

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 18, 2007

MINUTES

A meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, July 18, 2007, at 5:30 p.m., in the T.H. Tracy Boardroom, 6th Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT:	Bonnie Fenton, Chair Jack Becker Colin Brander Richard Campbell *Paul Dragan Kari Hewett, Vice-Chair Robert Holley Trudy Lancelyn Neil Salway *Kay Teschke
ABSENT:	Tim Blair (Leave of Absence)
ALSO PRESENT:	Commissioner Spencer Herbert David Rawsthorne, Greenways & Neighbourhood Transportation
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:	Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Attendance

Leave of absence was granted to Tim Blair.

Approval of Minutes

The third paragraph of Item 4.a. on Page 2 was amended to replace the words "School Board" with "Bicycle Education and Promotion Subcommittee (BEPS)".

The Minutes of the June 20, 2007, meeting were approved as amended.

1. Nanaimo & Grandview Highway North Intersection -

Colin Brander reported on issues and options for the intersection at Nanaimo and Grandview Highway North. Comments from the Committee included:

- motorists don't recognize it as an intersection;
- suggestion - crosshatches with signs that say "do not block" - because of relatively low traffic volumes this should solve the problem;
- a signal is a better solutions because cars could be bearing down too quickly;
- large vehicles will stop but small cars will swerve around;

- because this is a bike route a signal is warranted; full signal is preferable but cyclist activated at minimum;
- Central Valley Greenway is one of the only good routes for families with young children and this intersection does not suit children;
- if a signal is not financially feasible then even a pavement solutions such as crosshatching or colour treatment would help;
- a signal is preferential but with crosshatching as an interim measure;
- installing an underpass is another option.

David Rawsthorne agreed to follow up with other Engineering staff on the matter, check on existing advance signage, and whether there are any statistics to warrant a signal

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The Committee agreed to vary the order of the agenda to deal with item 3 next.

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3. Bike Access at the North End of the Canada Line Bridge

The Committee discussed issues regarding the configuration of the Canada Line Fraser River Crossing. Comments included:

- unless a level crossing is installed you have to go east to Kent then back up to Cambie;
- you lose momentum; it is inconvenient; and even worse for novice riders;
- cyclists would much prefer riding on something flat, not down and then up again; to be consistent with the desires of lots of people who want to cycle, it needs to be level;
- none of the ramp options are ideal;
- staff should examine the options and look at partnering with the Province etc.
- there are three options; we should try to get the city involved in an alignment solution;
- advocacy from the cycling community is required to put pressure on the matter;
- we need to reinforce that the money being put forward is being put to good use;
- perhaps the City should take lead on construction of the ramp;
- how much time is available? There might be an urgency;
- the Committee agreed that the matter be referred to Bicycle Network Subcommittee to draft a response ASAP.

Following discussion, the Committee put forward the following motion:

WHEREAS:

The recent survey of the "near market for cycling", i.e. 31% of GVRD adults, indicates that people are much more likely to use a cycling facility that is flat and separated from traffic;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the City of Vancouver Bicycle Advisory Committee supports the motion regarding Canada Line Fraser River Crossing, (copied below), that was approved by the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority at its meeting on July 18, 2007, with a strong preference for a landing north of Southwest Marine Drive; and

FURTHER THAT the City of Vancouver Bicycle Advisory Committee requests Vancouver City Council to approve a similar motion, and to direct City staff to work with TransLink staff to advance this work in a timely manner.

"Whereas:

1. *The bicycle and pedestrian facility on the Canada Line Fraser River crossing is currently proposed to land via a switchback off-ramp south of South Kent Ave in Vancouver;*
2. *Proceeding north, facility users will be required to cross South Kent Ave, the CPR railway line, North Kent Ave, and Southwest Marine Drive in order to reach the main Cambie St bicycle route;*
3. *A right of way across the CPR tracks at that location does not currently exist;*
4. *The optimal landing point is north of Southwest Marine Drive; an alternative is north of North Kent Ave.*

Therefore it is resolved:

That staff are requested to report back with options, costs and possible sources of funding to extend the bicycle and pedestrian facilities on the Canada Line Fraser River Crossing to land;

- A) *north of North Kent Avenue, and the railway tracks, and alternatively;*
- B) *north of Southwest Marine Drive.* "

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2/4 Guiding Principles and Workplan Update

Robert Holley provided an update on the development of guiding principles. Comments made during discussion included:

- need to clarify the BAC's role in the City's cycling strategy;
- the BAC is a room of experts; suggestion was made that the BAC develop a skeleton plan;
- BAC expectations of the plan should be put forward in advance, especially in advance of the next capital plan;
- how much involvement do Advisory Committees have in the process of developing a new bike strategy?
- if the BAC wants to provide framework/direction that makes sense, but ultimately staff produce the plan and bring it to Council;
- a task force could be struck to deal specifically with the new bike plan;
- the committee needs a copy of the existing guiding principles that apply to cycling in Vancouver.

The guiding principles group, (Kay, Robert and Jack), agreed to compile a report of information gathered to date for further discussion and to aid in developing a vision of what cycling in Vancouver should look like.

5. Subcommittee Reports

a. *Bicycle Education and Promotion Subcommittee*

Kari Hewett reviewed the minutes of the June 6, 2007, meeting, (*distributed - on file in the City Clerk's Office*). Discussion took place regarding bike parking at special events and it was noted the BAC recommendations to the Park Board were not approved.

b. *Bicycle Network Subcommittee*

No report.

6. Correspondence

The correspondence folder was circulated.

7. New Business

1. *Burrard Bridge Update*

David Rawsthorne provided an update with architects' renderings of the proposed wider sidewalk and noted feedback on the surface treatment needs to be given to the consultants ASAP. Comments included:

- the same surface as Lions Gate Bridge is proposed and was supported by some Committee members;
- concern about inline skating on this type of surface;
- Burrard Bridge is not as steep as Lions Gate;
- are there bumps at the joints?
- does the surface work with frost?
- there needs to separation between bikes and pedestrians, i.e. two different colours;
- concern whether ploughing the surface will cause damage.

2. *Southeast False Creek*

The Chair enquired about the status of the path along the water which would get bikes off 1st Avenue. David Rawsthorne agreed to follow up.

NEXT MEETING:

Day: Wednesday, September 18, 2007
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: TH Tracy Board Room, 6th Floor, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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