

the Urban cyclist



**VANCOUVER AREA
CYCLING
COALITION**
The Lower Mainland's Cycling Advocates!

Fall 1998, Volume 1 Issue 2

On the web at - www.infomatch.com/~footprints/vacc/

The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition quarterly

Help put pressure on Skytrain to get bikes on board *by Marion Orser*

As a fledgling group with limited resources we have had to concentrate our energies on urgent cycling concerns. The new Skytrain is such an issue. If we don't make our concerns known ahead of time we will again be stuck with the status quo. We may or may not have an adjoining right of way for cyclists and it would probably have the same design flaws as the current 7-11 trail. We will not be allowed to take our bikes on the train and there may well not be bike lockers and racks.

Because of these issues we have been in touch with the project planning department of Light Rapid Transit. Following is the body of our request.

By incorporating a bike route into the proposed Skytrain right of way you will meet the need for a connection for cyclists between New Westminster and Coquitlam. Currently there is no suitable route for cyclists commuting between these two areas. Most roads have narrow travel lanes and carry heavy trucks at high speeds and high volume. This could provide cyclists safer travel, an efficient route and a reasonable grade - all important factors when travelling by bike.

In addition we suggest BC Transit allow bicycles on Skytrain. This will enhance intermodal transit, and be in keeping with

your policy. It will increase catchment areas of stations and is important for those that would find the distance too long or are extending their trips, using transit as an adjunct. Allowing bikes on transit also gives cyclists the option of a guaranteed ride home if the weather turns bad.

Bicycle Lockers and Racks is the third and final component for effective bicycle usage in conjunction with transit. In addition, we requested ongoing consultation. As I read our local papers it appears we need to start lobbying for the next extensions as well.

We feel this is too important an issue to ignore. We will be increasing our lobbying efforts. Stay tuned for further updates.

If you also wish to add your voice, address your concerns to:

Lecia Stewart,
Project Manager, Light Rapid Transit
214-1285 W Broadway,
Vancouver BC, V6H 3X8
Telephone 739-6985
<http://www.lrtprojectoffice.com>.

Or:

Hon. Joy MacPhail
Minister of Finance and Corporate
Relations
248, Parliament Building
Victoria BC, V8V 1X4
Telephone 604-251-5582
Fax 604-660-1930
email - joy_macphail@bc.sympatico.ca

Wider sidewalks on Lions' Gate a must *by Richard Campbell*

After well over five years of public input, schemes, hopes and dreams, the Province has finally announced its plans for the Lions Gate Bridge. Around 76 million dollars will be spent to replace the bridge deck, widen the lanes on the bridge, improve cycling and pedestrian facilities and make other improvements.

You might think that this will turn the trip over the bridge from a cycling hell to a cycling heaven. Well, think again. While the sidewalk on the bridge will be widened to a still substandard 2.6 meters, the sidewalk on the viaduct (the portion on the north side over land) will remain at its current width of 1.43 meters.

The good news is that the most dangerous part will be wider and separated from traffic. This will encourage a lot more people to cycle and walk over the bridge. Perhaps even the odd rollerblader will give it a shot. It is estimated that up to 3000 people will cycle or walk over the bridge per day.

The bad news is that the lack of width will create conflicts between the large numbers of pedestrians, commuter cyclists,

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the Urbane cyclist

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If you would like to contribute to The Urbane Cyclist please call James Wanless at 708-3634. The views in this publication are not necessarily those of the VACC.

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recreational cyclists and rollerbladers using the crossing. Ideally, there would be two cycling lanes of 1.5 meters each to allow fast cyclists to pass slower cyclists as well as 2 meters for pedestrians



Will we get the room we need on the Lion's Gate Bridge?

allowing them to walk beside each other. Even the the Ministry of Transportation and Highways's Interim Cycling Policy recommends a width of 3.0 meters for such facilities.

Obviously 1.43 meters is not enough and will create a potentially dangerous situation. At the very least, the sidewalk should be same width on the viaduct and the bridge. The main problem is money. It is estimated that widening the viaduct will cost around 5 million dollars. It is past time the government stops compromising and does everything it can to build proper bicycle infrastructure.

Since the number of lanes of traffic will not be increased, the only way to get more people over the bridge is by bicycle. During peak periods, the bicycle will be the fastest way to get downtown. Every person that uses their bicycle instead of their car, means one less car on the road to get in the way of people that must or want to use their car to get downtown. Improving bicycle infrastructure on the bridge, viaduct and causeway will benefit all users of the bridge.

We must convince the province of this and insist they spend the money needed to do the job right.

Please write, phone, fax, e-mail, visit, date or befriend the MLA's listed below and tell them that you want safe, convenient bike lanes on the Lions Gate. They can be phoned toll free by calling Inquiry BC 660-2421.

The address for all MLAs is
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4

Hon. Harry Lali
Minister of Transportation and Highways
Fax: (250) 356-2290
harry_lali@bc.sympatico.ca

Hon. Glen Clark, Premier
Fax: 387-0087
glen_clark@bc.sympatico.ca

Mr. Doug Symons,
Transportation Critic
Doug.symons.mla@lass.gov.bc.ca

Mr. Tim Stevenson
MLA Vancouver-Burrard
Phone: 684-9810
Fax: 356-7156
tim_stevenson@bc.sympatico.ca

Mr. Gordon Campbell
Leader of the Official Opposition
Fax: 387-2550
Gordon.campbell.mla@lass.gov.bc.ca



Join us on the internet!

Did you know there are two ways you can take advantage of new technology to keep abreast of the VACC?

point your browser at:
www.infomatch.com/~footprints/vacc/

or join our listserv by sending email to:

admin@sustainability.com with the message **join vacc** in the body, nothing else. What could be easier?

Dave Lyman Mountain Bike Festival honours cycling advocate by Mark Dal Santo

Come out to Belcarra Regional Park in Port Moody on Sunday September 6th and check out one of the Lower Mainland's premier mountain bike areas. This hidden jewel is laced with single-track, much of which will be showcased during the 2nd Annual Dave Lyman Memorial Mountain Bike Festival. Some of the events taking place this year include:

- Cycling BC sanctioned Mountain bike races for all ages and abilities on some of the best trails in the Lower Mainland. Upgrading points are available for licensed racers, and unlicensed riders are

welcome to challenge in one of the Citizens categories.

- CPTA Trials Series Event #5, for those unfamiliar with this type of competition, its like obstacle course riding on steroids. Its amazing the terrain these riders traverse.

- Smash the Lada Pinata, a bike toss event (don't worry somebody else's bike not yours) and a flat fixing time trial.

There will also be food, drinks, and prizes for volunteers and racers alike. A trail maintenance day and barbeque will be

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Eight Good Reasons to join the VACC

1. You would like to see better and more convenient cycling routes.
2. You would like to work with a dynamic group of people who get things done.
3. You would like to be able to take your bike on transit, including Skytrain, to get out of the urban area and cycle.
4. You would like to take your bike by transit to the ferry or to the airport so you will have some energy left for the trip.
5. You would like to see a stop to the deterioration of formerly good cycling routes.
6. You have little time to help personally with such tasks but wish to support, by your membership, those who are giving their time for the betterment of conditions for all cyclists in the Vancouver area.
7. You wish to have input into the priorities of those advocating for all cyclists.
8. You want to be aware of the issues surrounding lobbying for cyclists.

An open letter for Brenda

by Richard Campbell


August 14, 1998, Vancouver BC - On Friday, August 7, the cycling community, Vancouver and the world lost a really wonderful, dedicated woman. Brenda Mary Haggert was struck and killed while cycling along Clark Street. The details of the accident are unclear and exactly what happened may never be known. The sad reality is that in this case, as in most accidents involving motor vehicles and bicycles, it is the cyclist who is injured or killed.

Brenda's life revolved around reducing the harm to this beautiful world caused by people. Whether it was fighting to preserve wilderness in Clayquot Sound, organizing bicycle rides, or leading Vancouver's singing cyclists, she showed an unwavering commitment to this planet. Brenda lived her life in a way that we all should strive to.

I remember Brenda cycling around Vancouver, her bicycle trailer piled high with the organic veggies that she was delivering. Truly she had a dream of a better world where pedestrians and cyclists do not have to fear motor vehicles. We all must follow her example and do all we can to make her vision a reality.

The City of Vancouver, the GVRD and the Provincial government must all do everything in their power to insure that tragedies like this never happen again. Needed measures include the creation of safe convenient cyclist and pedestrian infrastructure. As well, the speed of motor traffic must be reduced so it is not deadly to cyclists and pedestrians. We hope that governments have the courage undertake these difficult measures.

Motorists must be aware that they can kill someone if they are not very careful. I urge the driving public to slow down, pay attention and use their cars as little as possible. We all must work together to make the Vancouver area safe for cyclists, pedestrians, children, animals and yes, drivers.

Surely life is more precious than speed. 

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For rates & deadlines call James Wanless @ 708-3634

Join the VACC !



Yes, I want to support transportation cycling in Greater Vancouver

My interests are:

- commuting / transportation
- recreational riding
- volunteering for the VACC

I am joining as:

- an individual - \$20
- an organization/corporation - \$80

I heard about the VACC:

- through the media
- from this newsletter
- via the website
- at a community event
- other _____

Name _____
 Address _____

 Postal Code _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Please make cheques payable to:
Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition
 and mail, along with this application to:
 4351 Tucker Avenue
 Richmond, BC
 V7C 1L9

As a member of the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition, not only will you be supporting a cleaner, healthier, more sustainable mode of transportation, you will:

- get the nifty "Urbane Cyclist" newsletter delivered to your door four times per year
- have the opportunity to get involved in community events and happenings
- maybe even meet some funky new people!



And . . . Thank you!

Calendar of Events

2ND ANNUAL DAVE LYMAN MEMORIAL MOUNTAIN BIKE FESTIVAL

Where: Belcarra Park, Port Moody

When: Saturday September 6

Info: 937-DAVE

What:

- Cycling BC sanctioned Mountain bike races for all ages and abilities.
- Upgrading points are available for licensed racers, and unlicensed riders are welcome to challenge in one of the citizens categories.
- CPTA Trials Series Event #5 (like obstacle course riding on steroids)
- Smash the Lada Pinata, a bike toss event (don't worry somebody else's bike not yours) and a flat fixing time trial.

STREETS ARE FOR PEOPLE

Where: Victoria

When: September 26 & 27

Info: Anne Fritzel, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition
email - annef@pacificcoast.net

What: Grass roots event discussing pedestrian and cycling issues on urban streets.

The Post-Urban conference portion has been cancelled due to lack of funding. If you were planning to attend this portion, it will not be re-scheduled, according to the conference presenters.

The Squeaky Wheel

Or . . . an update on just where the VACC is at!

What exactly has the VACC been doing since its inception to improve cycling in the region? So far our work has involved going out on the roads to formulate our positions on certain issues and contacting those in power via letters, the media, phone calls, email - in short, anything that gets their attention - to raise awareness of the issues that affect cyclists' well being.


Here's the latest:

- input to City of North Vancouver Mayor and Council regarding improvements to Low Level Road
- contacted BC Transit regarding bikes on the Skytrain expansion, on Transit in general and the inclusion of a bike route with the new Skytrain expansion in the planning stage
- attained inclusion on the GVRD's Municipal Bicycle Committee
- spoke before Vancouver City Council on the effect on cycling of the Rapid Bus route up Granville Street
- took an investigative ride for routes over/past the freeway around Vancouver/Burnaby boundary
- Co-sponsoring our first event, the Dave Lyman Memorial Mountain Bike Festival, in Port Moody on September 6
- lobbied for inclusion of cycling in GVTA mandate

In addition to some of these early advocacy efforts, we have increased our membership numbers, have an active email listserv and now have an internet web site, available at:

www.infomatch.com/~footprints/vacc

All in all, it's a good start and it's only going to get better. But the only way it's going to happen is by more people assisting with the cause. If you believe, as we do, that cyclists need to band together, speak up, and work with the system rather than against it, then join us and help turn Vancouver into a great place to cycle.

So that begs the question - if you haven't joined yet, what's stopping you? 


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held on Saturday, August 29th. It's a great way to see some of the awesome single track here, and meet new people. Cycling BC members are eligible for upgrading points for trail maintenance as well.

The purpose of this event is to raise awareness and money for cycling advocacy and honour the memory of Dave Lyman. Dave was killed by a motorist on September 3rd, 1996 while cycling home from work. Ironically, this was the day the new helmet legislation came into effect.

Dave gave an incredible amount of time and energy to the cycling community. At the time of his death, he was Vice-President of the mountain bike sector of Cycling BC, and one of only two people in BC with a National Level Commissar license. Dave also spent many hours building and repairing trails for others to enjoy. Anyone who rides a mountain bike off-road in BC has probably benefited in some way from Dave's efforts.

This festival is a positive way to promote cycling and raise awareness for the need to improve facilities in the Lower Mainland. Money generated will benefit local cycling organizations' efforts to advocate for improvements.

The bigger this event is, the more awareness we can generate so come out and enjoy the fun. If you would like to volunteer or have something you would like to add to this festival, call Robin Lyman at 937-DAVE, or Dale Ewanchook at 215-TOAD. For information on the CPTA trials event call 261-7712. 

Got something to say?

We welcome articles (400 words or less), comments, letters, suggestions, or any correspondence about cycling in the Lower Mainland.

Submissions may be sent to:

The Urbane Cyclist
c/o VACC
#266 - 3495 Cambie Street
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 4R3

We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and length.