

**Comox Valley Cycling Task Force
Minutes of the Meeting – October 21, 2008, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Comox Valley Regional District board room**

Attending: Ronna-Rae Leonard, Marcia Turner, Barbara Price,
Karin Albert, Richard Kanigan, Wendy Prothero, Bob O’Brian, Terry Christie

Minutes

The minutes were adopted.

Business Arising from Minutes

Sealant used on Headquarters and Coleman roads

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN) representatives Bob O’Brien and Terry Christie were in attendance to respond to questions from the Task Force. They explained that the road treatments done on Headquarters and Coleman roads are seal coating, not chip sealing, and that they used a ‘B’ grade chip as opposed to a ‘D’ grade chip. An example of where a ‘D’ chip has been used is Rennie Road. ‘B’ chips are rougher but last longer. They smooth out after one year, after the snow plow has gone over it. TRAN staff suggested to check out Bridges Road that had a ‘B’ grade chip applied to it over a year ago. It is a lot smoother now than it was in the first year.

TRAN staff noted that cyclists were not part of the consideration when selecting the surfacing for Headquarters and Coleman roads. Communication with TRAN is critical for planning roads that include cycling routes.

TRAN will continue to use seal coating wherever possible as it is ¼ to 1/5 the price of asphalt. It would consider applying the ‘D’ chip on identified cycling routes. TRAN staff stressed the importance of having a cycling network map so they know in advance of paving what roads require special consideration.

Richard Kanigan invited TRAN staff to attend the November Technical Committee meeting when the Committee is reviewing maps of proposed cycling routes. An invitation was also extended to TRAN staff to become a regular member of the Technical Committee.

TRAN will endeavour to send a representative to the Technical Committee meetings.

Technical Committee staff will forward a copy of the proposed cycling routes map (once completed) to TRAN.

Cycling Task Force Mandate

All jurisdictions have approved the extension of the Task Force mandate to October 2011.

Correspondence

A letter was received from a resident requesting shoulder maintenance on Ryan Road. Max Walker, the TRAN area manager is the contact for immediate road maintenance issues (gravel spills, potholes etc).

TRAN representatives summarized the standards for road sweeping and maintenance and the possibility of augmenting the current service contract to “upgrade” the most commonly used network of cycle commuter routes. Currently, roads that have a high volume of vehicle traffic are swept more frequently (e.g. every 3 months). Most rural roads are swept once a year. Municipalities sweep to a higher standard. E.g. Comox Hill is swept on a monthly basis.

Technical Committee Report

Richard Kanigan provided an update of current and 2009 projects of the four jurisdictions:

Planning Grant – Rails with Trails Feasibility Study

The Town of Comox and the City of Courtenay have received confirmation from the province that each has been awarded \$10,000 from the Infrastructure Planning Grant program for the Rails with Trails feasibility study. The Technical Committee is working with HB Lanarc on this project. A draft report is due in March 2009. The final report is to be completed in May 2009. The completion date means we will miss application deadlines for some grant programs for 2009; however, the Technical Committee believes it is important to have accurate cost estimates for such a regionally significant project.

Joint Projects for 2009 budget purposes

The Technical Committee has identified several projects for inclusion in the participating jurisdictions’ 2009 financial plans. The focus is on completing linkages and addressing the ‘cycling sore points’ that have been raised by cyclists.

City of Courtenay:

1. The City has ordered “bike route” and “share the road” signs for Cumberland, Fitzgerald and Headquarters roads. The “bike route” signs will be placed where the lane or shoulder meets recommended TAC standards and the “share the road” signs will be placed at pinch points. Public Works has issued a work order to install the signs.
2. Staff are drafting design drawings for a 2 way bike trail from the west side of the Old Island Highway at Ryan Road to a safe crossing on HQ road.
3. The City received a grant from the Cycling Infrastructure Partnership Program to complete the 400m trail that will complete the Idiens and Sheraton Walkway

connection/loop. The asphalt trail will be constructed along the McDonald ROW from Lerwick to the Idiens Trail.

Town of Comox:

1. “Share the Road” signs have been installed in various locations in Comox
2. Engineering and Design work has been requested for the top of Comox Hill to Rodello to make it safer for cyclists. The plan is to have this ‘shelf ready’ for the grant application season early in January.
3. Bike lockers will be installed at Comox Town Hall for employees who cycle to work.

Comox Valley Regional District:

1. CVRD will add the Hector Road ROW as a capital project for 2009 to complete the linkage to Idiens Trail and Aspen Road.
2. CVRD is participating (with a contribution of \$5,000) in a partnership with the Capital Regional District, the Cowichan Valley Regional District, the Regional District of Nanaimo, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the Island Corridor Foundation to establish standards for trails, intersections, crossings, signage, etc. along the E&N railway corridor. The project has been contracted to HB Lanarc. The standards, along with the feasibility study work, will improve our grant opportunities and assist with implementation.

Village of Cumberland:

1. Share the Road signs have been installed on Cumberland Road, Royston Road and Union Road.

Comox Avenue Designation

Confirmation has been provided by the Town of Comox that Comox Avenue is designated as a bike route in the OCP. Still waiting to hear from TRAN.

New Business

Handout from Barbara Price “Cycling to Planetary Happiness”

The regional district brought forward a resolution at the last UBCM meeting that TRAN provide more funding for road sweeping on cycling routes. The resolution was endorsed with an overwhelming majority.

Next Meeting

Next meeting of the Cycle Task Force is Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 3:00 pm