

**VACC – Vancouver/UBC Advocacy Committee  
Meeting  
November 23, 2011**

**Opening announcement:**

Ken and Jonathan offer a big year-end thank you to the advocacy committee on behalf of the VACC board of directors.

- “From one volunteer to another, thank you.”
- All of the time and effort put in by advocacy volunteers is making a difference.
  - In the coming year, advocacy will figure more prominently in the larger efforts of the VACC.
  - The thank you included a box of delicious chocolates and a raffled t-shirt

From the advocacy committee to the board of directors:  
**THANK YOU, TOO!**

- **False Creek Flats/Viaducts – Clark**

Attended Eastern Core Shareholders Meeting Oct. 29  
(next meeting Dec. 6)

- Meeting for various stakeholders to discuss the area’s future

Recurring theme of the meeting: the area serves as an important food hub serving many different restaurants and the food industry in downtown Vancouver.

- Very important that increased development not increase rents and price food vendors out of the

area. If rents/property values go up too high, vendors will move out of downtown core and food will need to be trucked in from outside town.

Area also serves as an important transportation hub: train/bus station, local busses (Terminal & Main), Skytrain, cyclists (Science World hub & Central Valley Greenway), pedestrians.

Clark suggested that there be four bike lanes through the flats: two north <> south, two east <> west.

- Important that lanes not be seen to impact industry already established in the area.
- Train tracks pose a challenge, and bridges over the tracks would likely need to be included in any long term plan for cycling in the area.

Other important considerations in the area:

- Connecting 1<sup>st</sup> Ave and Western St.
- Connecting 1<sup>st</sup> Ave to Prince Edward St.

Bikeway

- Creating a north <> south path east of train tracks that passes through industrial area and underneath Clark – connect to Woodland , Grandview

Any recommendations we have could feed into the city's transportation plan that is due to take shape this summer.

- Important to get good short-term recommendations that can be implemented quickly and cheaply.
- Also important to submit long-term vision for area so development can proceed in a way that will

not rule out cycling in the area (ex: connecting Grandview to National)

New False Creek sub-committee created to follow up.

- Very complex area with lots of history and competing interests – also lots of potential to be an excellent area for cycling.
- Contact Clark to get involved

**UPDATE:** Vancouver Viaducts Competition winners announced, some of which are particularly bike friendly!

From straight.com:

The fee-stream winner of the Connecting the Core category was an entry titled “Darn”, which proposed three small pedestrian/bicycle bridges to connect gaps in the Eastern Core. It was submitted by the Hapa Collective.

For the full article, see: <http://www.straight.com/article-555741/vancouver/reconnect-viaduct-competition-winners-announced>

- **October Minutes**

Need minor corrections before they can be finalized and sent out.

- **Next Advocacy Committee Meeting**

As usual, there will be no December meeting. Next meeting is January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

- **Assessment Rides – Heather**

Format of submission to change based on city's recommendations. Part of our efforts to improve our communications with the city.

- Need for a higher-level document, roughly one page, with less detailed recommendations.
- Needs to be board approved (current format has a blurb at the top of page one saying that recommendations do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the VACC).
- As a committee, we need to find consensus on recommendations we want to make.

How to involve city reps on assessment rides?

- We could suggest during public consultations (like the one for Stanley Park) that assessment rides with VACC reps be included as a part of the official process.
- We could also try to get one of our people more involved in their own assessment committees for new cycling infrastructure projects.

Last Ride: Kent Ave.

Waterfront development is being very disruptive to the bike path users.

Brings up larger issue in the city: how development in general affects cycle traffic.

- Major disruption of auto traffic would not be seen as acceptable.

- City needs to take responsibility to ensure that development does not create major (or dangerous) disruptions for cyclists
  - Please see letter attached with this email that recently went to City on the subject of a construction policy for bike routes

Next ride: SW Marine Dr. – Sunday November 27, 10am

## 5. **Bike Share Subcommittee – Debra is chair**

Update:

- Many thanks to Brian for starting this up and to Debra for taking the coordination on now
  - Municipal election is assumed to have stalled the process.
    - Determined that January is a good time to increase advocacy – if there is no movement by then, the process is likely stuck.
      - Helmet laws are still an issue, but there may support at city level to ease up on rule to make bike share work.
        - Vision Vancouver was pushing back announcements – now that they have the mandate, we will see if there is any movement
          - Get in touch with Debra at Debra Rolfe <debra.rolfe@gmail.com> if you want to get involved.

## 6. **UBC Subcommittee - Jens**

Update:

Jens was able to meet with some of the planners involved with UBC's current development projects.

- Planning department seems to be slowly coming around to the idea that there are flaws in the current plans.

Trolley/Bus Loop remains a critical issue, as the current plans create dangerous conditions for cyclists.

- There are safety issues involved (ex: busses need to cross through bike lane twice)
  - Therefore, there is a possibility that we can make more headway by getting the risk management people involved in the process.
  - There are possible solutions – (separated) bike lanes or possibly a bus tunnel.
  - This remains largely a discussion between UBC and Translink, and it is difficult to get another voice into the discussion.

In terms of the big picture, there has been change in the upper management at UBC, and the new UBC Interim Director of Transportation Planning seems to be very bike-friendly and open to discussing campus bike issues.

SW Marine Dr., in particular, is ripe for cycle-friendly change – discussions around the issues in this area are ongoing.

There are plans to upgrade 16<sup>th</sup> Ave and Westbrook intersection.

- Better signage, signaling that should make this busy intersection safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

Other notes:

- UBC Bicycle Advisory Board has potential and will be further explored.
- Subsidized parking is being questioned by administration.
- Bike mode share at UBC remains flat at 1%.
- UBC is potentially interested in being involved in Vancouver's bike share plans.

## 7. Stanley Park Consultations - Arno

Update:

Our official VACC input has been submitted to the consultation committee. They hope to have a draft for further public consultation in December

Lots of pedestrian and cyclist input during the consultation process that should factor into the city's decisions – should bode well for cycling improvements.

## 8. Arbutus Corridor – Chaired by Stan Ford

Update:

Many thanks to Kay Teschke for chairing this committee and to Stan Ford for taking the chair position on. Stan is holding the next meeting on the corridor on **Thurs Dec 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact Stan at Stan Ford <irc.stan@gmail.com> if you wish to participate in the group

According to conversations with newly re-elected city councilor Geoff Meggs, there are reasons to be hopeful about the prospects for this corridor.

## 9. Broadway Corridor Subcommittee – Needs a chair!

Contact Lisa if you are interested in taking the lead on this important issue!

## 10. Bike Lights Initiative in partnership with the VPD - Lisa

Event was successful for a number of reasons:

- Lots of cyclist got some lights and will be safer as a result
- Lots of good will shown
- CTV and City TV showed up to cover the story
- Officer involved was fantastic to work with

Important that the VACC continues to have good relations with the VPD

- They helped us out by putting out a joint press release prior to the event

The initiative is closed unless we can get more bike lights donated.

## 11. Van/UBC Wikipedia Page

Thank you to those involved in putting together Wiki page for elections.

Building on lessons learned, time to put together an official Wiki for the Van/UBC advocacy committee – likely modeled after North Shore committee page.



- To be used for committee affairs and as a repository for meeting minutes, assessment ride reports, etc

New Subcommittee formed to take this on

- Contact Aaron to get involved

## 12. **Bicycle Advisory Committee – Gertjan**

Recently held their last meeting, as the committee is being disbanded and reformed under a new name.

- Pedestrian interests are now to be included
- We may need to lobby to keep the VACC position on the committee open

A couple of disappointments from the last meeting:

- The planned separated lane on Yukon did not go through
- The northbound lane on Quebec did not happen

## 14. **Bicycle Parking Regulations**

Now is the time to push for better regulations

- With Vision re-election, time to look at citywide regulations
- To ensure that bike parking is treated fairly by all developers
- Possibility of creating a new subcommittee in the new year
- Colin Brander may be able to coordinate group

## 15. Elections Subcommittee

Lots of good information got out to voters who could use it to make cycle-friendly decisions at the polls.

There is a need for a brief document outlining lessons learned that can be referred to for next elections.

- Aaron to prepare document

### Other Announcements:

VACC Christmas social is happening on December 5<sup>th</sup> between 5:00 and 8:00 pm.

- Drop by to have a drink and some snacks with other VACC volunteers
- Happening at VACC offices: 3 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. (at Ontario)