**VACC MEETING MINUTES**

**Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition – Vancouver/UBC**

**Date: Wednesday Feb 22, 2012**

**Time: 7:00-9:00 pm**

**Location: VACC office**: **3 W. 3rd Ave. (at Ontario)**

**In Attendance: Colin, Stan, Henny, Jens, Arno, Heather, Richard, Clark, Aaron, Lisa, Gertjan**

1. **Quick Introductions**
2. **Adoption of January minutes. Next meeting Wednesday March 28.**
3. **Meeting with new Active Transportation Councillor Liaison- Clr. Deal- Lisa**

Councilor Heather Deal is our new councillor liaison with the city

* Seems very interested in VACC functioning
* Wants to support us
* We’re currently in discussion with her regarding whether or not we have a VACC spot on the Active Transportation Committee
* Heather recommends that our communications with the city should include maps, diagrams and photos whenever possible – more effective

1. **Assessment Rides – Note: need new ride coordinator! Heather**

We need one or two people to take the lead on assessment rides, as Heather is not able to run them this spring.

* Thanks for all of your work on past assessment rides, Heather!

What is an assessment ride?

* Slow ride along a pre-determined route
* Taking notes (or voice recording) of our recommendations and observations
* Writing up our recommendations in a report to be submitted to the city (this step takes the most time)

Richard: Transportation Plan is coming soon – maybe we should wait for it to do more assessments?

Clark: Will take the lead on assessment rides (part time)

Lisa: A volunteer call-out will go out to recruit a full time replacement for Heather.

Next ride: UBC – Jens to take lead and do write up

* Meet up Saturday Feb 25, 10:30 – Old Barn coffee shop
* Joint ride with UBC Bike Kitchen
* There is media interest in the ride – a journalist for UBC newspaper (Ubyssey?) will be there

Arno: SW Marine/Pacific Spirit is a problem area for UBC – cars parked along shoulder are a hazard for cyclists.

* Has been speaking with Brian, district manager, who seems reluctant to remove the parking area
* Brian claims that visitors to Pacific Spirit Park need parking (but plenty of other parking available)
* Getting rid of this parking would likely lead to complaints to UBC

Once the UBC assessment ride is complete, we can determine what should be the next steps for SW Marine.

Idea for future rides: inform relevant neighbourhood association about the ride beforehand and get locals involved.

* They will have a better idea where the problem spots are

1. **Bike Share Sub-Committee - Debra (not present)**

* Word is that councilor Deal has said Vancouver’s bike share will be launched in spring, 2013.
* Debra discovered through her investigations that Vancouver’s helmet law is not up for debate in the public bike share

Lisa: The VACC’s official policy is that we are against a mandatory helmet law; some people would like to work on presenting evidence based arguments to pursue opposing the law.

* Will speak with VACC Board to determine what steps we can take to push a bit harder on the helmet issue – what restrictions might there be to our taking more concrete action?

1. **False creek Flats/Viaducts – Clark**

Viaducts meeting was supposed to happen in the new year, but no movement yet

Richard: With regard to the Flats, Great Northern Way is being completely redone

* We need a separated path along GNW and another next to the train tracks

How to get these ideas considered by the powers that be?

Richard: Before it ceased to exist, the Bicycle Advisory Committee began to create a map of the area. We should start with that and add our ideas to it.

* It is important that we incorporate our ideas into a comprehensive network plan

Arno: We should frame our recommendations as part of a response to the transportation plan.

* The transportation plan should have a pot of funds set aside for cycle projects

1. **“The Rise” – Colin**

* This major development will increase motor traffic on 10th Ave.
* We proposed a new separated lane on the south side of 10th between Quebec and Prince Edward
* Gertjan to draft a letter with our concerns to be submitted (to go into file)

Arno: “Rise” developers asked us for input regarding the cycling facilities in their buildings – will actually be quite progressive.

1. **Little Mountain – Richard**

* Another major development (1800 units) to be bordered by 37th, 33rd, Main and Ontario
* Small victory: there is to be no vehicle access onto greenways (37th & Ontario)
* However, the development means more car traffic on all surrounding streets

2 things this might mean for us:

1. Good time to push for a separated lane on 37th and/or Ontario around the development
2. Need to develop the Main St. corridor

* Lots of development on Main – traffic sure to increase
* Separated lane?

**Richard to work on write-ups for both issues**.

1. **Wiki - Clark, Gertjan, Aaron**

Jay, of the North Shore Advocacy Committee, has volunteered to set up a wiki for us on his server that would be similar to the one used by N. Shore.

Gertjan: Very important to choose host carefully so our information is safe and will not be lost.

* The current host of the VACC site, Gator, can host a wiki for us
* Using Gator would mean no additional costs to the VACC
* Gator says we can extract all of our data at any time
* There is no total size limit for the wiki, but there is a size limit for individual docs.

Sub-committee will do a test run on Gator – add some data to test functionality, etc. – then make the decision.

Arno: There is likely interest from our sister committees to do something like this

* It is important that the wiki is replicable (needs to look the same across the board)
* May be interest from the BCCC as well.

1. **Stanley Park Cycling Consultations – Arno**

Update: Pipeline Rd. to Lion’s Gate is our biggest concern, though our recommendations were ignored after first round of consultations. Apparently there are ecological concerns regarding cyclists using the park trails. Our pipeline recommendation was reiterated for second round of consultations. Overall, however, the plan is very good for cyclists.

Richard: We should find a way to monitor the results once the plan has been implemented.

1. **Arbutus Corridor – Stan**

Update:

Stan has been in contact with Heather Deal, who is very open to Arbutus corridor proposal

* Deal lives near there and uses the current trail herself
* Heather is very interested in working with us on this

Stan also spoke with a representative from the Trans Canada Trail Association, who are also in favour

* A path along Arbutus could form an important link in the TCT
* Could link up with Great Blue Heron Way – the proposed bike trail that would link Tsawassen with the city and beyond – so lots of interest from TCT rep.
* TCT is supposed to be completed by Canada’s 150th birthday in 2017, so there is will to get this done

The Arbutus Corridor could form part of the loop that links Tsawassen 🡪 Schwartz Bay 🡪 Nanimo 🡪 Horseshoe Bay.

So… there are quite a few different stakeholders who could be important partners on this issue.

Arno: We need to consult with First Nations groups along route and try to get them on board.

1. **Broadway Corridor – Henny**

Henny trying to contact Heather Deal and did speak with a Translink rep – so far still at the discussion stage.

Arno: There are a number of options on the table, some of which are not good for cyclists.

* We should at least be pointing out in advance which plans we do not like

Lisa: We need to compile the various options into one document and move forward with committee recommendations for the Corridor.

Richard: We need to work on building up support with stakeholders on B-Way: MEC, bike shops, etc.

City is actively looking at how to include cyclists in this plan – we need to speak up!

Lisa: As a committee, we should come up with a best case scenario and work from that.

**Henny:** To call together people identified as wanting to contribute to Broadway Corridor recommendations and move forward with recommendations

1. **ATAC - Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Lisa**

The city is currently determining who will be on this committee – we’re hoping that we can keep our spot.

If we do get a spot, Debra Rolfe will be our rep.

A huge **THANK YOU** to **Gertjan Hofman** and back up **Michael Alexander** for all of your efforts on the BAC over the years!

1. **2nd Narrows Bridge- last meeting update? Gertjan**

Update from Richard:

* The Ministry of Transport is currently looking at widening sidewalks
* The Powell St. overpass has lots of problems
* Portside greenway has been in the plans for a long time
* We need to push the city for a connection through the area – one of the major unfinished links in our network
* Currently speaking with Heather Deal about the options
* We need to approach the area from two levels:

1) Proposing major changes that will require time and money

2) Dealing with smaller issues that can be resolved in the near term

* We need to put together a document that compiles all of our recommendations – long and short term

1. **“**[**People are Fragile**](http://www.practiceroadsafety.ca/)**” campaign – Arno**

* “Safety issues” outlined by campaign are wrongheaded
* Singles out cyclists and pedestrians as the “threats”
* Arno wrote a letter pointing out some of the problems, which has been received favourably by city staff. Looking to send to Mayor and Council as well.

1. **Transportation Plan coming soon!**

The VACC will receive a copy of the draft proposal and we’ll have an opportunity to voice our concerns and add our comments.

Richard: This is hugely important, perhaps we need to focus all of our resources on this.

\*\* There is general agreement on the committee that we will all work on this plan together as soon as it comes out. We can break up the plan into parts and work on it as sub-committees.

1. ***Right to Bike* Province-wide Child Cycling initiative- Lisa**

Lisa, along with a number of different people working under the banner of the BCCC, is lobbying the provincial government to have child and youth cycling education standardized and available province-wide.

* More news to come!

1. **Welcome for new “Cycling Café”,** [**la Musette**](http://scoutmagazine.ca/2012/02/09/diner-caffe-la-musette-concept-catering-to-cyclists-opening-soon-in-downtown-lane/)

New bike café opening downtown (behind aquarium/pet store on Burrard). There is a plan in the works for a ride and café gathering to draw attention to them

1. **Recommendations for next election Candidate Profiling - Aaron**

Some issues with project:

* Too much data collected – long essay responses not really useful for our purposes
* Difficult to track down more obscure candidates
* Formatting all candidates responses into one doc time consuming

Things we can do:

* Ask fewer questions that are more direct (ex: what will you do and how will you do it)
* Include multiple choice and short answer questions = more useable data
* Ask questions to which candidates can be held accountable
* Follow up with winning candidates six months, one year later for follow up on progress
* Increase our committee’s social media presence to get the word out
* Follow up with cyclists to find out how useful the information was