

Hamilton Cycling Committee (HCyC) Minutes Feb 2, 2011
City Hall, Boardroom 192

Committee Members in Attendance:

Jordan Fysh
Brad Tyleman

Regrets: partially due to the big snow storm - Tom Ellis, Sean Burak, Andrea Kita, Pauline McKinley, Dave Thompson, Robert Corsini, Marisa DiCenso, Liz Duval, Robert Brown, Walter Furlan, Tarquin Adams

Visitors: Marc Risdale (Hamilton Cycling Club), Abram Bergen (www.icyclehamilton.ca)

Staff: Daryl Bender

Summary:

- The Committee has sent a letter to all five area MPPs encouraging them to support two Ontario Private Member Bills in support of safer cycling (cc to the Mayor and the GM Public Works).
- Members were pleased to share opinions about winter maintenance service levels for a future report to PWC.
- The members look forward to the written justification for the “no bikes permitted in City Hall” policy as they have requested.

1. Introductions:
 - Jordan chaired the meeting
2. Approval of Minutes:
 - Minutes for Dec were deferred
3. Velodrome:
 - **Daryl to email members the date of any scheduled decision.**
4. Ontario Government Bill 74 & Bill 100 letter:
 - The letter has been sent to all five area MPPs and cc'd to the Mayor, the General Manager of Public Works and MPPs Cheri Di Novo and Norm Miller.
5. Education:
 - Members were reminded to forward contact information of any qualified CAN-BIKE instructors. Daryl is editing Pauline's summary materials into a letter to the MTO. Members were notified of the current information on the HCyC website and the City cycling webpages. Members were notified of the Opinion article in the January 24, 2011 Hamilton Spectator.
6. Presentation to Council/PWC in 2011:
 - Members were reminded of past discussions, including tasks to be completed
7. Bike Map review:
 - Members reviewed content for the 2011 edition of the Hamilton Bike Routes, Trails & Parks map and requested that the CP trail over Hwy 403 be indicated in some fashion.
8. Promotion of Cycling:
 - Final edits for the “Cycling Hamilton” pamphlet are complete and should be ready for distribution at the Toronto International Bicycle Show. **Daryl to proceed with printing the pamphlets.**
 - War of 1812 promotion – Daryl provided an update, including mapping of the proposed “Grape Vine Route” between the Red Hill Valley Trail and Stoney Creek (Battlefield House) to St Catharines.
 - HCyC booth: Toronto International Bicycle Show. **Daryl to ask HCyC members via email if any others should be invited to be a part of the HCyC booth. Marc (volunteered) to arrange the staffing schedule for the three days of the event. Daryl to arrange an engaging image of the plans for the Pan AM velodrome to display.** The Hamilton Cycling Club is expected to bring a few materials to display at the HCyC booth.
 - There is a Bike-to-Work Day planned for May, with more details at the March and April meetings.
9. Budget:
 - Members were notified that their planned budget for 2011 was approved by Public Works Ctte, and now before Council.

- The capital budget that is being considered by Council includes 1) \$300,000 for “stand alone road works”, 2) resurfacing of the Wilson St Hill bike lanes, and 3) design work for Burlington St. Thus a total of \$500,000 in 2011. No other road reconstruction in 2011 is planned to include bike lanes at this time.
10. Planning:
- A volunteer representative was requested for the Pedestrian Master Plan study. **Daryl to send the request to all members via email.**
 - Winter Maintenance: A volunteer representative was requested for a few meetings with City staff on this matter. **Daryl to send the request to all members via email.** Additional discussion included opinions of past City snow clearing practice of cycling facilities and ideas for future maintenance, summarized as follows:
 - i. Clearing cycling facilities in winter is “all about commuter cyclists”. (not recreation)
 - ii. Regarding initial comments of the past few years:
 1. Clearing is currently generally unpredictable, but there are a few well-cleared and very-quick-to-be-cleared routes. The shining example is the Cootes Dr multi-use path. This winter the bike lanes on Dundurn seem to be reasonably well cleared too.
 2. Sometimes bike lanes get cleared more by salt than by blade. This is undesirable (the blade is preferred) as blade clearing tends to clear more of the problem debris from a bike lane.
 3. They feel that that there is some notion within the City of "Why would we ever clear snow for cyclists?".
 4. Another issue for us to consider is that piled snow can have parked cars migrating further from the curb - impacting bike lanes OR simply narrowing streets that otherwise are wide enough for auto & bike to be side-by-side.

And a question: Is there a service level difference between City crews and contracted snow clearing of streets?
 - iii. Members suggested potential primary routes for snow clearing. Themes (i.e. criteria) that became apparent for route selection include: major schools (incl high schools), hospitals, some key escarpment crossings, and Hwy 403 & RHVP crossings. A map of the routes suggested will be created for future discussion.
11. Bikes at City Hall:
- Members are awaiting written justification from the City of the “no bikes in City Hall” policy.
12. Projects:
- No updates
13. Events:
- No items
14. Other Business:
- None
15. Announcements:
- Members were encouraged to check out www.icyclehamilton.ca
16. Adjournment.

Next Meeting: Wed. Mar 2, 2011