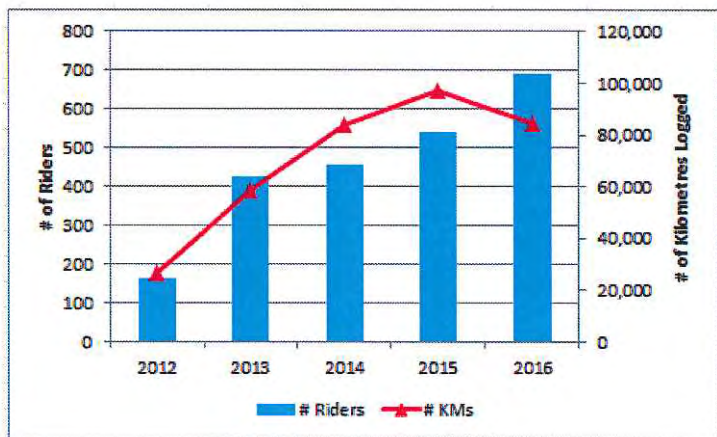


Figure 4: Participation of Cyclists who work in Richmond in Bike to Work Week

Celebration stations for cyclists were held at the Canada Line Bridge and Flight Path Park on Russ Baker Way for both the Spring and Fall events plus at Richmond General Hospital during the Fall event. Collectively, these celebration stations logged numbers comparable to 2015 despite wetter weather conditions.

- 16<sup>th</sup> Annual “Island City, by Bike” Tour (June 12, 2016): 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. The 16<sup>th</sup> annual “Island City, by Bike” tour was based at Cambie Community Centre and offered short (6.5-km) and long (22-km) rides with escorts provided by volunteer members of the Richmond RCMP bike squad. The loops featured the Bath Slough and Bridgeport Trails as well as quiet roads in east Richmond (e.g., No. 7 Road). 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 70 cyclists of all ages and ability. Attendance at the event over the past five years has averaged 100 participants.
- All Aboard! (August 6, 2016): The Committee participated in this annual event held at the Steveston Interurban Tram Building, which celebrates the history of transportation in Richmond. Members provided information on how to get around Richmond in fun, safe and environmentally friendly ways.
- Update of Cycling & Trails Map: The Committee provided input into the update of the 2013 edition of the Richmond cycling and trails map that will incorporate recent improvements to the local cycling and trails network including the Parkside Neighbourhood Link. The new map will be produced in a more portable format (i.e., folds down to slightly larger than a credit card) and will be distributed in early 2017 to community centres, libraries and other civic facilities as well as handed out at various City events.

#### Active Transportation Education in 2016

The City provided funding to *HUB: Your Cycling Connection*, a non-profit organization focused on making cycling better through education and events, 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. Beginning in 2015, the City is eligible for a 30 per cent discount off program costs as a result of Council’s endorsement in October 2014 of the City becoming a TravelSmart partner municipality with TransLink.

- Bike to School Education for Students: Nearly 600 students from Grades 4 and 5 at Jessie Wowk and McKinney Elementary Schools (two classes at each school) and Grades 6 and 7 at Garden City, AB Dixon and Walter Lee Elementary Schools (two classes at each school) participated in 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. Following the

course, students reported a 43 per cent increase in cycling, which is higher than the regional average of 32 per cent. Attachment 1 provides a summary of the outcomes and feedback.

- *Learn to Ride Education for Adults*: Four beginner's courses targeted to recent immigrants were held in co-operation with Immigrant Services Society of BC. A total of 13 new riders of varied immigrant backgrounds, who live in Richmond, took to the classroom, an empty parking lot, and eventually to the road to learn to ride safely and confidently on Richmond streets. Attachment 2 provides a summary of the course outcomes.

### Proposed Active Transportation Network Initiatives in 2017

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*: Projects include further progress on the Crosstown Neighbourhood Link and improvements to Westminster Highway (conversion of bike lanes to two-way multi-use path between No. 8 Road and Nelson Road), Great Canadian Way (upgrade of sidewalk to two-way multi-use path between Bridgeport Road and Van Horne Way) and River Drive (construction of new two-way multi-use path between Van Horne Way and No. 4 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 Replacement, No. 2 Road upgrade (Steveston Highway-Dyke Road), and new civic facilities at Minoru Park.

### Proposed Education and Promotion of Active Transportation in 2017

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

- *Distribution of Cycling & Trails Map*: Identify locations and facilitate distribution of the new map to ensure it is broadly accessible to the community (e.g., deliver to local bike shops).
- *17<sup>th</sup> 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 2017, which is set for Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at West Richmond Community Centre. Both the long and short routes will feature the recent improvements to the Railway Greenway at its northern end and a preview of the Crosstown Neighbourhood Link to raise community awareness of the neighbourhood facilities that support walking, cycling and rolling activities.

- *Bike to Work & School*: Assist in the planning, promotion and staging of this region-wide event during May and October 2017, 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 to expand the delivery of safe cycling education courses to additional elementary schools and recent immigrants in Richmond.
- *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**

Project costs associated with the expansion and improvement of the active transportation network for 2017 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.

### **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 2017 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.



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Att. 1: Summary of 2016 Bike to School Program Results

Att. 2: Summary of 2016 Streetwise Immigrant Newcomer Program Results

## HUB Cycling 2016 Instruction for City of Richmond Youth

The City of Richmond allocated an active transportation / sustainability budget in 2016 which, matched with TransLink TravelSmart subsidies, allowed HUB to deliver two Learn2Ride courses and three Ride the Road courses in Richmond schools providing positive impact for approximately 588 Richmond youth.

### Learn2Ride Courses:

- **Jessie Wowk Elementary.** delivered to four classes of grade 3 to 6 students. Sept 14 and 21.
- **McKinney Elementary.** delivered to six classes of grade 3 to 5 students. Sept 12 and 19.

### Ride the Road Courses:

- **Garden City Elementary.** instruction to four classes of grade 4 to 7 students. May 9-13
- **Walter Lee Elementary.** instruction to three classes of grade 5 to 7 students. June 13-17
- **AB Dixon Elementary.** instruction to four classes of grade 5 to 7 students. Sept 13-27

### Richmond Teacher Feedback

*"It is an excellent program (and delivery). I look forward to booking again next year."* – Walter Lee Elementary

*"Staff voted to use our limited school resources to purchase extra sessions above what we won so that we could make sure that every student from grade 2-5 (and some 6's) got the lessons. Staff enthusiastically signed up their classes and in some cases split classes to fill us sessions so we could be sure we reached as many as possible."* – James McKinney Elementary

Photos of Garden City Ride the Road bike maintenance day:





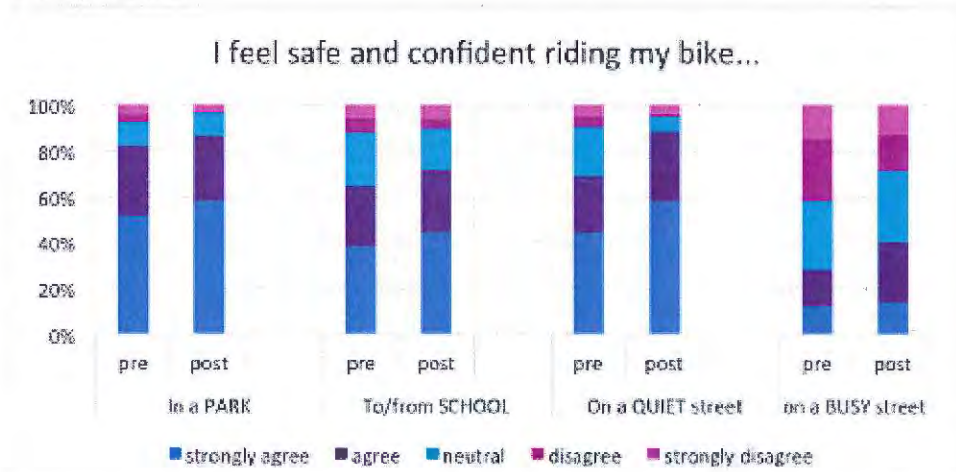
Following are indicators about potential transportation habit changes related to the delivery of HUB Ride the Road courses at Richmond schools.

**52%** of students said they were more likely to ride a bike after the course

**78%** of students said the course was effective in teaching them bike safety skills

Students reported a **43%** increase in riding after the course - *higher than regional average of 32%*

**2.2%** of students say they have never ridden a bike prior to the course – *on par with regional average of 2.3%*



Students reported some increased sense of safety and confidence in cycling in all settings post course.



The proportion of students who said they were "Fairly" or "Very" knowledgeable about road cycling safety increased from 61% to 82% after the course.

## HUB 2016 StreetWise Immigrant Newcomer Course in Richmond

The City of Richmond Transportation and Sustainability Departments funded HUB to deliver one *Immigrant Learn to Ride* course in 2016. The *Immigrant Services Society of BC* (ISSofBC) acted as HUB's primary partner for organizing and recruiting for the course.

HUB divided participants into two different classes, depending upon whether each had prior cycling skills. For the participants getting their first introduction to cycling, HUB delivered a Level 1: *Learn to Ride* course. For the participants with good general cycling skills but wanting more city riding knowledge, we delivered Level 2: *Ride the Road* which included a short on-road instruction session.

### Immigrant Newcomer Course Delivery

Level 1 Course (Intro to Cycling): 2 participants

Level 2 Course (Urban Cycling Skills): 11 participants

Friday July 8, Friday July 15; courses delivered at ISSofBC Richmond and Garden City Park

### Course Outcomes

#### *All immigrant newcomer course participants (Levels 1 and 2):*

- Developed their ability to balance, pedal, steer and brake on a bicycle
- Built their basic cycling skills including straight-line riding, turning, braking, shoulder checks, and hand signals

#### *Immigrant newcomers with prior cycling experience (Level 2):*

- Learned about the Canadian road use context, specific traffic law (BC Motor Vehicle Act) and how insurance applies to cycling
- Gained knowledge about urban cycling infrastructure and safety equipment
- Became familiar with various types of cycling gear including clothing, helmets, lights and reflectors, cargo carriers, tools and rain gear
- Understood the dynamics of bike storage, security, and theft prevention
- Learned how to assess their bike's condition, and make basic adjustments to keep their bike operating well
- Built practical urban cycling and collision avoidance skills in a group ride setting
- Found out about the most useful Metro Vancouver cycle route planning resources and how to use them
- Assessed their individual course learning outcomes through applied road and written tests.