



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: December 11, 2014

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

File: 01-0100-20-
RCYC1/2014-Vol 01

Re: **Richmond Active Transportation Committee – Proposed 2015 Initiatives**

Staff Recommendation

1. That the proposed 2015 initiatives of the Richmond Active Transportation Committee, as described in the report, 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)

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"/>	
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 2014 activities of the RATC and identifies a number of initiatives for 2015 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 would contribute towards the City's sustainability goals regarding greenhouse gas emission reductions and mode share shift as articulated in the Official Community Plan and, in turn, the city's long-term health, liveability and vibrancy.

Analysis

The RATC undertook and participated in a number of activities in 2014 that contributed to enhanced cycling and rolling opportunities, and increased education and awareness of active transportation in Richmond.

Expansion and Improvement of Active Transportation Network in 2014

The City continued to add to the active transportation network in 2014, which now comprises nearly 65 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.

- *Railway Avenue Greenway*: Refinement of the intersection treatments and signage for this major north-south pedestrian, cycling and rolling greenway that connects Steveston with the Middle Arm Greenway. Enhancements undertaken in 2014 include the installation of additional stanchions with bike pushbuttons, the construction of two raised crosswalks complete with green surface treatment at Granville Avenue (see Figure 1) and Homma Elementary (on Railway Avenue), and the installation of additional signage for both motorists and greenway users.
- *Parkside Neighbourhood Link*: Construction of a paved and protected multi-use pathway to safely accommodate two-way cycling, rolling and walking along the north side of Granville Avenue between the north end of Ash Street and Garden City Park. The connection forms



Figure 1: Raised Crosswalk at Granville Avenue

part of this second neighbourhood bike route that links the South Arm area (Williams Road at Ash Street) to Garden City Park.

- *Use of Green Surface Treatment in Bike Lanes:* 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 make a right 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 the following three locations: (1) westbound Granville Avenue approaching Railway Avenue; (2) southbound Minoru Blvd approaching Granville Avenue; and (3) northbound Great Canadian Way at the driveway to Costco north of Bridgeport Road.
- *Westminster Highway Improvements:* Widening of existing shoulder and addition of extruded curb to provide protection from vehicles for roadway sections in the vicinity of Gilley Road and Smith Crescent in the Hamilton area. The improvements included a treatment that allows cyclists to bypass transit buses and passengers at bus stops when the stop is in use (see Figure 2).
- *No. 6 Road Pathway (Westminster Hwy-Commerce Parkway):* Completion of a new two-way off-street multi-use pathway on the west side of No. 6 Road as part of the scope of a road widening project. The project included the use of the green surface treatment at crosswalk locations similar to that along the Railway Greenway.
- *Lansdowne Road Extension (Minoru Blvd-Alderbridge Way):* The Committee provided feedback on the preliminary design for this roadway project that includes the provision of a two-way multi-use pathway on the north side.
- *Identification of Projects & Initiatives:* The Committee identified a preliminary list of projects and programs that support the implementation of active transportation initiatives that align with the mobility and access goals of the Official Community Plan (OCP) as well as the Parks and Open Space Strategy. The next steps will be to rank and prioritize the projects for future implementation through the City's annual capital and operating budget process.



Figure 2: Bike Lane Treatment at Bus Stop on Westminster Hwy

Promotion of Active Transportation Network in 2014

The Committee participated in the following activities in 2014 to promote cycling and other active transportation modes in Richmond.

- *Bike to Work Week (May and October 2014):* 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 broke records for the number of people registered online (a

combined total of nearly 12,000 cyclists including 2,368 participants who were new to cycle commuting). Within Richmond, two celebration stations for cyclists (located at the Canada Line Bridge and Flight Path Park on Russ Baker Way) also logged record numbers during the Spring event: a total of 452 cyclists (i.e., stopping at the commuter station or passing by) during a 2-hour period (see Figure 3). Notably, the Spring 2014 event recorded more cyclists even though there were fewer celebration stations than Spring 2013 (i.e., two versus four stations, respectively).

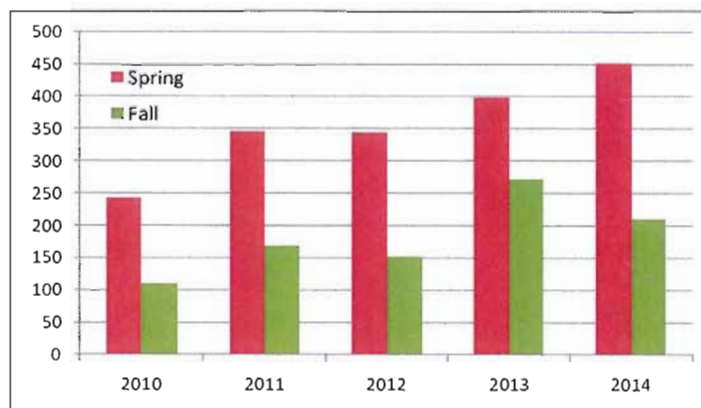


Figure 3: # Cyclists Logged at Commuter Stations during Bike to Work Week

A total of 417 participations in Richmond registered on-line for both events including 114 new riders, and collectively logged 1,886 trips for a total distance of 24, 086 kilometres thereby avoiding the emission of 5.2 tonnes of greenhouse gases.

- Railway Greenway Opening (June 7, 2014): The Committee participated in the event by cycling down the Railway Greenway as part of the community parade to officially open the eco-corridor. Committee members also staffed a booth and provided information to and responded to questions from the public regarding cycling safety and regulations, and existing and forthcoming cycling and rolling routes in Richmond.

- 14th Annual “Island City, by Bike” Tour (June 8, 2014): 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 14th annual “Island City, by Bike” tour was based at Thompson Community Centre and offered short (9-km) and long (28-km) rides with escorts provided by volunteer members of the Richmond RCMP bike squad. The loops featured the Railway Greenway plus a recently completed off-street multi-use path parallel to Russ Baker Way on Sea Island built by the Vancouver Airport Authority. Activities included a bike and helmet safety check prior to the ride plus a barbecue lunch and raffle prize draw at the finish. The event attracted over 100 cyclists of all ages and ability (see Figure 4). Attendance at the event has consistently grown over the past several years and now averages 110 participants, up from approximately 75 in each of the first five years of the event.



Figure 4: 2014 Bike Tour Participants

- *Garden City Bike Park Opening (July 23, 2014)*: The Committee hosted a booth at this event and provided information and responses to questions from the public regarding cycling safety, and existing and planned cycling and rolling routes in Richmond.
- *All Aboard! (August 9, 2014)*: The Committee participated in this event held at the Steveston Interurban Tram Building, which celebrated the history of transportation in Richmond. Members provided information on how to get around Richmond in fun, safe and environmentally friendly ways.

Active Transportation Education in 2014

The City provided funding of \$7,260 to *HUB: Your Cycling Connection*, a non-profit organization focused on making cycling better through education and events, to operate the following 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 OCP goals. Beginning in 2015, the City will be 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.

- *Ride the Road Bicycle Education for Students*: Four classes of 110 Grades 4 and 5 students at General Currie Elementary School (April 2014) and four classes of 120 Grades 6 and 7 students at Spul’u’kwuks Elementary School (July 2014) 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. Post-program survey responses from Spul’u’kwuks students indicated that over 90 per cent were more likely to ride their bike to school post-course (see Figure 5).

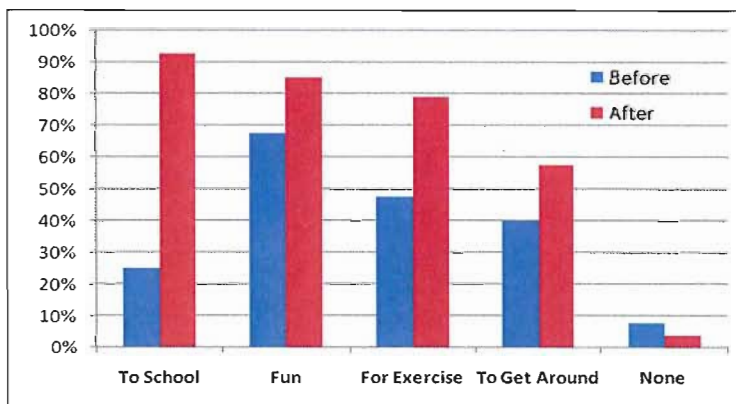


Figure 5: Likelihood to Ride by Purpose for Spul’u’kwuks Grades 6 & 7 Students

- *Learn to Ride*: In June 2014, a beginner’s course targeted to recent immigrants was offered in co-operation with Immigrant Services Society of BC. Twelve 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.

Other Initiatives related to Active Transportation in 2014

The Committee participated in the following initiatives related to active transportation.

- *George Massey Tunnel Replacement*: On March 16, 2014, Committee members along with City staff attended a cycling workshop organized by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project (GMTR) Team to seek input from the cycling community regarding cycling access on the part of the Highway 99 corridor that pertains to the project including the new bridge and Highway 99 between the U.S. border and Bridgeport Road. In November 2014, the Committee provided further feedback on subsequent conceptual cycling access options for the new bridge prepared by the GMTR Team.
- *Update of Cycling Section on City Website*: The Committee reviewed and provided instructive feedback regarding the format and content of the cycling section of the City's website. The section was updated over the Summer-Fall period and now is easier to navigate plus the content better reflects the City's OCP goals with respect to encouraging active transportation.
- *Field Trip to City of Vancouver*: Committee members organized a cycling tour of recently implemented innovative cycling facilities in the City of Vancouver in July 2014. Featured designs included Hornby Street and Dunsmuir Street cycle tracks, Comox-Helmcken Greenway, bike box and bike traffic signal at Main Street-Union Street (Adanac Bikeway), Burrard Street-2nd Avenue intersection redesign, and Point Grey Road.

Proposed Active Transportation Network Initiatives in 2015

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.

- *Prioritization of Future Active Transportation Network Projects*: Following development of a preliminary list of potential initiatives, the next steps are to rank and prioritize the projects for future implementation through the City's annual capital and operating budget process.
- *Planned Active Transportation Network Expansion*: Projects include the completion of the Parkside Neighbourhood Link with the upgrade of the special crosswalk on Blundell Road at Ash Street to a pedestrian signal, initiation of the Crosstown Neighbourhood Link and further improvements to the Railway Avenue Greenway (e.g., upgrade of the special crosswalk on Westminster Highway at McCallan Road to a pedestrian signal).
- *Cycling Network Improvement Projects*: Potential project 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 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, Westminster Highway widening (Nelson Road-McMillan Way), interim Lansdowne Road extension (Minoru Blvd-Alderbridge Way) and new civic facilities at Minoru Park.

Proposed Education and Promotion of Active Transportation in 2015

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

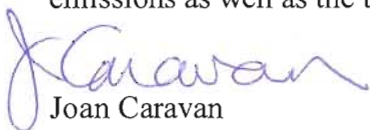
- 15th Annual "Island City, by Bike" Tour: Assist in the planning, promotion and staging of the fifteenth annual bike tour of Richmond during Bike Month in June 2015, which is set for Sunday, June 10th at South Arm Community Centre. Both the long and short routes will utilize the Parkside Neighbourhood Link to raise community awareness of this amenity that supports walking, cycling and rolling activities.
- Bike to Work & School: Assist in the planning, promotion and staging of this region-wide event during May and November 2015, which includes the provision of celebration stations for cyclists.
- Bicycle Education for Students: In co-operation with HUB and the Richmond School District, expand the delivery of the course to additional elementary schools in Richmond.
- Learn to Ride Courses: Work with HUB and a variety of community agencies to host and expand (in response to demand) the delivery of safe cycling education courses for 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 provide education and awareness notices regarding active transportation in the City Page of the *Richmond Review* and 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 and now has the participation of members who have a specific perspective on wheelchair/scooter users and in-line skating. The Committee's proposed 2015 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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