March 28th, 2012

VACC Vancouver/UBC Advocacy Committee

In attendance: Heather, Richard, Colin, Lisa, Martin (from MEC), Debra, Jens, Aaron

1. February minutes unanimously approved.  
  
2. Announcements:

* Annual VACC general meeting: April 21st 1-4 p.m. @ VPL central branch
* Vote in board of directors
* Set the VACC agenda for the year
* April 28th, 2102: “Year of the Bike” launch party
* New VACC name to be revealed
* Party is at Woodwards
* Velo Talk: Pre- Velo-City Conference ½ day bike advocacy workshop
* June 25th, 2012
* Cheap entry
* April 15th, 2102: VACC moving day
* volunteers needed!

3. Vancouver Transportation Plan - Lisa

* Timing of official release to the VACC was bumped
* Plan is currently out to “stakeholders,” who will submit their recommendations before the plan is released to public stakeholders
* When it is finally released to us, we’ll likely only have about a month to respond

4. Need for new Sub-Committees:

* Bike route construction project policy
* need to review current policy, which is minimal
* need to work with city contact to create a comprehensive plan
* provide active feedback re: ongoing issues
* problems can be reported to [cycling@vancouver.ca](mailto:cycling@vancouver.ca)
* Burrard Bridge Improvements
* major reworking is planned for some time in the future
* need a northbound lane for cyclists so sidewalk can be pedestrian only
* H. Deal says there is no money for this project right now
* need to be actively lobbying the city
* improvements to north intersection is planned
* this issue could be addressed through our transpo plan feedback

5. Assessment Rides – Heather

* “Rocky” is interested in taking over in Heather’s place
* When no immediate assessments are required, idea to create a working group focused on completing the network
* focus on connections, grades, arterial routes

6. Bike Share – Debra

* Word is that the bike share system will be up and running by spring 2013
* Official word is that the helmet law will not be revisited
* Transportation plan may or may not suggest a review of the municipal bylaw
* muni bylaw applies only to off road paths, so on-road helmet law would stand

7. Helmet Law Sub-Committee is currently on hold

* Need volunteers to take this on!
* Need to lobby provincial government
* this would need to be done through the BCCC, but VACC could get city officials on board
* Possible approaches: repeal law for all of BC, for city of Vancouver, or just for Bike Share users.
* Lots of $ already invested in bike share, so good to make our point through a financial argument.

8. UBC – Jens

* UBC assessment last month – snowed the day before the ride
* UBC transpo planners bailed, but want to sit down afterwards to hear feedback from riders
* Assessed cycling infrastructure (or lack thereof) from three perspectives: expert, intermediate and beginner
* Media was present and interviews were done for radio and the UBC paper
* Leverage point – several new schools for young children, and it is currently very dangerous for them to get to school.

9. False Creek – Richard offered some news…

* 1st and Prince Edward is getting a separated lane
* Likely to be another one alongside railroad tracks

10. Wiki – Aaron

* Gertjan sent out an email calling for documents
* To be included: lobbying letters, assessment ride notes, meeting minutes
* Good idea to look around online for instructions on how to effectively set up wikis for non-profits
* Connect with North Van Committee to gain insight into how to set up our page
* Idea to use a map on our wiki to represent the different areas we are working on – is it possible to geo-tag documents to that they can be located by clicking on the map?

11. Stanley Park – Arno

* New parks person managing consultation process
* We want N. bound route through park
* Apparently this route may have been approved (running along [Hanson trail](http://maps.google.com/maps/place?q=Hanson+Trail,+Vancouver,+Greater+Vancouver+Regional+District,+British+Columbia+V6G,+Canada&hl=en&ftid=0x548671f1b8ce11b7:0xd300a357e4db711f))

- the existing trail is currently only used by maintenance vehicles

* There is a need to monitor the effect of the changes made to the park, though parks has no current plans to do so
* There is a need for a bollard and gate policy thoughout the park

12. Arbutus – Stan

* Stan not in attendance, but had a chance to meet with H. Deal and there is good reason to be hopeful that things will start happening here.

13. Broadway – Henni (Richard filling in with info)

* Next version of plans to come out in April
* Some info was release through “Translink Listens”
* Lots of background docs to be released
* The April doc will include some cycling-specific issues that we can examine
* Cost estimates have been laid out
* Transpo plan may do away with parking minimums
* Jens idea to give developers the option to opt out of providing parking – for a fee. $ to go to transportation system

14. Active Transportation Policy Council – Lisa & Debra

* First meeting April 18th, 2012
* Still waiting to hear officially that the VACC has a spot – Debra is our rep
* Lisa will be sitting on the council as an independent citizen

15. Second Narrows – Richard

* Brief has been prepared and is currently passing through the VACC approval process. Once approved it will be forwarded to city

16. More Announcements!

* Welcoming new members to the VACC (Brenda currently does this)
* we need a welcome letter drafted that will invite the new member to explore the advocacy committee that works in their area
* Launch Party April 28th – VACC 🡪 HUB
* Celebrating “Year of the Bike,” the arrival of spring, and the VACC’s new name and face!
* plan is to ride to party meet up with other branches along the way so we can all arrive at the party together
* someone is needed who can help to coordinate the ride in with other committees
* Canada Day Parade – Is there anyone who would like to organize the VACC’s participation.
* Any creative ideas that would help us stand out at the parade?
* Contact Heather for more information
* Bike To Work Week
* if there is anyone who would like to host a station, please contact Heather

Transporation Plan: Special Meeting will be held immediately following release.

* We have limited time, so plan will be divided into sections for review

Other Transpo Plan concerns:

* Plan apparently does not mention the need for a review of municipal bylaws – these need review, in particular transportation and cycling related ones
* Need a new Sub Committee to push for comprehensive bylaw review
* 1st stage of the plan will be high level, so our response must be also
* Need to review $$ commitments to cycling infrastructure