



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: January 24, 2018

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

File: 01-0100-20-
RCYC1/2018-Vol 01

Re: **Richmond Active Transportation Committee – Proposed 2018 Initiatives**

Staff Recommendation

1. That the proposed 2018 initiatives of the Richmond Active Transportation Committee, as outlined in the staff report titled “Richmond Active Transportation Committee - Proposed 2018 Initiatives” dated January 24, 2018 from the Director, Transportation, be endorsed.
2. That a copy of the report titled “Richmond Active Transportation Committee – Proposed 2018 Initiatives” be forwarded to the Richmond Council-School Board Liaison Committee for information.

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

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Parks Services Recreation Services Sustainability Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <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.

This report reviews the 2017 activities of the RATC and identifies a number of initiatives for 2018 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 33% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 based on 2007 levels by prioritizing and funding walking, rolling and cycling infrastructure and, in turn, support Richmond's long-term health, liveability and vibrancy.

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 2017 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 2017

The City continued to improve Richmond's active transportation network in 2017, which 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.

- *Crosstown Neighbourhood Link*: 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 (see Attachment 1 for alignment map and phases). Phases 1 and 2 were completed between Railway Avenue and Gilbert Road. Phase 3 will commence in 2018 with upgrades to the Lucas Road-No. 3 Road-

Bowcock Road intersections to facilitate the east-west movement of cyclists. The bike route is anticipated to be completed with Phase 4 in 2019.

- *Garden City Road Bike Route:* To address conflicts between northbound cyclists using the on-street bike lane on Great Canadian Way north of Bridgeport Road and right-turning motorists at the Costco driveway, the existing pathway and sidewalk on the west side of Great Canadian Way between Bridgeport Road and Charles Street was upgraded to a 3.0 m wide multi-use pathway (MUP) with pedestrian lighting. At its northern end, the new MUP connects to the existing MUP on Van Horne Way that in turn links to the Canada Line Bridge. At its southern end, the new MUP will connect to a MUP being constructed as part of the frontage requirements of developments on the west side of Garden City Road between Sea Island Way and Capstan Way. Collectively, these improvements are part of the City's continued efforts to upgrade existing and establish new cycling facilities that are physically separated from adjacent vehicle traffic, particularly in the City Centre.

- *On-Street Bike Corral:* Richmond's first on-street bike corral was installed in Steveston on No. 1 Road immediately south of Moncton Street (Figure 1). This form of bike parking not only enables the provision of bike racks at a site where there is insufficient boulevard width to accommodate a rack but also does not impact on-street vehicle parking as the bike corral is located within the intersection clearance zone.



Figure 1: Bike Corral on No. 1 Road

- *Green Surface Treatment:* Addition of green-coloured anti-skid surface within bike lanes or at crosswalks 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 crosswalks for the Shell Road Trail and the MUP on Westminster Highway east of No. 6 Road (Figure 2).



Figure 2a: Westminster Hwy MUP at No. 7 Road



Figure 2b: Shell Road Trail at Granville Ave

- *Detailed Design for Active Transportation Projects*: The Committee provided feedback on the progress of detailed design for the following planned active transportation improvement projects that each include the provision of a two-way paved multi-use pathway: Sexsmith Road (Beckwith Road-Charles St) and River Drive (Van Horne Way-No. 4 Road).
- *River Road*: The Committee continued to provide feedback on road safety improvement options for implementation on River Road between No. 6 Road and Westminster Highway.

- *Cycling Wayfinding*: Additional cycling wayfinding signage and pavement markings were installed southbound on the Garden City Road bike route south of Cook Road to indicate the alternative use of Citation Drive as a quiet bypass route for southbound cyclists destined for westbound Granville Avenue (Figure 3). In addition, street name signs based on Parks' Wayfinding Strategy will be installed at the cross streets along the Shell Road and Bridgeport Trails to orient cyclists who may be unfamiliar with the routes.



Fig 3: Wayfinding Sign for Citation Dr

- *TransLink Initiatives*: The Committee provided input into the following regional initiatives being led by TransLink:
 - Southwest Area Transport Plan: TransLink staff attended the June 14, 2017 meeting of the Committee as part of the Phase 2 public consultation activities seeking feedback on proposed transit service changes and regionally significant cycling corridors;
 - Bike Parkade: Design work for the planned construction of a secure bike parkade at the Bridgeport Canada Line Station, anticipated in 2019; and
 - Bicycle Monitoring: The installation of bicycle counters on select bike routes in Richmond, anticipated in 2018, as part of a systematic, regional program to count bicycle trips and monitor bicycle use throughout the region with the data also being used to support the planning and assessment of cycling infrastructure and program investments. At least three counters will be installed in Richmond. While the locations have yet to be finalized, candidates include Great Canadian Way south of Van Horne Way, No. 3 Road south of Saba Road, Railway Avenue north of Williams Road, Westminster Highway east of No. 6 Road, Granville Avenue west of Minoru Blvd, and the No. 2 Road Bridge.

Promotion of Active Transportation Network in 2017

The Committee participated in the following activities in 2017 to promote cycling and other active transportation modes in Richmond.

- *Bike to Work Week (May and October 2017)*: The Committee worked with the organizer (HUB Cycling) of this region-wide annual initiative to continue to successfully stage these events in Richmond. Region-wide, the number of registered participants was relatively consistent to 2016 (1% decline). A total of 519 riders who reside in Richmond registered on-line for both events (up from 500 in 2016) including 109 new bike commuters, and collectively logged 2,330 trips for a total distance of 30,583 kilometres thereby avoiding the emission of 6.6 tonnes of greenhouse gases (see Figure 4). Within this group were four

teams from the City of Richmond. Together, the City teams logged 211 trips for a total distance of 2,035 kilometres, thus avoiding the emission of 441 kilograms of greenhouse gases.

A total of five 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 466 cyclists, which is comparable to past years.

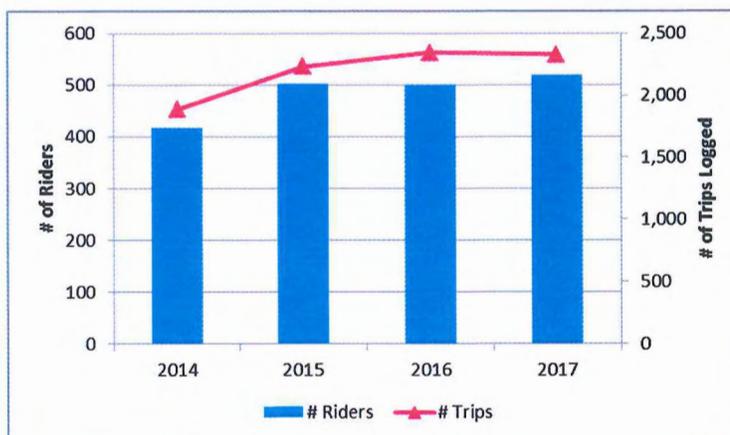


Figure 4: Participation of Cyclists who reside in Richmond in Bike to Work Week

- 17th Annual “Island City, by Bike” Tour (June 11, 2017): 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 17th annual “Island City, by Bike” tour was based at West Richmond Community Centre and offered short (9-km) and long (18-km) rides with escorts provided by volunteer members of the Richmond RCMP bike squad. The loops featured the Railway Greenway and the Crabapple Ridge 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 75 cyclists of all ages and ability, which is comparable to attendance at past recent events.

- Update of Cycling & Recreational Trails Map: The new map, produced in a more portable format (i.e., folds down to slightly larger than a credit card), was distributed in early 2017 to community centres, libraries and other civic facilities as well as handed out at various City events (Figure 4).

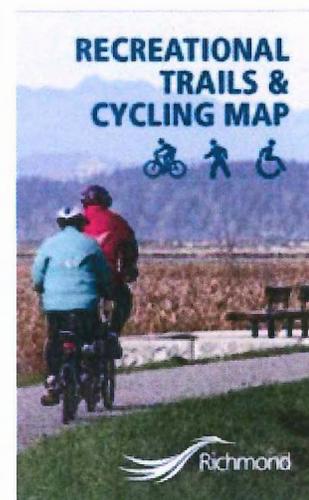


Figure 4: Map Cover

- 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: Ships to Shore (May 5-6, 2017) at Garry Point Park and All Aboard! (August 19, 2017) at the Steveston Interurban Tram Building.
- HUB Cycling Bike to Shop Day (July 23, 2017): HUB Cycling staged the second annual Bike to Shop Days event to promote cycling as attractive and sustainable form of transportation. For the first time, a celebration station was located in Richmond at Steveston (No. 1 Road-Bayview Street) that provided local and regional cycling information, snacks, free bike tune-ups, and chances to win prizes. Local merchants offered discounts to participants.

Active Transportation Education in 2017

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.

- *Bike to School Education for Students*: A total of over 330 students from Grades 6 and 7 at Talmey (three classes) and Ferris (five classes) Elementary Schools and Grades 4 through 7 at Mitchell Elementary Schools (four classes) 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 58 per cent increase in cycling and a higher number of days per week that they biked to school. Attachment 2 provides a summary of the outcomes and feedback.
- *StreetWise Education for Adults*: One beginner's course targeted to recent immigrants was held in co-operation with Immigrant Services Society of BC. A total of 11 new riders (the number of participants is limited to maintain the teacher-student ratio) 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 3 provides a summary of the course outcomes.

Proposed Active Transportation Network Initiatives in 2018

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*: City capital projects include further progress on the Crosstown and Parkside Neighbourhood Links, and improvements to Westminster Highway (rebuild and widening where feasible of the existing two-way multi-use path between No. 6 Road and No. 7 Road), Odlin Road (new east-west route connecting to the Aberdeen Canada Line Station) and River Drive (construction of new two-way multi-use path between Van Horne Way and No. 4 Road). Conceptual design will also be initiated for the northern extension of the Shell Road Trail (Highway 99 Overpass to River Road) in anticipation of the project being proposed for inclusion in the 2019 Capital Budget.
- *City Centre Cycling Network Update*: Per the Council-approved 2018 Capital Budget, the cycling network plan identified in the City Centre Area Plan (last updated in 2007) will be updated to ensure it is reflective of current needs and industry design standards. The work will include an implementation strategy to advance expansion of the cycling network.
- *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, installation of delineators to prevent motorists from encroaching into bike lanes, and the expansion of bicycle parking including additional on-street bike corrals.

- *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, No. 2 Road upgrade (Steveston Highway-Dyke Road), 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 2018 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 2018

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

- *Dockless Bike Share*: As the City has been approached by company representatives interested in launching the operation of dockless bike share systems (i.e., bicycles that are accessed via a mobile app and equipped with GPS and digital locks so that they can be parked anywhere) in Richmond, the Committee will provide input on the factors that should be considered with respect to its potential implementation.
- *18th 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 2018, which is set for Sunday, June 10th at Thompson Community Centre. 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 & School*: Assist in the planning, promotion and staging of this region-wide event during May and October 2018, 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, new for 2018, a course targeted to seniors.
- *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

None.

Conclusion

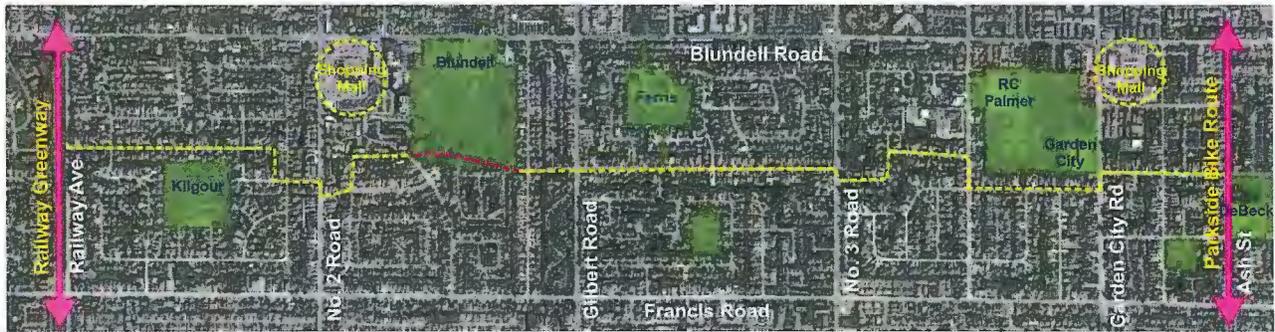
The Richmond Active Transportation Committee continues to build its diversity of users' experience to support its broader mandate that includes other rolling transportation modes. The Committee's proposed 2018 initiatives would continue efforts to further encourage greater and safer use of active transportation 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.



Joan Caravan
Transportation Planner
(Staff Liaison to Richmond Active Transportation Committee)
(604-276-4035)

- Att. 1: Crosstown Neighbourhood Bike Route: Alignment and Phases
- Att. 2: Summary of 2017 Bike to School Program Results
- Att. 3: Summary of 2017 StreetWise Immigrant Newcomer Program Results

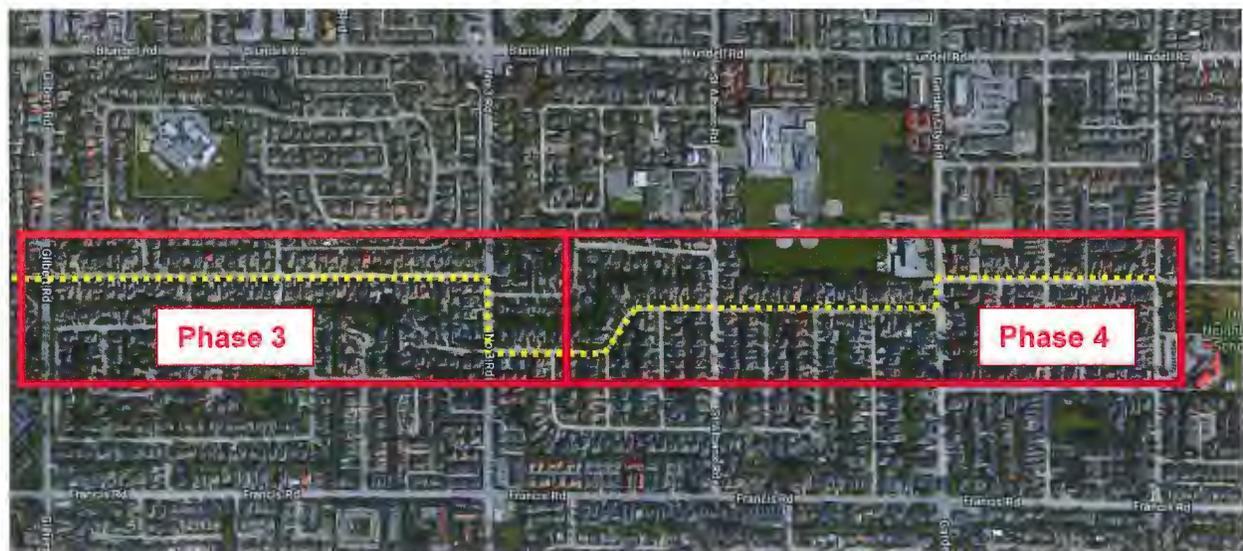
Crosstown Neighbourhood Bike Route: Alignment and Phases



Route Alignment



Phases 1 and 2: Complete



Phase 3 (Planned 2018) and Phase 4 (Planned 2019)

2017 Bike to School Education in the City of Richmond.

In 2017 the City of Richmond Transportation Planning funding allowed HUB Cycling to deliver a total of three *Ride the Road* courses providing positive impact for approximately 336 youth in the City of Richmond. In addition, TransLink funded three *Learn2Ride* courses. *NOTE: The outcomes for TransLink funded courses are included in a separate 2017 TransLink Bike Education final report from HUB Cycling, which will also be distributed to the City of Richmond.*

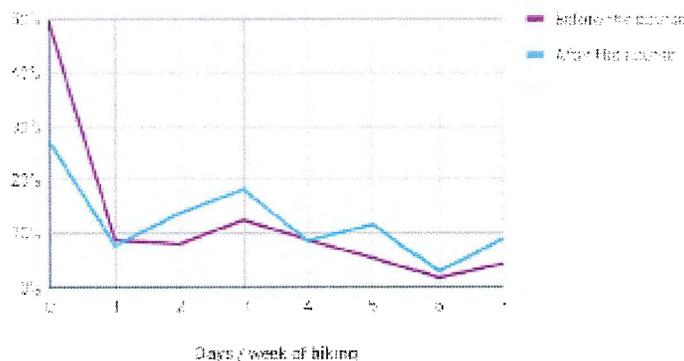
Ride the Road Courses:

- **Talmey Elementary:** delivered to three classes of grade 6 and 7 students. May 10-16.
- **Ferris Elementary:** delivered to five classes of grade 6 and 7 students. June 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8.
- **Mitchell Elementary:** delivered to four classes of grade 4 to 7 students. May 31, June 1, 2, 5, and 6.

"Thank you for organizing the HUB workshops for our students. We have all enjoyed having Lorraine and her crew here and learnt lots about biking and safe riding. Thank you again for offering us this wonderful learning opportunity."

-Teacher at Mitchell Elementary

Change in cycling mode share



Students report a **58%** increase in riding after the course as shown by this graph.

On average students biked 1.6 days/week before the course, and 2.6 days/week after the course.

69% of students said the neighbourhood road ride was their favourite part of the course. Students said:

"It was fun being leader and guiding the group." "I got to explore new quiet neighbourhoods."
"It was my first time on the road." "It made me feel more confident riding on the road."

2017 StreetWise Education in the City of Richmond.

In 2017 the City of Richmond Transportation Planning Department funded HUB Cycling to deliver one *Immigrant Learn to Ride* course in partnership with the Immigrant Services Society of BC. In addition, TransLink funded one adult *Ride the Road* course. *NOTE: The outcomes for TransLink funded courses are included in a separate 2017 TransLink Bike Education final report, which will also be distributed by HUB Cycling to the City of Richmond.*

StreetWise Course:

- **Immigrant Learn to Ride** - delivered in partnership with staff of the Immigrant Services Society of BC
Location: Minoru Park Course dates: July 12 and July 19, 2017
Number of participants reached: 11 adults

Participant Outcomes:

Newcomer participants started the course with varying skills levels, but most were beginner riders. Many participants in the course achieved the following outcomes:

- One brand new rider developed their ability to balance, pedal, steer and brake on a bicycle
- Other participants gained confidence in their basic cycling skills including straight-line riding, turning, braking, shoulder checks, and hand signals
- Learned about the Canadian road use context, and rules of the road
- All participants practiced ensuring that their bike was safe to ride
- A small group put their new urban riding skills to practice on a group road ride on quiet neighbourhood streets
- All participants found out about the most useful Metro Vancouver cycle route planning resources and how to use them

"I think it was well presented and the students enjoyed the bike riding"
- IsssofBC staff

