

The Urbane Cyclist

Fall 2001 Issue 11

The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition quarterly

www.vacc.bc.ca

New Government, All Bets Are Off

Colin Brander

Since the new government was elected, they have reduced taxes and subsequently determined the province would likely incur \$6 billion in debt over the next three years. As a result, the government is reviewing all expenditures to determine possible cuts, including cuts of up to 50% for some departments. No program is safe, including all cycling programs.

The BC Cycling Coalition (BCCC), its member coalitions (including the VACC), and its predecessors have worked hard to secure provincial programs and spending for cycling. Many years ago, at the insistence of Cycling BC, the province started the Cycling Network Program (CNP). This program currently provides \$2 million in provincial funding in matching funds with municipal governments. Many of the newer bike routes and other cycling facilities are a direct result of CNP funds. Some of these projects would not have happened and others would have been delayed without these funds. We would not have many of the facilities we currently use and enjoy. This is why it is important that this program needs to be protected from any cuts.

In the early 1990's, the province developed the Interim Cycling Policy. Although the interim policy was technically in effect, it basically sat dormant and was not properly applied. In fact, it was often used as an excuse for not doing things. In 1999, the BCCC requested a workshop with Transportation and Highways staff to work towards an improved final policy. Members of the BCCC, the VACC and other cycling organizations were able to agree to changes to the policy. Amongst the changes were the additions of a provincial cycling coordinator, a provincial Bicycle



It was a fabulous day for a picnic in August (see page 3).

Advisory Committee (BAC) and the inclusion of the improved Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) standards. We now have a Provincial Bicycle Coordinator (Alan Callander), a provincial BAC and South Coast BAC. We need to ensure that these programs and positions are maintained so that they can do what they were created to accomplish. The work has only just begun.

We have worked hard to secure these services for cyclists around the province. We can not afford to lose any ground. You can help by e-mailing both the Premier, Gordon Campbell at gordon.campbell.mla@leg.bc.ca and Judith Reid, Minister of Transportation at judith.reid.mla@leg.bc.ca and demanding that the funding for these programs needs to be increased and not be reduced or cut.

More information can be found at;
www.vacc.bc.ca/cnp

BEST's Greenway proposal won the \$1,000,000 VanCity Award!

The \$1-million VanCity Award will spur the completion of the \$8 million project developed by BEST. The VanCity Greenway, will link Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminister and Coquitlam with a low-traffic route for bikes, pedestrians, rollerbladers and wheelchairs from the suburbs to the city centre.

Congratulations to all involved in this successful proposal!

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The views in this publication are not
necessarily those of the VACC

VACC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FOUNDING MEMBER

British Columbia
Cycling Coalition



MEET US

The VACC Board meetings are open to all interested in bicycling in Greater Vancouver. We meet on the second Tuesday for the following months at 6:30 p.m. **Jan 8 Feb 12 March 12**
Phone 604 693-1093 for details.

INTERNET

Join our list serve by sending an e-mail to vacc-request@sustainability.com with the words subscribe VACC in the body of the message.

Our website is www.vacc.bc.ca

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

We welcome articles (300 words or less) and letters about cycling in Greater Vancouver.

Submissions may be sent to:
The Urbane Cyclist

Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition
PO Box 40074 RPO Royal City
New Westminster BC
V3M 6J7
604 693-1093

Or e-mail: vacc@canada.com

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

Next deadline:

Thursday,
January 31st, 2002



Want Bike Lanes In Downtown Vancouver?

Rachel Jamieson

Would you like to ride straight down Burrard Street and onto the Burrard Bridge in a designated bike lane? Would you like to see improvements to the Pender Street bike facility? How about a whole network of bike lanes on the downtown peninsula?

Now is your chance to tell the City of Vancouver's Downtown Transportation Plan team that you want bike facilities downtown. The City of Vancouver is about to finish its transportation plan for the next 20 years. The 18 month downtown planning study will be complete by February 2002. The last set of Public Open Houses was held at the end of November. But you can still participate.

The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition's Vancouver Committee has been offering input to the Downtown Transportation Plan team throughout the process. We brainstormed up a dreamy downtown bike network in the summer of 2000 and presented it to the Bicycle Advisory Committee, wrote letters to the City, went to public open houses and organized a "Downtown Bike Around" with the City in the Summer of 2001. This fall the VACC and BEST met with the City's study team to preview the draft plan. But we still need your help.

You may find this hard to believe, but not everyone thinks bike facilities are the most important feature of the Downtown Transportation Plan. As usual cyclists are competing with other road users for space. If you want bike facilities downtown, tell the City now. There are at least 3 ways to do this:

- 1) Participate with the VACC Vancouver Committee. We (usually) meet on the last Wednesday of the month at the Firehall Library 1455 W.10th Ave. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. See the events section of the VACC website for the next meeting or join the VACC Vancouver e-mail list (about 5 messages per week) through the VACC website <http://www.vacc.bc.ca>
- 2) Fill in a survey or send the City an e-mail through their website: <http://city.vancouver.bc.ca/dtp>
- 3) Low tech option: write the Downtown Transportation Plan Team a letter and send it to:

The Downtown Transportation Plan
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Ave.
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Come on Board!

If you are committed to improving cycling around the Lower Mainland then please consider running for the VACC board of directors. Our AGM is on March 23, 2002 from 1-4:30pm at the Bonsor Recreation Complex in Burnaby

Mark your calendars!

If you are curious about what is involved you are welcome to attend one of our board meetings (See box to the left for time and dates.)
Contact Richard at 602-733-1764 or campbell@cs.sfu.ca if you are interested or would like more information.

Board Report - A Time of Change

Richard Campbell

Change often does not happen at the speed we like. In the case of cycling improvements, it happens way too slowly.

We are finally seeing the fruits of our efforts over the last few years pay off. The wider sidewalks on the Lions Gate Bridge that the VACC lobbied for will be open soon. Another early VACC lobbying effort, the path through Sapperton Landing Park in New Westminster was opened in October.

Change is also inevitable as the last few months have proven for the VACC. We are sad to report that our President, editor and board member Ken Wushke has resigned. Please join me in thanking Ken for the tremendous contribution he has made to the VACC and cycling over the past few years.

With Ken's departure, the board appointed Vice President Jessé Neri as interim President. Jessé has been the energetic leader guiding the VACC planning and goal setting process. The board also appointed Marion Orser to the board and elected her to serve as interim Vice President. It is great to have Marion back on board. Both will serve until the next AGM. Karim Winsor has graciously offered to Chair the Burnaby committee. Thanks to former Chair Su Laine Yeo for her great work. The new Surrey Committee is off to a great start with Ian Stephen as Chair. Last but not least let's give a big VACC welcome to our new newsletter team of Leslie Love and Bonita Eberl. If you have any ideas for articles or would like to help out with the newsletter, please let them know.

Above all, the board thanks you, our members, for your continued support of the VACC and our efforts to improve cycling in the Lower Mainland.

The Value of One, the Power of Many

Bonnie Fenton

2001 is the United Nations-declared International Year of Volunteers. This spring, under the slogan, "Volunteering is good for your health," the Vancouver Richmond Health Board put out a call for proposals to non-profits that wanted to recognise the efforts of their volunteers. The VACC, together with BEST, and the BCCC submitted one. After all, what we do produces more than just the warm fuzzy feeling you get from helping others; it benefits the health of the entire Lower Mainland. The VRHB agreed and sponsored the volunteer-recognition barbecue we held at Riverfront Park in August. The day -- a fabulously beautiful one -- included rides, food, a cycling scavenger hunt, and general fun and socialising.

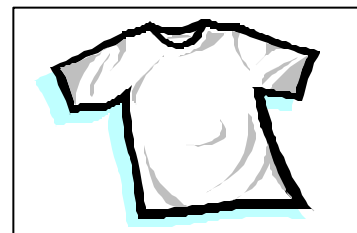
This seemed like the ideal way to show our appreciation to the two-wheeled volunteers who spend hundreds of hours working for better cycling conditions (because really, every month should be Bike Month). With that in mind, we would like to thank the Vancouver Richmond Health Board for providing us with the opportunity to celebrate ourselves, the work we do, and the joy of cycling.

Most newsletter articles end by telling you what actions you can take to make a difference. This one ends instead with a list of things we've done: we've organised events and meetings, staffed tables, run a website, spoken at public meetings, produced brochures, taken elected officials on rides, led public rides, raised awareness, raised money, hosted bike film night, written articles, letters, and press releases, gained the respect of public officials, and much more. Clearly, we're making a difference. Borrowing from the IYV slogan, it's an excellent example of "the value of one and the power of many."

(One suggested action after all: if you think you might be interested in getting involved with the VACC in any way, please contact Bonnie Fenton at volunteer@vacc.bc.ca or 604-734-1385, or any of the committee chairs.)

Are You an Artist?

We want cool T-shirts! VACC is looking for an artistic individual to design the first ever VACC T-shirts. If you are interested, please send an email to volunteer@vacc.bc.ca by January 10, 2002.



City to Consider Further Traffic Calming on Grandview Highway North

Richard Campbell

Vancouver Area Cycling Area Coalition members and area residents showed up in force at the Transportation and Traffic Committee meeting on July 31 and convinced Vancouver City Council to consider further traffic calming on Grandview Highway North. Grandview Highway North is a critical section of the Central Valley Greenway. Further street closures will encourage more people to cycle the Greenway as well as create more greenspace for area residents and greenway users.

Everyone who spoke before city council did a great job. A petition containing over 500 signatures supporting further closures between Victoria and Commercial was presented to council. In the end, city council instructed staff to further consult with and survey area residents to determine support for

closing the westbound lane of Grandview Highway North at Broadway (between Victoria and Commercial). This is as good a result as we could have expected at this meeting!!! Thanks to everyone who showed up and spoke in support of this issue.

With the possibility of further closures looking better and better, it is important that council receive letters in support of the closures.

A sample letter can be found at:

www.vacc.bc.ca/centralvalley/letters/grandview_letter.html

More information on the issues can be found at

www.vacc.bc.ca/centralvalley/grandview

Bikes on SkyTrain

Richard Campbell

The successful "trial" during the Transit strike proved that bicycles and SkyTrain can work even in the small Mark I cars. Several hundred people per day took their bicycles safely on SkyTrain.

The VACC met with TransLink, Rapid Transit 2000 Ltd. and provincial staff in October to discuss the details and concerns regarding bicycles on SkyTrain. In the end, everyone was very positive, although most had concerns that still need to be addressed.

The next step is for TransLink staff to produce a plan containing a few possible ways to address these concerns. The plan will likely involve the removal of two to four seats on each car to create space for bicycles, and installation of a restraining device so the bicycles stay put during emergency braking. To

avoid confusion and conflicts, it is felt that all cars, both new and old, should have space for bicycles.

This progress is encouraging but still no solid commitment has been made. It is critical you write TransLink and tell them it is very important that bicycles be allowed on SkyTrain NOW.

Chair George Puil and Board of Directors
TransLink
1700-4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC
V5H 4N2
Fax: 453-4626

A sample letter, which you can copy and modify, as well as the latest updates on this issue can be found at: www.vacc.bc.ca/skytrain

Committee Reports

The **New West** group is at it again! We have two events planned in the next few months and we will be conducting our usual Wednesday night rides in the spring and summer.

- **December 16th** - join the New West group on a Christmas lights tour followed by a Christmas concert at the Holy Trinity cathedral (Carnarvon St. New West.) Weather permitting, we will meet at Century House at 5 pm, ride for about an hour and then go for coffee. Concert is at 7pm. Admission is by donation to their food bank - cash or non-perishable food item(s).
- In the spring we will be hosting a seminar to help develop **Tour Leading Skills**. Participants will learn to plan and lead a safe, successful bike ride. This event will be great for Recreation professionals and Teachers, Guide, Scout & Outdoor Club leaders. Basically, anyone who will be leading or helping cyclists on a tour this summer will benefit from this seminar. Stay tuned for the date and venue.

- Monday, May 21, 2002 is the 3rd Annual **New West Bike Fest**; held this year in conjunction with the Hyack Festival. This event is still in the planning stages, so any ideas you have on making it bigger and better are welcome! One of the events will be a bicycle rodeo. We would like to have bikes & helmets available so children who left their bikes at home can participate. If you have a bike (in good condition) or helmet that your child has outgrown, please consider donating it to the VACC for this and future bike rodeos.

Please keep in mind volunteers will be needed for both events and if you can spare a few hours to help in the planning or at the event, it will be greatly appreciated!

Bruce and Maureen Mol

VACC-Surrey

Surrey is one of the fastest growing cities in the GVRD so it seems fitting that the new VACC-Surrey committee should experience rapid growth as well. At the first meeting two people sat down over coffee and said, 'Let's be a committee!' At the second meeting seven interested people were on hand and it was quickly apparent that our cozy coffee shop was not sufficient! I will miss the fireplace, but the search is on for a more suitable location.

The group is busy reviewing the current situation in Surrey and looking to the future. Through much of the '90s a foundation was laid upon which Surrey can build a community that will be a jewel in the crown of the West Coast. We have an Official Community Plan (OCP) and a Transportation Demand Management plan that recognize factors that make a city a desirable place to live. Innovative changes are being made by the City as part of the first major review of the OCP. These changes will allow Surrey to develop the tax base needed to meet the high ideals of the plan.

Some items have been identified in Surrey traffic bylaws that need to be updated to make them consistent with the Motor Vehicle Act and current cycling practice. The VACC-Surrey will pursue these changes and take an active role in encouraging the City to proceed 'on the ground' with the same ideals stated in its planning documents.

Good ideas have been put forward to promote the growth and recognition of VACC-Surrey in the community. Through contact with community groups and committees, and through participation in major public events in Surrey, VACC-Surrey intends to become a resource for both the administration and the people of Surrey.

Ian Stephen
VACC-Surrey Coordinator

NEW MEMBER SERVICES

The VACC is embarking on a new program, the Bike Shop Discount Program, to benefit its members. Under the program, VACC and BCCC members will receive discounts on goods and/or services at participating bike shops by showing their membership cards. Look for the names and addresses of participating bike shops in future issues.

Work with the VACC

Yes, I'm willing to work at improving cycling in Greater Vancouver!

I would like to volunteer on the following committees:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burnaby | Karim 604 307-9225 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley | Richard 604 733-1764 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta/North Surrey | Sheila 604 930-1673 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Westminster | Andrew 604 521-2742 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Shore | 604 693-1093 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Surrey/White Rock | Jean 604 531-3484 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surrey | Ian 604 576-4425 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tri-Cities | Brian 604 522-2977 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vancouver | Rachel 604 253-3554 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | Richard 604 733-1764 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to contribute to the VACC by doing the following: | |

Thank you!



Donor Recognition

The VACC wishes to thank the following for their donations in 2001.

Better Environmentally Sound Transportation ~ Barry Bogart ~
Book Warehouse ~ Canada Safeway ~ Canadian Springs
Water Company ~ Capers Community Markets ~
Capilano Suspension Bridge ~ Jack and Louise Christie ~
City of Vancouver, Board of Parks and Recreation ~ Dairy Queen ~
Gavin Davidson ~ Elizabeth Freyman ~ Brian George ~
HR MacMillan Space Centre ~ICBC and AutoPlan Brokers ~
Keg Restaurants ~ La Lorraine/La Rustica Restaurant ~
Laser Extreme ~ Christine Lattey ~ Lucky Strike Lanes ~
Marketplace IGA ~ MDS Nordion Inc. ~ Bruce and Maureen Mol ~
Mountain Equipment Co-op ~ The Mountaineers ~New Westminister
Parks & Recreation ~ Old Spaghetti Factory Restaurant ~ Playland ~
Rocky Mountain Bicycle Company ~ ROI Recreation Outfitters Inc. ~
Shoppers Drug Mart ~ Sideshow Cycles ~TD Canada Trust Friends of the
Environment Foundation ~ Troll's Restaurants ~ Vancouver Aquarium Marine
Science Centre ~ Vancouver Art Gallery ~ Vancouver/Richmond
Health Board ~ Vancouver Symphony Orchestra ~ Westminister
Quay Public Market ~ White Spot Restaurants

Winners of the Bike Touring Seminar Raffle

- 1st Prize Brian George
- 2nd Prize Sandra Barnett
- 3rd Prize Jitt Uppal

Winners of the Bike Fest/Bike Month Raffle

- 1st Prize Reuvan Dukas
- 2nd Prize David Love
- 3rd Prize Tom Gibson

JOIN THE VACC!

Yes, I want to cycle for a better community

1st person _____
2nd person _____
Address _____

City/Postal Code _____
Phone _____
E-mail: _____

The VACC does not sell or give out address information.

The VACC reserves the right to contact individual members through the above information.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please e-mail The Urban
Cyclist to me | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 Individual |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Fixed/Student/Low Income |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5.00 Each additional |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$80.00 Corporate/Organization |

I heard about the VACC:

- through the media
- from this newsletter
- via the website
- from a friend
- from another cyclist
- at a community event
- other: _____

Please make cheques payable to:
Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition
And mail, along with this application
to:

VACC Memberships
PO Box 40074 RPO Royal City
New Westminister BC V3M 6J7

12/01

Who to write about issues in this edition of The Urbane Cyclist

City of New Westminister
Mayor Helen Sparkes and Council
511 Royal Avenue
New Westminister BC V3L 1H9
Phone: 604 527-4522
Fax: 604 527-4594
hsparkes@city.new-westminister.bc.ca

City of Surrey
Mayor Doug McCallum and Council
City of Surrey
14245 - 56th Avenue
Surrey, BC V3X 3A2
Phone: 604 591-4126
Fax: 604 591-8731
www.city.surrey.bc.ca/CityCouncil/ContactCouncil.htm

Translink
George Puil
Chair
Translink
1700-4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2
Phone: 604 453-4500
Fax: 604 453-4626

City of Vancouver
Mayor Philip Owen and Council
453 west 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
Phone: 604 873-7273
Fax: 604 873-7750
mayorandcouncil@city.vancouver.bc.ca

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier
PO Box 9041
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC
V8W 9E1
Phone: 250 387-1715
Fax: 250 387-0087
premier@gov.bc.ca

Remember....

The more letters that are written to these government officials, the more likely that conditions will get better for cyclists. If you do not write or call these officials, it is less likely the situation will improve.

It's entirely up to you.