

Comox Valley Cycling Task Force - Meeting Notes
January 20, 2009, 3:00 p.m. – 4:45 pm
CVRD boardroom, 550B Comox Road, Courtenay

Present: Ronna-Rae Leonard, Jim Gillis, Bruce Jolliffe, Edwin Grieve, Terry Christie, Karin Albert

Recorder: Debbie Ferguson

Guests: Members of the local chapter of the BC Cycling Coalition – Jim Lister, Ed Schum

Absent: Marcia Turner, Gwyn Sproule

Minutes:

The minutes from December 16, 2008 were adopted.

Introductions

All members of the task force and staff introduced themselves.

Correspondence

- Bike to Work Week workshop in Victoria this weekend (Jan. 24/25). Tony Goodwin, member of last year's Comox Valley Bike to Work Week Committee, is attending.
- Last year's Bike to Work Week Committee will organize this year's event again. The Committee is expecting to receive funding from the provincial government this year.
- Event happening mid-May this year.
- Edwin Grieve recommended media coverage and advertising of Bike to Work Week.
- Media coverage last year was good. Bike to Work Week Committee hopes to have similar exposure this year.
- **For follow-up:** Technical Committee to discuss level of participation of municipalities and regional district and report back to Task Force.
- Jim Lister informed Task Force that the B.C. Senior Summer Games will be 1st week of September 2010. 400 – 500 cyclists are expected to compete.
- According to Jim L., road surfaces will need to be to standard for the event. Especially Coleman Road, one route the organizers are hoping to use for the event.
- Johanna Hill Horse (sp?) and Jim L. are local contacts for the B.C. Senior Summer Games.
- Cross Canada cycling tour is coming through the Comox Valley on June 1, 2009.
- **For follow-up:** TRAN asked to be informed as soon as possible of the routes since they are planning for road maintenance and surfacing in the next two months.

Technical Report

Karin provided the following update to the Task Force:

E&N feasibility study is underway. HB Lanarc to have a draft report done by end of March. Final report to be completed in May. Report will help identify priorities for completion of sections along the E&N support funding applications.

- Karin clarified that E&N right-of-way is 100 feet wide with track running through centre. To minimize crossings, wherever possible, the trail will be located on the east side of the track within those 50 feet. Exact location will depend on topography, desired distance to railway line and other considerations.

- It was discussed whether local governments along corridor could apply for joint grants to complete project. If this would delay project, funding individual sections is preferable so the project can get off the ground.
- **For follow-up:** Technical Committee to explore if there are grants that may fund completion of entire length of trail along the E&N corridor and work with other local governments along the corridor on joint funding applications.

2009 proposed budgets for cycling projects: The three municipalities and the regional district have identified key projects by the Task Force in their respective 2009 budgets. Projects are:

Village of Cumberland:

- Share the road signs

City of Courtenay:

- Share the road and bike route signs
- 2 way bike trail from the west side of the Old Island Highway at Ryan Road to a safe crossing on HQ road, (feasibility)
- Completion of the 400m Idiens and Sheraton walkway and bike path
- Paving the off -road bikeway/walkway on Veterans' Memorial Way

Town of Comox:

- Engineering and design work for the top of Comox Hill to Rodello
- Bike lane along a portion of Guthrie Road

Regional District

- Hector Road ROW to complete the linkage to Idiens Trail and Aspen Road
- Publicity, Comox Valley bike map

Active Comox Valley - promotion partnership: Technical Committee is putting in 6 cycling routes as part of a Comox Valley Record centre spread coordinated by Active Comox Valley. The Committee is seeking endorsement from the Task Force for this.

- The Task Force is supportive and passed the following motion:

That the Cycling Task Force partner with Active Comox Valley by providing write-ups of six great places to ride to them for promotion to the public and, if required, up to a maximum of \$1,000 in financial contribution.

MOT Update: TRAN is now attending Technical Committee meetings.

- Terry Christie confirmed that TRAN will be using the D-grade chip (which is the smoother chip) on designated cycling routes. Being informed of those routes is important as decisions about paving are made months ahead of time.

Cycling Strategy Map

Work on map is continuing. Progress will be reviewed at the February Technical Committee meeting.

- Task Force members expressed their desire to see the map completed.

Public participation process and local chapter of B.C. Cycling Coalition

- Discussion on how the B.C. Cycling Coalition can be engaged in a formal way and how to give the public status in the process.
- It was discussed whether the coalition should have a seat on Task Force and/or provide regular briefs to Task Force or Technical Committee. Task Force wishes to be inclusive and recognizes citizens have expertise to bring to the discussions. Concerns were raised not to favour one group over broad public input.
- **For follow-up:** The Technical Committee will look into different options to involve the public and the B.C. Cycling Coalition and bring forward the information and a proposed process to the Task Force at their next meeting.

New Business

AVICC/UBCM resolution regarding 1% budget allocation for cycling

- Marcia Turner brought the idea up at Comox Council, after hearing about the Oregon experience. Discussion ensued regarding whether to pursue at this time. September 2008 saw a CVRD resolution to UBCM endorsed to increase budget for road sweeping for cyclists on provincial roads.
- The province has recently announced a lot of funding for various cycling initiatives.
- TRAN policies already include improvements for cycling. Also not sure what the 1% amounts to and whether it makes sense.
- One concern behind resolution was for TRAN to have budget for regular road sweeping.
- Key message is to ask Province to establish permanent budget for cycling infrastructure.
- **For follow-up:** To be discussed at a meeting with Marcia present.

Comox Recreation Association (CRA) AGM

- CRA invites Task Force members to their AGM on February 19, 2009 at 7:00pm at the Comox Recreation Centre. The AGM is followed by a presentation.

Public Comments

- Jim L. asked if could have small folding map with Comox Valley bike routes ready for public prior to the 2010 B.C. Summer Games.
- Jim L. asked whether a multi-use trail from Cumberland into Courtenay was planned as part of the new seniors development (Cumberland Green).
- **Follow-up:** The question was referred to the Technical Committee to provide an answer to Jim.
- **Request to spread the word about the Cycling Coalition AGM on January 29th.** Ronna-Rae to see about posting at Courtenay City Hall and on Cycling Task Force website.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2009, 3 p.m.
City of Courtenay Council Chambers