

Comox Valley Cycling Task Force Quarterly Report
March 21, 2007

The Cycling Task Force is comprised of appointed representatives of municipal councils of Courtenay, Comox, and Cumberland and the Comox-Strathcona Regional District Areas A, B, and C Electoral Directors. It is supported by staff from each jurisdiction.

The Cycling Task Force meets monthly on a rotating basis in each jurisdiction. (Minutes of December 20, 2006, January 25, 2007, and February 22, 2007 attached.) Like Council or Board meetings, these meetings are open to the public. Notice of meetings is yet to be formalized. Courtenay representative, Ronna-Rae Leonard, was elected chair of the Task Force at the January meeting. We met on March 15, 2007 and will meet again April 19th from 3 pm to 4:30 pm at Courtenay Council Chambers.

The purpose of the Task Force is to coordinate cycling initiatives with all the various jurisdictions, with a focus on education, transportation, and recreation. It intends to develop a comprehensive strategy to improve cycling access in the Comox Valley, both recreationally and for commuting, and improve safe travel for all members of the public and safe access to regional bikeways.

The Terms of Reference for the Cycling Task Force were finalized at the March 15, 2007 meeting and will be reviewed quarterly. A highlight of the TOR is that we intend to complete our mandate by October 2008, at which time the strategy can be implemented.

Education is one of the three focuses of the Cycling Task Force. The first task is to develop an advertisement for the summer Recreation Reporter. We will be introducing the Cycling Task Force and its mandate to the community, inviting participation, and providing a few safety tips. An event is anticipated to begin the public engagement. As an internal guide, as the Cycling Task Force moves forward, we had an informative session with Courtenay City Engineer, Kevin Lagan. He highlighted the findings and recommendations in the Transportation Study and explained the engineering standards for cycling: widths for shared lanes versus dedicated lanes; costing of routes on roads; separate routes/paths; painted lines delineating lanes and shoulders versus no lines; signage; and the different approaches in the various jurisdictions.

Funding is, as always, an issue to be addressed. The Cycling Task Force has agreed that there are no constraints for each jurisdiction to continue with individual projects. These meetings have provided an opportunity for sharing information. For instance, the Sheraton bikeway was introduced by Courtenay Planner Peter Crawford. Sources of funding for developing the strategy will be sought.

The Dyke Road was identified by cycling interests prior to the Task Force's inception. The Task Force is researching issues of safety and access, and it is a good opportunity to really deal with the multi-jurisdictional aspect of the cycling network here in the Valley.

The next quarterly report will cover March to May and will be delivered in June, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronna-Rae Leonard
Chair, Comox Valley Cycling Task Force