

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 20, 2006

MINUTES

A meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2006, at 5:30 p.m., in the Strathcona Room, Subground, City Hall.

PRESENT:	Bonnie Fenton, Chair Justin Berger Colin Brander Graeme Brown Kari Hewett, Vice-Chair Neil Salway Mary Sherlock Kay Teschke
ABSENT:	Jack Becker (Leave of Absence) Allison Felker (Leave of Absence) Ken Timewell (Leave of Absence)
ALSO PRESENT:	Councillor Peter Ladner Trustee Allan Wong, Vancouver School Board Scott Edwards, Greenways & Neighbourhood Transportation Gertjan Hofman, Chair, Bicycle Network Sub-committee Peter Sary, Neighbourhood Transportation Larry Cantrell, Vice-Chair - Advisory Committee on Disability Issues Paul Storer, Neighbourhood Transportation
ALSO ABSENT:	Commissioner Heather Holden, Vancouver Park Board
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:	Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

Attendance

There were no objections to granting leaves of absence to Jack Becker, Allison Felker and Ken Timewell.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 19, 2006, meeting were adopted.

1. Motorized Bicycles

Peter Sary, Neighbourhood Transportation, provided an update on motorized (electric assist) bicycles. His comments included:

- explanation of how motorized bicycles work and how they fit into the definition of "bicycle";
- definition is based on Federal and Provincial policy;
- electric bikes are permitted anywhere a regular bike is permitted; and
- Province allows municipalities to prohibit motorized bikes where they see fit; Vancouver prohibits them on the seawall and Seaside path where it runs close to the seawall.

In discussion it was noted:

- rather than completely banning electric bikes on the Seawall, it may be better to ban the use of the electric assist in this area;
- questions about police enforcement and concern that it may be an issue given the Broken Windows initiative;
- there are many electric bikes through the diverter on Ontario Street between 10th and 11th avenues;
- main issue may be rapid acceleration with the potential danger that people can easily get themselves in situations they can't control; any regulations regarding electric bikes need to keep this in mind;
- Committee needs more information before making a motion, particularly from the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) and the Park Board;
- need a strategy for getting more information and to consider what it would mean for tourism;
- Need to consider what it would mean for tourism;
- aesthetics of electric bikes does not alter functionality; and
- concerns in multi-use areas.

Mr. Stary responded to questions regarding the effect of these on bikeways, such as the Central Valley Greenway, whether there is a maximum size threshold.

The Chair noted she would be meeting with VPD representatives and would bring these issues up.

2. Bicycles on Sidewalks

Due to emails that have been sent to the Committee (*on file in the City Clerk's Office*), the Chair led a discussion of bikes on sidewalks.

Highlights:

- a recent study shows it is 25 times more dangerous to ride on the sidewalk than the street;
- many aggressive sidewalk cyclists;
- problem may be that there is no enforcement of the rules of the road, a matter of convenience or a perception of increased safety on the sidewalk;
- should provide maps and shops should inform tourists of rules in Vancouver;
- many municipalities allow children to cycle on sidewalks; limitations are based on wheel size;
- those who are old enough to know better may not be aware of proximity of bike routes;

- Committee should not be promoting cycling on sidewalks but there should be an alternative to cycling in traffic;
- messages from VPD and rental shops should be consistent;
- possibility of having ability requirements for bike renters; should be in the interests of the rental shops; and
- just because there is no precedent to ensure qualification does not mean it should not be done.

Peter Stary, Neighbourhood Transportation, noted that cycling on sidewalks is allowed only by municipal By-law; so far only New Westminster has enacted such a By-law. Mr. Stary responded to questions regarding past initiatives of VPD visiting rental shops to provide education and bike lanes in high tourist areas.

It was agreed this issue should be addressed by the Bicycle Education and Promotion Sub-committee.

3. Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

Larry Cantrell, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the Committee.

Highlights:

- prior discussions show each advisory committee has developed its own language;
- people with disabilities in various ethnic communities tend to be hidden;
- Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues may be able to assist with providing education about cycling to tourists;
- brief history of Advisory Committee on Disability Issues;
- accessibility in Vancouver is a direct result of the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues;
- explanation of building and engineering standards as they relate to accessibility;
- Advisory Committee on Disability Issues has not given a lot of thought to bicycles;
- many individuals have invisible mobility issues - they are unable to get out of the way fast enough;
- may be common ground in thinking of Vancouver as a "walking city";
- walking and cycling seem to go hand in hand;
- over the long term, there should be a conscious effort to develop awareness of needs as the population ages; and
- invited Bicycle Advisory Committee members to address issues of mutual concern with the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues.

Mr. Cantrell responded to questions regarding interest in bicycles for people with disabilities and how often issues of mutual interest may arise.

In discussion, it was noted the Bicycle Advisory Committee needs to do more outreach to other interest groups and communities, and that more interaction between the Bicycle Advisory Committee and other advisory committees may be useful.

The Chair requested she start receiving the agendas for the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues. The Meeting Coordinator noted those agendas are available on the City website.

Note from Meeting Coordinator: The Chair will start receiving hard copies of Advisory Committee on Disability Issues agendas.

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The Committee agreed to hear an item of New Business from Councillor Ladner. For ease of reference the minutes are recorded in numerical order."

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4. Sub-committee Reports

a. *Bicycle Network Sub-committee*

Gertjan Hofman, Chair of the Bicycle Network Sub-committee, reviewed the notes from the September 6, 2006, meeting (*distributed - on file in the City Clerk's Office*).

RESOLVED

THAT the Bicycle Advisory Committee support, in principle, shifting the Seaside Path from Front Street to the waterfront, and the conceptual design of the Seaside path as presented to the Bicycle Network Sub-committee on September 6, 2006.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. *Bicycle Education and Promotion Sub-committee)*

Kari Hewett, Chair of the Bicycle Education and Promotion Sub-committee invited other staff and Committee members to attend the next Sub-committee meeting (TBA), and noted there is the FarmAde event at UBC this Friday.

5. Annual Report

The Chair requested everyone look at the workplan from 2005 and supply updates to the Chair and Vice-Chair on their tasks.

6. Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Bike Patrol

Mary Sherlock noted the VPD Bike Patrol has been disbanded, and asked what could be done.

The Chair noted she had discussed this issue with Councillor Ladner, and that the main issue is cost. She also agreed to bring this up in her meeting with Police department representatives.

It was agreed this item would be brought to the October 18, 2006, meeting.

7. New Business

a. *Vancouver Marathon Street Closure and Bicycle Race*

Councillor Ladner noted it may be feasible to have a bike race prior to the Vancouver Marathon but needs support to make it happen. He also noted this may be the easiest way to start creating a city ride and that the marathon is in early May.

b. Update on Chair meeting with Council Liaison

The Chair reviewed her meeting with Councillor Ladner, noting that the intention of the Broken Windows initiative was not to punish cyclists, but to patrol small infractions so people do not think they can get away with larger infractions. The Chair also noted she brought up the issue of a Planning Department Liaison for the Committee with Councillor Ladner.

c. Vancouver Police Department Representative

The Chair noted she is talking to Brian Green, VPD, in order to get more input from the police on bicycle matters.

d. Public Order Roundtable

The Chair noted she has been invited to the Mayor's roundtable meeting on improving public order and would be attending on October 2, 2006. She invited the Committee to submit any comments to her prior to that date.

e. Rotary Club

The Chair noted she had been invited to speak to a Rotary Club on behalf of the Committee last month, where she talked about sustainable transportation and indicated there were some relevant questions raised at the meeting.

f. Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Manager

The Chair indicated she had received a phone call from Sean Pander, Sustainability Office. The Department is in the hiring process for TDM Manager, and the Committee is invited to solicit questions with regards to this position.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 18, 2006
5:30 p.m.
Strathcona Room
Sub-Ground, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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