

The Urban Cyclist

Spring 2002 Issue 12 The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition quarterly

www.vacc.bc.ca

Downtown Transportation Plan Richard Campbell

Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition volunteers have been very active in the City of Vancouver's Downtown Transportation Plan process. Over the last two years we have attended public meetings, met with city staff and sent many letters to the City. The latest draft of the Plan includes numerous improvements for cyclists, including bicycle lanes on Hornby, Burrard, Pender, Dunsmuir and Cambie Streets, and Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts. As well, it is proposed Helmcken becomes a bikeway and be traffic calmed.

While these changes are most welcome, the VACC is making further suggestions to the City that would make Downtown Vancouver a much safer and convenient place to cycle.

Bicycle Arterials

The VACC has identified the key downtown bicycle arterials including Pender Street for Eastbound/Westbound cyclists and Burrard Street for Northbound/Southbound cyclists.

Pender Street: The VACC is asking for further review of the proposal to use Dunsmuir Street Westbound. This alternative street poses a number of problems for cyclists including:

- Splitting the critical arterial among multiple streets would detract from the branding of the bicycle routes. Branding of the arterial routes is important to promote awareness for both cyclists and motorists.
- Dunsmuir Street has technical problems that would add complexity, extra costs and delays. Dunsmuir Street, with its current designation as Highway 1A and proposal as a truck route, will be unattractive to inexperienced cyclists and those that wish to avoid high traffic volumes moving at speed.

Burrard Street: Ideally Burrard Street would be the main North/South bicycle arterial. This will provide the most obvious and direct connection to Burrard Bridge for cyclists in both directions. Hornby Street would only be an acceptable alternative if a safe, convenient northbound connection is developed from Burrard Bridge. If such a connection is not possible by 2003, an interim northbound bicycle lane should be implemented on Burrard Street.



A gorgeous Saturday in November (see page 4)

The above comments do not suggest that Hornby and Dunsmuir Street would not be acceptable as components of the arterial network. If these streets are chosen, the City needs to anticipate additional public input, a more complex design and higher costs. The City needs to quickly implement the bicycle arterials or to come up with a short-term alternative plan.

Bicycle Collectors

A complete downtown bicycle network should also include a number of collector streets, although this should not take priority over the implementation of the arterial network. Potential collector streets include:

Denman Street serves as an important north/south connector of English Bay to Coal Harbour. **Seymour Northbound and Howe Southbound** have the potential to be an important north/south route that connects the Granville Bridge. Likewise, **Smithe/Robson** are required as a westbound route into the downtown from the Cambie Bridge. **Carrall Street** has the potential as a good connection between False Creek and Burrard Inlet.

More information can be found at www.vacc.bc.ca/vancouver and www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/dtp/ It is critical that you contact the Mayor and Council and let them know that you want downtown to be very bicycle friendly. (See page six for contact details.)

The Urbane Cyclist

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

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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. March 12 April 9 May 14

Phone 604 693-1093 for details.

INTERNET

Keep up on the latest cycling issues and events, Join one of our e-mail lists at www.vacc.bc.ca/lists

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:

**Friday,
April 26th, 2002**



President's Message

Jessé Neri

The 2002 Annual General Meeting (AGM) approaches. Already this year, we have been examining our resource requirements, in order to determine how many more volunteers to call and what types of funding we must solicit to support our advocacy needs.

During a given year, we can expect to write many letters, print many brochures, host several Bike Month events, print many newsletters, and attend many neighbourhood community festivals. When we determine our resource and reserve needs in advance, fulfilling the requirements will be easier. With more preparation time, more resources can be gathered. If only some of us search for resources, then others will be free to negotiate with local governments and industries to consider cyclists in their plans.

Our primary resource need is people. The VACC is certainly a well-respected organisation that continues to grow. We know that all VACC members, and cyclists in general are ardent supporters of better cycling facilities and cooperation between road users. When more of those vibrant people step forward to become part of the active leg of the group, the VACC will become even more effective.

Many types of volunteers will find opportunities in the VACC. People with only a particular time block can be involved at community festivals. People who prefer to devote time to continuing daily activities can be involved too. If you would like to be involved in the inner workings of the VACC, you could become a director--a board member.

The board of directors consists of volunteers who have continuing duties as well as those who devote time to special events. The board seeks to gather members who are representative of the entire Greater Vancouver region. Last year at the AGM, we voted to increase the board size and can now include directors from all of the major sub areas in the region.

You can become one of the essential links in the VACC. Directors initiate new directions for the VACC, attend monthly board meetings, chair or liaise with committees, act on issues or tasks brought up at meetings, and discuss issues by email or phone with other directors. If you are interested, please contact any of the existing directors for more information.

More information on the VACC and directorship is available if you attend any board meetings (check this newsletter or the website), or if you attend the upcoming Annual General Meeting. The AGM will be at Bonsor Community Centre, Metrotown, Burnaby, on Saturday, March 23, 2002.

VACC AGM

Saturday, March 23, 2002 (from 1-4 pm at the

Bonsor Recreation Complex in Burnaby

Guest Speaker will be

Bob Bose on "Being Effective"

Mr. Bose is a keen cyclist, as well as former Mayor

and current city councilor in Surrey

Consultation and the VACC

Marion Orser

The VACC is often asked to consult on various committees regarding cycling in the community. In addition, we ask to meet with the consultant, staff person or politician on cycling related issues. Recently I have been pleased to attend three such meetings as a board representative from the VACC.

Fraser River Crossing

This is the crossing currently being proposed by TransLink to travel between 200th Street, Surrey to Maple Ridge, and possibly replace the Albion Ferry. The first round of open houses will be completed by the time of this newsletter but you can still see details and complete a questionnaire at: <http://www.translink.bc.ca/frasercrossing/>

This meeting included cycling representatives from BCCC, Cycling BC and the VACC. Present from TransLink were the Manager of Alternate Transportation and the Manager of Engineering and Project Services. The Manager of Engineering presented the concept, rationale and proposed route alignment of the bridge. He also provided information on their concepts regarding accommodation of cyclists on the bridge, the connections for cyclists to existing and proposed routes.

Some of the issues discussed:

- cycling engineering standards (MoT, TAC)
- speed limits and the effect on the standards
- access and egress needs for different cyclists and their destinations
- impact of increased vehicular traffic on adjacent roads in terms of cycling needs and safety
- bridge deck surface and maintenance
- pull out areas for sightseers and wheelchair users
- encroachment of bridge equipment, poles, architectural or engineering "necessities" in cyclists space and right-of-way
- the future of the Albion Ferry

The proposed bridge will be a cyclist exempt toll bridge with the completion date anticipated in 2007. As the project moves forward, the various cycling representatives are looking forward to further consultation and response to our concerns. The VACC prefers to put our energy into insuring that new infrastructure is cycling accessible and that the proposed changes do not mean deterioration of current widely used cycling routes. In the meantime,

it is important that cyclists be involved at every stage of the planning process.

GVRD Ferries

Lower mainland municipalities with GVRD assistance have been developing the concept of "linear parks". However this concept runs into obstacles when faced with the many bodies of water in Greater Vancouver. GVRD Parks have been studying the possibility of developing a pilot Ferry Project connecting these parks. The ferries will be available to cyclists and pedestrians.

The VACC feel the ferries could be very useful for cyclists. We would like to see the pilot wildly successful so that all of the river crossings studied would warrant GVRD ferries. Since there is no cost to ride or drive across a bridge we prefer no charge. At the very most, we suggest no more than a one-zone bus fare.

One of the leading contenders is a route from Richmond to Delta. This could be a very useful route both for recreational and commuter cyclists. Other exciting options for these linear parks are Deep Cove to Belcarra Park, and various routes from New Westminster across the Fraser River.

Be sure to watch for and express your ideas at any meetings or open houses in your community.

Environment Canada and Clean Air

Although the VACC promotes cycling for the sake of cycling, by its nature cycling is environmentally friendly. Don Fast, Environment Canada Regional Director General, Pacific & Yukon Division gave a presentation regarding some of the environmental issues affecting our land, water and air. Each participant was invited to speak for a maximum of five minutes on his or her perspective of clean air. Francis van Loon from BCCC spoke from a global perspective. Among other issues she suggested that the BCCC volunteers assist in preparing a National Cycling Policy. The VACC presentation was more specific. How do we get more people to cycle? The most common reason given for not cycling is concern about personal safety. Hence we need:

- Funding for cycling infrastructure
- Education for cyclists and motorists starting at the elementary school level in addition to that now provided in the recent Motor Driver Manual
- Decrease pollution (wood smoke, motor vehicles, industrial, agriculture) so when cycling is chosen as a transportation choice, our lungs are protected.

Further information can be obtained on our website.

Tailwinds



☼ City of Vancouver and CPR for fixing the track crossing on 7th near Arbutus on the Off Broadway Bikeway, making it a pleasure to cycle across.

☼ City of Vancouver, Downtown Transportation Plan Team, for recommending bike lanes and other cycling facilities in the downtown core. These are long overdue, so let's make sure they happen.

☼ TransLink for seriously considering allowing bikes on SkyTrain.

☼ The City of Vancouver for making 1st and Wylie a three way stop and adding a bike lane to the west of the intersection.

Headwinds

♣ TransLink for continually delaying the decision on bikes on SkyTrain. This is long overdue and is implemented around the world without any serious problems. Hello TransLink, have you heard of BART?

♣ Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association for being opposed to bike facilities downtown. Maybe it is time that they figured out that cyclists are customers too, and these facilities could actually increase their business.

♣ London Drugs on Georgia and Granville for not including any bicycle parking at their new location. During the bus strike it was almost impossible to find a parking spot and they lost business as a result.

♣ Senior City of Vancouver engineering staff for initially shooting down the idea of a bike box on Union at Main. It is time to start thinking outside the box.

Vancouver BC Parkway Ride

Rachel Jamieson

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in November the VACC Vancouver Committee hosted a ride of the BC Parkway. The BC Parkway, also known as the 7-11 trail is a regional route connecting East Vancouver and Burnaby with New Westminster, generally following the Expo SkyTrain alignment.

In addition to enjoying a ride on the Vancouver section, the group of eleven people stopped at key locations to discuss possible improvements to the trail. The comments and photos were compiled and sent to the City of Vancouver's Greenways team to assist with BC Parkway upgrades planned for 2002.

Many of the cyclists were already familiar with the BC Parkway's twists and turns, lighting conditions, signage and surfaces. Key features we commented on included:

- Suggested improvements at Nanaimo Skytrain Station.
- Improved lighting of the off-road sections of the route since it is dark during commuter hours during several months of the year.
- Additional signage and pavement markings where the route turns, to help new users not to lose the route.
- The VACC encourages the use of destination based signage i.e. Science World 2 km.
- Some suggestions for slight adjustments in the signed route to improve grades, connections or route simplicity.

Full comments from the VACC Vancouver Committee and guests on the November ride can be seen on the VACC Vancouver webpage at www.vacc.bc.ca/vancouver The website also includes information on other current cycling issues and plans for upcoming rides and meetings.

If you would like to offer comments on sections of the BC Parkway to the City of Vancouver, Burnaby or New Westminster, addresses are provided on page six.

Committee Reports

At the January meeting of the **VACC-New Westminster** subcommittee we defined a number of goals for our group in 2002. These goals include cycling activities and cycling advocacy issues of which we feel are important in New Westminster. In the coming year VACC-New West will be organizing a number of activities to raise the profile of cycling in our community. These include a ride leader workshop in April (see article in this issue), the New West Bike Fest, again at the Hyack Festival in May, and the return of the ever-popular Wednesday night rides starting in June--Bike Month. Through our activities we hope to raise the awareness of the potential of cycling as a mode of transportation, develop confidence and skills in those new to cycling on our streets, and make people aware of the slowly growing cycling infrastructure in New Westminster.

As for our advocacy goals for 2002, the group feels it is important to promote cycling infrastructure links to the cycle routes in surrounding communities. Important links include a crossing of 10 Ave. to Burnaby, (particularly considering the expected increased volume of vehicle traffic following completion of the Marine Way connector), a link to the new VanCity Central Valley Greenway, and links to United Blvd and Coquitlam and greenway developments at the Woodlands site. These links help create a much broader network of bikeways in our region. In the coming year of budget cuts, it will be important to encourage the City to continue its investment in greenways in New West. Despite the impressive development of the cross-town greenway in the past year, much still needs to be done in our City before all regions have access to safe and efficient bike routes. There is a concern that the momentum for development will be lost as funding sources dry up. The VACC-New West would like to encourage the City to put up cycle route signs and circulate maps to make residents aware of the new cross-town greenway and to prohibit parking at the off-street accesses to the greenway. The City must be reminded that signs and maps advertising the bike route will encourage its use, but that allowing illegally parked cars at access points sends a message that the greenway really doesn't matter...

The VACC-New West is anticipating another busy year of advocacy and pedal-powered fun. We welcome anyone interested in alternative transportation and particularly cycling to get involved with our group, or at least express your concerns and/or interests to us. Please contact Andrew at 604-521-2742 for more information.

Andrew Feltham

New Bike Racks at SkyTrain Stations

Richard Campbell

Tired of locking your precious wheels to fences, trees and street signs at SkyTrain stations? Good news. The days of those old rim benders that passed for bicycle racks are numbered.

TransLink now has twenty bike lockers at both Braid and Sapperton SkyTrain stations. Lockers will be available at the new Millennium Line stations as they open. For information on locker availability and rental terms, e-mail bikelockers@translink.bc.ca or phone 604-453-4500.

TransLink has also awarded a contract for the supply, installation and maintenance of bicycle parking racks on TransLink property including SkyTrain stations and Park and Rides. The bicycle racks have been specially designed in consultation with the VACC to ensure their functionality.

The VACC has been lobbying for better bicycle parking at SkyTrain stations for the last three years.

For details on the number and location of the racks, go to: www.vacc.bc.ca/skytrain/bike_racks.html For more information on bikes and SkyTrain, go to: www.vacc.bc.ca/skytrain

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!

ANNOUNCING THE RIDE LEADER WORKSHOP

www.vacc.bc.ca/leader

We invite you to attend the Ride Leader Workshop and develop your skills as a Bicycling Ride Leader.

Saturday April 27th, 2002
9:30 AM to 2 PM
Century House
620 8th Street, New Westminster

Join us at 9:30 AM for Coffee, tea and goodies provided by Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition volunteers. Remember to bring your bike and helmet. There's lots of free parking for those arriving by car.

The morning session will be indoors from 10:00 AM until noon. After lunch we will go outdoors to practice new knowledge and skills. We've assembled some volunteer cyclists and experts to help you practice leading a group or answer your individual questions. We'll wrap up around 2:00 PM and make sure we have time to address individual concerns.

The Bicycle Ride Leader Workshop is FREE --- But you must pre-register. Pre-register by calling 604-519-1442 or email bruce@gonecycling.com

For More information:

<http://www.vacc.bc.ca/events/RLPoster.pdf>
<http://www.vacc.bc.ca/events/rlw1.pdf>

Poster
Invitation and Agenda

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.

- Please e-mail *The Urbane Cyclist* to me
- \$20.00 Individual
- \$10.00 Fixed/Student/Low Income
- \$ 5.00 Each additional
- \$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: _____

02/02

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 Westminster BC V3M 6J7

Who to write about issues in this edition of

The Urbane Cyclist

City of Burnaby
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4949 Canada Way
Burnaby B.C.
V5G 1M2
Phone: 604 294-7340
Fax: 604 294-7724
clerks@city.burnaby.bc.ca

City of New Westminster
Mayor Helen Sparkes and Council
511 Royal Avenue
New Westminster BC V3L 1H9
Phone: 604 527-4522
Fax: 604 527-4594
hsparkes@city.new-westminster.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
Doug McCallum
Chair
TransLink
1700-4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2
Phone: 604 453-4500
Fax: 604 453-4626

City of Vancouver
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453 west 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
Phone: 604 873-7273
Fax: 604 873-7750
mayorandcouncil@city.vancouver.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.