

# The Urban Cyclist

Summer 2002 Issue 13 The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition quarterly

[www.vaec.bc.ca](http://www.vaec.bc.ca)

## TransLink Bicycle Funding Needs Increasing

Richard Campbell

Back in the heady days before the Vehicle Levy fiasco, TransLink's Strategic Transportation Plan (STP) included significant funding for cycling projects, increasing to \$5 million in year 5 of the Plan. In 2000, TransLink's Bicycle Capital Program amounted to \$1,845,700. Unfortunately, in 2001, no such funding was provided. In 2002, the draft budget includes \$1 million for the Bicycle Capital Program, far short of the \$3 million dollars committed in the STP. This decrease is in spite of the fact that improving cycling infrastructure is the most cost effective means of providing people with better transportation options.

Our goal is to increase the bicycle budget to a percentage of the TransLink budget based on bicycle usage. Currently bicycles account for 2% of trips in the region so we recommend a bicycle budget of around \$10 million per year. This is comparable to the \$10 million US being spent per year in Portland, Oregon and Houston, Texas.

Worst of all, the \$1 million TransLink is spending on cycling in 2002 is less than the amount cyclists pay to TransLink through property taxes and the Hydro Levy. According to the 1999 Regional Travel Survey, every day 3% of GVRD residents make at least one trip by bicycle. Thus for 2002, cyclists are paying TransLink around \$3.9 million; 3% of the \$130.8 million in revenue TransLink receives from property taxes and the Hydro Levy.

According to the 1999 Regional Travel Survey, in the past six months 25% of GVRD residents have used a bicycle for work, school, shopping or other



*Future Ride Leaders practice their new skills at the Ride Leader Workshop on April 27*

personal business. Regionally, 28% of car journeys to work are less than five kilometers in length and within easy cycling distance. A survey conducted by Environomics Int. Ltd. for Go for Green states, "70% of Canadians say that if they had access to a dedicated bike lane that would take them to work in less than 30 minutes, they would definitely use it." Even if as few as a quarter of the 70% decided to make at least one trip by bicycle every day in the GVRD, that would be an increase of 483%!

Increased funding is required in the coming years for the Regional Cycling Network, the BC Parkway, the Central Valley Greenway, bicycle facilities on TransLink bridges, better integration of bicycles and transit, and educational and promotional programs.

Please write TransLink and let them know that you want increased funding for cycling.

Contact details for TransLink are provided on page ten of this newsletter.

### **June is Bike Month!**

*Check out our insert for lots of neat cycling activities.  
Get out there and celebrate cycling!*

## The Urbane Cyclist

Published quarterly by the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition (VACC)

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 generally meet on the second Tuesday for the following months at 6:30 p.m. 11 June 09 July 13 August

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](http://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](mailto:vacc@canada.com)

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

### Next deadline:

**Friday,  
July 26, 2002**



## President's Message

### Marion Orser

Since the last issue of The Urbane Cyclist the VACC has had an AGM and, as is often the case, a slate of new directors and a new president.

So thank you.

The first thank you is to Bob Bose, Surrey Councilor and former mayor of Surrey. Bob was our keynote speaker at the AGM. I hope we are able to include a bit of a resumé of those words in the future. In the meantime – think of running for a position on your local Council in the next municipal election. Those in government positions, who are interested in self propelled transportation, i.e. cycling, can make infrastructure and change in attitude happen.

I thank those of you who voted for me as president. It is indeed an honour to be the president of such a knowledgeable, well-recognized group of advocates.

And of course thank you to those who have agreed to step forward as directors. The diversity and expertise of our directors - some new and some continuing - bring a promise of a successful and productive year for the VACC and the work that we do. To explain, we have persons with an awareness of government and government documents. There are those from an engineering background who are able to help us understand standards for cycling facilities. Those with an educational background are able to assist with presentations and letter writing. Financial expertise is always needed in a non-profit organization to keep us financially prudent. We have a wide regional representation this year. And lastly we have our long-term advocates. These are the people who share their knowledge and help newcomers understand how to get things done.

It is our firm belief that individual municipalities and the region must be held accountable for providing a network of cycling facilities that are efficient, comfortable (safe) for the rider, and built or adapted to documented cycling standards.

We note with dismay that dollars for cycling facilities are being cut both on a provincial and a regional basis. (See articles page one and page ten.) Does this make any sense? No, it does not, to quote Jim, one of our directors. "If you don't build it, we (cyclists) will not come." Every day we read in the paper of the rising obesity rates in Canada. It is blamed on a sedentary lifestyle. The easiest and most consistent exercise is found to be walking or cycling for transportation. Then we read of the increase in asthma – now 1 in 5 schoolchildren. A link has been found between high pollution rates and an increased number of asthma attacks. Most recently a report has noted a higher incidence of asthma among children living in communities with higher pollution rates.

I issue an invitation to you - join and become involved with the VACC to insure cyclists have facilities in your community. See our web page at [www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca); send an email to [vacc@canada.com](mailto:vacc@canada.com), or phone 604 693-1093 if you are interested in becoming involved in your area; either with a regional committee or in starting your own!

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## Updates on Hot Issues

Richard Campbell

### Central Valley Greenway

Good news on sections of the Central Valley Greenway in New Westminster, Burnaby and Vancouver.

The GVRD has purchased the property just to the north of the new Sapperton Landing Park. This was the missing link. Once a path is in place, one will be able to cycle from the Park to the new section of United Boulevard and Braid SkyTrain. Due to a dispute between Coquitlam and New Westminster, this section remains a through route to bicycles only.

Burnaby has secured a right-of-way for the Greenway between Boundary and Gilmore and is now arranging funding.

Last but not least, the City of Vancouver has started construction on the section between Slocan and Victoria.

BEST has hired the first two members of the Greenway team, Keith Ross and Cheryl Mackniak. Keith, the Greenway Project Manager, can be reached at [greenway@best.bc.ca](mailto:greenway@best.bc.ca)

More information can be found at [www.vacc.bc.ca/centralvalley](http://www.vacc.bc.ca/centralvalley)

The next Central Valley Greenway ride is on June 30. Please check the Bike Month Calendar for more details.

### Lions Gate Bridge Tamed!!

Finally, the sidewalks are open! If you have not tried them out, I highly recommend doing so. They are a huge improvement over the old rickety ones.

The years of lobbying by the VACC, BCCC, BEST and other cyclists, which convinced the Province to spend an extra \$2.4 million dollars to widen the sidewalks on North Viaduct, has really paid off.

VACC members spent countless hours writing letters, going to public meetings, organizing rides and meeting with public officials to ensure that reasonable bicycle facilities exist on both the bridge and on access routes to the bridge.

The City of Vancouver is currently constructing bicycle lanes on Georgia Street and the Stanley

Park S-Curve. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Transportation has not yet committed to improving the substandard and dangerous approaches on the North Shore. With the tremendous improvements made to the rest of the crossing, the North Shore approaches are quite frankly a huge embarrassment.

Please contact the Minister of Transportation demanding that the north approaches be improved.

More information can be found at [www.vacc.bc.ca/northvan](http://www.vacc.bc.ca/northvan)

### Burrard Street Bridge

Vancouver City Council has reaffirmed Burrard Bridge as the priority for cyclist and pedestrian improvements. Council chose to further pursue options that provide additional sidewalk capacity for pedestrians and cyclists either through outward extensions of the sidewalks, or alternative solutions at the deck or upper level of the Bridge.

While more expensive than other proposed options, these solutions will provide the opportunity for the best bicycle facilities, as the extra three meters could be used to create segregated bicycle and pedestrian lanes with plenty of passing room. Removing a lane of traffic only would have provided an extra 1.5 meters to the sidewalk width or a substandard 1.5 meter bike lane.

It is expected that the total cost will be around \$10 million dollars. Since \$7 million dollars has already been approved, the extra \$3 million or so will need to be included in the next capital plan to be submitted to voters in the November civic elections. Council also committed to a long-term program of cyclist and pedestrian improvements to the Cambie and Granville Bridges.

Please contact council in support of improvements that will make these bridges safer and more convenient to cycle across.

For more information, check out [www.vacc.bc.ca/Vancouver](http://www.vacc.bc.ca/Vancouver) See page ten for contact details for each of the above projects.

*We have about 60 Ride Leader Handbooks available for purchase at \$5 each. Please see [www.vacc.bc.ca/leader](http://www.vacc.bc.ca/leader) for more details or send \$5 to the VACC mailing address and we'll forward a booklet to you.*

## Tailwinds

☼ Thank You! To the Ministry of Hwys/Department/People responsible for the paving of a short (but critical) bicycling detour around the overpass abutment, on Lougheed Hwy, just west of the United Blvd overpass. The lack of a shoulder while passing under the overpass was extremely dangerous and nerve-wracking for cyclists! Much better now.

☼ City of New Westminster for putting up bike/ped signs identifying the Crosstown Greenway at 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 12<sup>th</sup> St., and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave and 6<sup>th</sup> St. In fact, thanks to the City for completing their first bicycle route "the Cross Town Greenway". It includes an awesome no-need-to-dismount overpass of McBride built by Viacom.

☼ For the Ministry of Transportation for seeing the wisdom of having bike lanes on the new Middle Arm Bridge to and from the old Bridge from the airport.

☼ City of Vancouver for installing a bicycle access control for the new lights at 59<sup>th</sup> and Fraser.

## Headwinds

♣ Wendy's at Cambie and 8<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver. Where's the rack? No bicycle parking facilities despite repeated requests and despite the fact that they are a block off a major bike route, and close to several others.

♣ Vancouver Airport Authority for making an already confusing roadway network on Sea Island worse. Has anyone figured out how to safely cycle around this mess?

♣ Gale force Headwind: Ministry of Transportation for canceling the valuable Cycling Network Program, giving BC drivers too many excuses for driving more often. If you build it, we will cycle and we are cycling in record numbers. Now you claim you have no money for this program, but you have millions more for new highway projects.



## Dennis, THE Cyclist from Fernie Francis van Loon

Dennis Della Siega from Fernie, BC, contacted the BC Cycling Coalition's (BCCC) office one evening. Dennis was upset about Shoulder Rumble Strips that were badly installed around the Fernie area. He said: "Francis, you should see these things! They are terrible, wobbly, all over the place, and I can't ride on the shoulder anymore. I found you on the web, can you help me?"

Since then, Dennis and I have an on-going relationship. He calls at least once a week. Everybody in the Ministry of Transportation (MoT) Engineering and Standards Department and Maintenance and Construction Contracts Department knows him. The fact that they call him "Dennis, THE cyclist from Fernie", shows the respect that he has obtained.

Dennis went out and measured every km post and everything in between. He measured the width of the rumble strips, the shoulder and the vehicle lanes. He studied the MoT-Shoulder Rumble Strip Guidelines. He wrote a report containing all his findings.

We discussed what to look for and debated what would be best: we strategized every move. Dennis became the BCCC's eyes, nose and ears in Fernie.

The BCCC submitted Dennis' report to the MoT-Provincial Advisory Cycling Committee (PACC). Cyclists from the Cross Canada Cycle Tour Society and the BC Randonneurs cycled through the area and backed up Dennis' story of woe. The BCCC pushed for a proper audit and review of the area in question. We said: "If you can't fix it, they should not be there in the first place. Rip them out!"

MoT sent their engineers out to see what was going on. We involved ICBC. The conclusion was that the situation was terrible: something needed to be done, and soon.

Dennis pointed out the worst areas to Ministry staff. They settled on 10 km of rumble strips that needed to come out. This past summer Dennis observed 8 km were removed. Every week Dennis phoned me to report on the progress.

MoT regarded this process as very beneficial to all involved. Their regard for Dennis is high for his hard work, persistence and willingness to find solutions.

*(cont'd on page seven)*



## ***Bike Month 2002***

### **Event List**

Contact:  
Mary Walter  
Bike Month Coordinator  
Ph:669-2860 Fx:669-2869  
[Bikemonth@best.bc.ca](mailto:Bikemonth@best.bc.ca)  
[www.best.bc.ca](http://www.best.bc.ca)

#### **Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

- CENTRAL VALLEY GREENWAY - Bike Month kick-off event. Info: Keith 604-669-2860
- BIKE TO PITT MEADOWS DAY - Festivities 11am - 5pm. Info: Christine 604-460-8897
- LANTERN RIDE – Meet at David Lam Park west of the Roundhouse. 9pm. Info: Lee 604-255-2102
- NATURE BIKE – Meet at Queen Elizabeth Park south parking lot by golf course. 7pm. Info: Joseph 604-327-8697 or [www.greenclub.bc.ca](http://www.greenclub.bc.ca)
- EASY ROLLERS-opening night of a bicycle art show. Glass Onion Gallery on Adanac. Info: [www.pedalpower.org](http://www.pedalpower.org)

#### **Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- BICYCLE BAKERY TOUR – A tour for nice buns! Info: Eva 604-873-9366

#### **Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> – NATIONAL CLEAN AIR DAY**

- COMMUTER CHALLENGE – Make a clean commute! Info: Sophika 604-689-4467
- CLEAN AIR DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST- CBC Plaza from 7:30am – 9am. Info: Mary 604-669-2860
- TEMPLETON CLEAN AIR DAY CYCLING CELEBRATION – Templeton Pool on Adanac Bike Route. Info: Helen 604-718-6227

#### **Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**

- BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY – Get on your bike, blades, and legs. Info: Bernadette 604-732-1511

#### **Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**

- VACC'S BIKE FILM NIGHT - At the Blinding Light Cinemas, Films start at 8:30 pm.

#### **Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**

- REV! – Parking lot south of Science World. 10am-4pm. Info: Robert 604-738-2641, [www.veva.bc.ca](http://www.veva.bc.ca)
- TOUR DE NORTH VANCOUVER – At City Hall, 141 West 14<sup>th</sup> St. Registration and Kid's activities: 10am. Tour departs: 12pm. Info: Mona 604-904-5828

#### **Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**

- TRAILS DAY - Hosted by Outdoor Recreation Council. Info: [www.orcbc.ca](http://www.orcbc.ca), Laurie 604-737-3058
- BIKE TO MARKET DAY AT GRANVILLE ISLAND – Info: Mary 604-666-6861
- TRANS CANADA TRAIL RIDE – Join the City of Burnaby on two different rides. Info: Ian 604-294-7216

#### **Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**

- CITY OF VANCOUVER BICYCLE FAIR - Bicycle fun at City Hall. 10am - 3pm. Info: Geoff 604-871-6279

#### **Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**

- TRANSPORTATION ART SHOW - Info: Arthur 604-669-2860

#### **Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

- BROCKTON CRITERIUM RACE AND STANLEY PARK RIDE - Race 7:30am-9:45am. Fun ride 10:15am. Info:

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Alistair 604-681-0419

- SUMMERFEST AT SOUTHEAST FALSE CREEK – All day festival. Info: Sikee 604-876-6865
- MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OP CHARITY BIKE DROP – Drop off unwanted bikes at the MEC roof-top parking lot. 10am-4pm. Info: Kate 604-872-7858

### **Sunday, June 16th**

- THINK ECO-CITY- All-day workshop at SFU Harbour Centre. Info: Sikee 604-876-6865.
- BIKE TO COQUITLAM FARMERS MARKET - Coquitlam Recreation Centre on Poirier St. 9am-1pm. Info: Terri 604-464-3276

### **Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>**

- FORUM ON CYCLING – Hosted by B.E.S.T. Info: Ray 604-669-2860

### **Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

- SOLSTICE RIDE – Meet at intersection of Ontario St & 37th Ave. 7:30pm. Info: Lee at 604-255-2102

### **Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- UBC BIKE RODEO FOR KIDS – 10am - 1pm on the UBC Campus in Parking lot 'B-1'. Info: Tom 604-822-0211 or [www.trek.ubc.ca](http://www.trek.ubc.ca)
- FUNDRAISER AT THE ANZA CLUB - Doors 8pm-2am. Info: Gavin 604-873-3877

### **Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- BICYCLE INSTRUCTION DAY – For kids ages 4-14. Jericho Hill Centre, 4196 West 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. 2-4pm. Register: Claudia 604-874-6464
- OFF BROADWAY/ADANAC RIDE - Meet at 10:30am at Solly's Bagelry on W. Broadway. Info: Rachel 604-254-3554

### **Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

- BIKE TO EAST VANCOUVER FARMERS MARKET DAY – East 15<sup>th</sup> Ave at Victoria. 9am-2pm. Info: Mary 604-669-2860
- DINO OPERA - A late evening performance. Location and time - TBA. Info: Lee 604-255-2102

### **Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**

- ISLAND CITY BY BIKE (Richmond) - Meet at Sea Island School, 1891 Wellington Crescent Safety Check: 10:00am; Short & Long Tours Depart: 11:00am. Info: Joan 604-276-4035 or [www.city.richmond.bc.ca](http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca)
- CENTRAL VALLEY GREENWAY RIDE – Meeting places: Broadway and Victoria Dr., 11am/ Boundary and Lougheed, 11:30am. Info: Keith 604-669-2860
- BIKE TO NORTH VANCOUVER FARMERS MARKET DAY – City Hall (14<sup>th</sup> and Lonsdale). 10am-3pm. Info: Mary 604-669-2860

### **June 5<sup>th</sup> , 12<sup>th</sup> , 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**

WEDNESDAY EVENING RIDES – Meet at 8<sup>th</sup> St. at 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Moody Park (outside Century House) in New West at 6:30pm. All rides are suitable for novice riders. Info: Marion 604-520-7636 or [www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca)

#### **Cycling Info Sessions:**

- Cycling skills and maintenance workshops-Check your local community centre!
- Cycling oriented info sessions at MEC. Info: [www.mec.ca](http://www.mec.ca) (events) or 604-872-7858

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But if it was not for Dennis picking up the phone that one evening and looking for help, nothing would have happened.

Now, if I have a question about rumble strips I will call Dennis. He has become an avid and active cycling lobbyist. He continues to make maintenance crews aware of his presence on the road and gets them to remove their debris from his path. He informs cyclists in the area of what is o.k. and what requires action. He has patience and he persists and he LOVES the BCCC.

Dennis is still with us. We now work on a couple of other cycling related issues together. He no longer feels alone; he has found his voice. And still he finds time to ride his bike. People like Dennis are the backbone of the BCCC.

The BCCC depends solely on membership funds and volunteer power. We have no paid staff. Our volunteers throw in a lot of their own money, time and effort to keep us independent and moving forward. Without your assistance we could not do this, and we would not be where we are today.

The BCCC continues to work with anybody who wants to work with us. And if they don't, we hassle them so much, they will eventually will! Our biggest strength is our persistence, even in these changing times.

There is a bit of Dennis in all of us.

*Francis is the President of the BCCC, which works with local cycling groups such as the VACC on issues involving the provincial government.*

[www.bccc.bc.ca](http://www.bccc.bc.ca)

### **Canada Bike Safety Skills Event**

#### **City of Surrey Canada Day Celebrations**

Cloverdale Amphitheatre at  
176 St at 64th Ave.,  
Surrey  
Monday, July 1, 2002  
12 noon - 6pm

Martin Prestage of LifeCycle Consultants will provide a fleet of children's bikes and supervision for the safety skills event similar to past BikeFest events of VACC volunteers.

## **Cyclists and the Law**

**David Hay**

The furtherance of the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition's advocacy goals does indeed require a heightened collective awareness of the value of cycling to the community. Law has always been important in creating awareness and yet too often the law is thought of as inaccessible or exclusive or available only to those with significant means. While this can be true in some cases, injured cyclists generally have unrestricted access to legal advice. Personal injuries will certainly decrease if cyclists are given a greater place on our roadways, but until that occurs, we must try to understand the rights we do enjoy. Regrettably, people forget that the law is not meant to serve lawyers or television producers, but ordinary citizens. Perhaps for that reason cyclists often choose not to avail themselves of legal remedies when affected by civil wrongdoing. When a cyclist is so affected, and abandons his or her right to do anything about it, that only serves to perpetuate the myth that what a cyclist does is somehow not valuable.

I was involved as counsel in a recent case which serves to illustrate the point. A client of mine was cycling to work on the City of Vancouver (the "City") -designated North-South Cypress bicycle route. The City had made two cuts in the asphalt, approximately 50 feet apart, following which a City work crew first excavated and later backfilled trenches made at those locations. While they were doing the work, they saw many cyclists riding up and down the bicycle route. Nevertheless, they left the cuts partially exposed overnight and left a "Road Closed" sign at one end of the block. My client, a very experienced cyclist, hit one of the cuts at 4:00 a.m. and was injured.

Given my client's honest admission that she had chosen to ignore the "Road Closed" sign, many people would assume that, as a matter of law, that would be the end of the matter. As counsel for the City put it, "Road Closed" means road closed. But cyclists in particular recognize that not all "Road Closed" signs are created equal, and some are obviously more sincere than others. So did the Judge in that case. In his reasons for judgment, in which he found the City of Vancouver 75% liable for my client's injuries, he noted the evidence of the City workers that some persons ignore "Road Closed" signs and circumvent warning devices. The Judge found that it was reasonably foreseeable that on a cycling route, cyclists would ignore the "Road Closed" sign, and if they did, there was nothing in

these circumstances to protect them against the hazard created by the City.

Had that particular cyclist chosen to do nothing, the negligence of the City would never have been exposed. In bringing her case, she valued herself and she valued other cyclists faced with similar circumstances. Not only did she recover compensation and thereby recover her depleted self-esteem, but she created a precedent which will continue to serve other cyclists. In this way, she has made a very real contribution to her community.

*David W. Hay is a litigation lawyer and partner at RBS Lawyers. RBS Lawyers is a full-service downtown Vancouver law firm delivering legal advice and solutions in all areas of practice. The information above is not legal advice. Anyone seeking legal advice should call David directly at (604) 661-9250, or send an e-mail to [dwhay@rbs.com](mailto:dwhay@rbs.com).*

## Support Bike Lanes Downtown Richard Campbell

It is urgent that the City of Vancouver receives many letters of support for proposed bicycle lanes downtown, especially from downtown businesses, organizations, workers and students.

A vocal minority of business leaders, including the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association and Vancouver Board of Trade, appear to be planning to lobby against the bike lanes proposed in the city's Downtown Transportation Plan. This is most disappointing in that bicycle lanes downtown will actually benefit downtown business and are likely supported by the majority of the downtown business community.

If you work for a downtown business, please ask the owner or manager of the business to send the letter on company letterhead. Given that they are likely to be busy, you can write the letter on their behalf and ask them to sign it.

More information including sample letters can be found at: [www.vacc.bc.ca/vancouver](http://www.vacc.bc.ca/vancouver)

If your boss needs convincing on the advantages of bike lanes for non-cyclists, check out: [www.vacc.bc.ca/bikelanes/advantages.html](http://www.vacc.bc.ca/bikelanes/advantages.html)

## Bike Shop Discount Program Fulton Tom

The VACC is initiating the Bike Shop Discount Program. As a member of the VACC or BCCC, you will receive discounts on purchases at bike shops around the Lower Mainland. Participating bike shops will be listed in every issue of the Urbane Cyclist and at [www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca).

If your favorite bike shop is not on the list, let us know and we will do some arm-twisting to get them to join the program.

You will be required to show your VACC membership card to receive the discounts. If you have lost or misplaced your membership card, please contact [pamer@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:pamer@vcn.bc.ca) for a replacement.

**Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition  
Presents**

**FOURTH ANNUAL  
BIKE FILM NIGHT**

**7:45 pm Doors  
8:30 pm Showtime  
Friday, June 7, 2002**  
36 Powell Street, Vancouver  
604/878-3366  
\$7 show + \$3 cinema membership

GENERAL  
ADMISSION

[WWW.VACC.BC.CA](http://WWW.VACC.BC.CA)

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

Environmentally Sound Choice

the magazine for  
self-propelled groups  
**MOMENTUM**

**BLINDING LIGHT!**  
INTERNATIONAL CINEMA SOCIETY

The City of Vancouver is introducing a pilot measure aimed at improving conditions for cyclists crossing intersections.

“**Bike Box**” is a 4-metre deep painted reservoir area at the front of an intersection. The purpose of the Bike Box is to facilitate left turn and through movements, and to help increase cyclists’ visibility to motorists.

The first Bike Box will be installed at the intersection of Main Street and Union Street; part of the Adanac Bikeway. The City will be hosting an event in the park at this intersection, on June 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information, please call 604-883-4651, or check the project’s website at [www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/engsvcs/transport/cycling/](http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/engsvcs/transport/cycling/).



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## Kingsway as a Commuter Route

Graeme Lamson

Kingsway as a commuter route shows promise in Burnaby. Kingsway was chosen as a preferred route in the recent open house surveying Cyclists for Network Enhancements. The 6.9 km in Vancouver and 6.8 km in Burnaby stretches between New Westminster, Metrotown and downtown Vancouver. Mike Clutton of Burnaby City Engineering says that in two years Kingsway may be studied for cyclist facilities such as bike lanes. He said that Kingsway is attractive because of its gentle grade, wide lanes and directness between major centers. Nicky Hood of Vancouver's Neighborhood Transportation says that it is highly unlikely that Vancouver will add bike lanes. She says that the main deterrents are the width of the route and the rush hour regulations. Kingsway varies in width from 21 to 23 meters with the median too narrow to provide for bike lanes in addition to the existing six lanes of traffic. Kingsway is also part of the major road network of TransLink, so rush hour restrictions are unlikely to be relaxed.

The unique direction of the street owes to it being a wagon road built years before the current grid system. Many streets are cut short of crossing Kingsway because of difficulties posed by skewed intersections. For example, the Midtown Bikeway diverts over to the secondary arterial, Earles, to cross Kingsway. Nearby quiet, local streets such as Duchess, 34th Ave, Wales, Rhodes and Clarendon are cut short when they reach Kingsway so they cannot serve as effective bikeways. Of the twenty-eight streets between Nanaimo St. and Boundary Rd., only ten provide passage across Kingsway. Of these, five are heavily trafficked arterials. Alternate crossings would encourage cyclists to refrain from using sidewalks and avoid hazardous routes such as Willingdon Ave. Recently, the VACC identified the old BC Hydro railway bed as a candidate for crossing of Kingsway at Central Park. The Vancouver Bicycle Network Subcommittee requested that the City extend Lakewood Bikeway south to connect to Ridgeway Greenway. This extension would provide a superior crossing of Kingsway near Gladstone Secondary School. The proposed Windsor Bikeway, and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bikeway would bring the total of cyclist-friendly crossings of Kingsway to three if Lakewood were approved. Future crossings include McKinnon or Tyne St. in Collingwood, and 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. near Fraser St., and Dumfries St.

Bike routes to Kingsway are the answer if Vancouver will not create on-street bike lanes.

## Bike Fest 2002

Fulton Tom

The VACC is holding its 3rd annual Bike Fest on Monday May 20 (Victoria Day) from 12:30 to 4:00 PM in the Stadium at Queen's Park in New Westminster in conjunction with the Hyack Festival.

Bike Fest 2002 will showcase bicycling and other forms of alternative transportation and safety through interactive displays and activities. A variety of educational and entertaining events are planned including a decorated bicycle parade, bicycle safety rodeo, bicycle and helmet inspections, BMX Stunt Shows, Bike Polo demonstrations, face-painting and crafts.

All activities are free and everyone is welcome. Free and secure bike parking will be available on-site.

### 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"/> 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: |                      |

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**Thank you!**

## Campbell to Campbell: More Money for Cycling

Richard Campbell

Cycling has not escaped the axe. While the provincial Cycling Network Program (CNP) still exists, it is currently not receiving any funding. The CNP is the cost-sharing program that, until this year, provided \$2 million per year for significantly improved cycling facilities in many of the communities in the Province. These improvements have greatly increased the numbers of people cycling while reducing cycling accidents. As well, regular exercise such as cycling can dramatically improve people's health. The money saved by the reduction of cyclist injuries has likely more than covered the cost of the CNP.

The Vancouver 1999 Bicycle Plan provides very compelling reasons to fund cycling projects. The number of cyclist fatalities has declined from three per year in the late 1980's to an average of one every two years. Reported collisions involving cyclists have steadily declined from a peak of 744 in 1990 to 491 in 1996. In 1997, the reporting method was changed and still the downward trend continued from 262 in 1997 to 229 in 1998.

The CNP is an excellent program that has provided great benefits to the people of British Columbia for a small amount of money. Indeed, investments in cycling infrastructure are far more cost effective than investments in either road or transit infrastructure, while having no negative community or environmental impacts. Given the great benefits of the CNP and its low level of funding, the province would be wise to increase funding for cycling, not eliminate it.

Please contact Premier Campbell and your local MLA and tell them to increase funding for cycling.

### Who to write about issues in this edition of

#### *The Urbane Cyclist*

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#### **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.***

### JOIN THE VACC!

Yes, I want to cycle for a better community

1<sup>st</sup> person \_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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 <i>The Urbane Cyclist</i> to me | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 Individual             |
| Income _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Fixed/Student/Low      |
| <b>I heard about the VACC:</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5.00 Each additional        |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$80.00 Corporate/Organization |

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

05/02

Please make cheques payable to:  
**Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition**

And mail, along with this application to:  
VACC Memberships  
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New Westminster BC V3M 6J7