

# MINUTES - Delta HUB Committee Meeting

Thursday Jan. 5, 2017, 7:00pm




- 1. INTRODUCTIONS:** Patrick (Chair), Korine Deol, Tony, Hilary, Phil, Sandra, William, Roel, Tony, Anton, Melanie, Corrie Bownick

Corrie Bownick is on the Board of Directors of HUB (and will serve as Delta HUB's Board Liaison); Korine Deol is with Fraser Health's Healthy Built Environment Program.

- 2. MINUTES:** Minutes approved from last meeting (Dec. 1st)

- 3. DISCUSSION TOPIC:** Bike Repair Options in South Delta

- Delta HUB continues to hear from community members about the absence of local bike repair options. The recent closing of Delta Bike Company's store in Tsawwassen (and the shop in Ladner in 2014) highlights a local gap.
- In advance of the spring, we wanted to have a discussion about options for community members. The plan is to assemble a brief resource document with possible options.
- Tony Dales discussed his history with bike sales/repair, both in Ladner and Steveston (where he currently operates a store). He continues to receive service calls from Delta residents, particularly since the closure of the Delta Bike Company.
- Without adequate density, there is a concern that smaller bike stores in suburban locations will continue to close (due largely to high rental rates and modest margins on bike sales). While niche stores in high-density locations may have some viability, people are increasingly buying bikes online or at big box stores.
- It was noted that the focus at big box stores today tends to be "buy new" (rather than repair or maintain an existing product). While this might pose a challenge to the traditional service model, it also provides an opening for new bike repair solutions (such as the mobile model).
- It was suggested that the TFN Shopping District could become a possible place for an independent bike dealer in the future (the area is now on the radar, due to the Mall).
- The bike repair options discussed by the Committee included:

<p><b>Regional bike shops*</b></p> 	<p>There continue to be bike shops within driving distance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>North Delta:</b> Cap's South Shore Cycle (7917 Scott Road)</li> <li>- <b>Richmond:</b> Cap's Krusty's Bikes (#135-8460 Alexandra Rd.)</li> <li>- <b>Surrey:</b> South Surrey Cycles (105-2055 152nd St); The Bike Zone (2393 King George Blvd.); Delta Bike Company (relocated to 101B-15141 56 Ave)</li> <li>- <b>Vancouver</b> (various): Mighty Riders (10 E Broadway)</li> </ul> <p>* for HUB members, there are ~30 regional bike shops that offer discounts (see map: <a href="https://bikehub.ca/get-involved/member-benefits">https://bikehub.ca/get-involved/member-benefits</a>)</p>
<p><b>Community bike shop</b></p> 	<p><i>Example:</i> Our Community Bikes (OCB) in Vancouver          OCB is a collectively run community bike shop for D.I.Y. bicycle repair, coaching, and bike maintenance (<a href="http://www.pedalpower.org">http://www.pedalpower.org</a>). They offer both self-service (\$10-20/hr + parts) and full-service (\$60/hr + parts). They also sell used bikes. This model is dependent on locals' interest in learning how to fix their bikes, along with volunteer energy.</p>
<p><b>Big Box</b></p> 	<p>Locally, we understand that the new Sports Check at Tsawwassen Mills will be selling bikes in the spring (they may be servicing bikes as well - <i>to be confirmed</i>).</p>

## Mobile repair



Example: velofix (<https://www.velofix.com/services/>)

Patrick recently spoke with velofix founder, Boris Martin, to learn about their mobile model (Boris passed along a video of the team when they appeared on Dragon's Den, and secured funding for their franchise: <http://www.cbc.ca/dragonsden/pitches/velofix>).

The premise is that repair service comes to the client; it is interactive, and bike owners can watch and learn. All bookings are made online, batched by the client's postal code. Payment is a flat fee for their travel/labour, plus parts (some members say that it can be pricey).

They sometimes do group work (~4-5 clients together), which they might consider in South Delta; however, their core business is mobile service to individual pre-arranged clients.

The Fraser Valley-Tri-Cities franchise covers Delta. They are in the process of acquiring a second van to service areas in the south. As word-of-mouth is the greatest driver for their business, velofix would consider coming out for a local event (i.e. to pass out business cards, and do free safety checks or quick tune-ups).

If members are interested, Delta HUB can reconnect with velofix about participating in a local event (i.e. Ladner Market/Tour de Delta).

Other mobile operators operate in the region, including:

- BikeTech out of South Surrey (<http://www.biketech.ca>)
- VanCycle in Vancouver (<http://vancycle.com>)
- The Rusty Nut previously operated in Ladner (TBA)

## Pop-up bike clinic



One idea might be to organize a pop-up bike station at an event during the spring or summer (i.e. Tour de Delta; SunFest; May Days; Ladner Village Market). Licensed mechanics could potentially be sourced from bike stores looking for exposure; Delta HUB could support via outreach/communication.

In the past, some HUB Local Committees (i.e. Maple Ridge) provided simple bike repair at events, using local skills and volunteer efforts. However – since staff and volunteers aren't trained mechanics working in a retail/repair business – HUB's current insurance may not apply. As a result, these activities have been restricted until such coverage questions have been resolved. HUB may explore a specific location-based insurance option for Committees that express an interest (TBA).

## Bike education workshop



Some communities offer free (or low-cost) seminars to provide bike repair instruction. HUB has provided many such courses, including in Surrey and Richmond (\*HUB has recently submitted a grant application to partner with the libraries in Delta for 3 courses).


Years ago, Delta's Parks & Recreation tried hosting a bike repair course at the South Delta Rec Centre; at the time, there was minimal interest in the course. With fewer local repair options – and more awareness about cycling through Delta HUB – it may be a good time to connect with Parks & Rec about another bike repair workshop.

## Training/Certification



It was noted that we may face a problem growing cycling – locally and regionally – if we can't grow our mechanics. Promoting bike training/certification might be one way to build the capacity locally.

Delta HUB will connect with HUB/Mountain Equipment Co-op to see what avenues are available for training/certification. Options discussed so far include a bicycle mechanic course at MEC, Westwood Cycles, and the University of Fraser Valley.

<p><b>Other ideas</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>YouTube videos:</b> Various popular videos describe simple repairs for a spectrum of bike models.</li> <li>- <b>Corporate bike share/repair idea:</b> Potential opportunity for a corporate partner (i.e. Century Group at the new Southlands project, or TFN in conjunction with local developments)</li> <li>- <b>BCAA Bike Assist:</b> BCAA bike service is available for members <a href="https://www.bcaa.com/membership/benefits-of-membership/24-7-roadside-assistance/bike-assist">https://www.bcaa.com/membership/benefits-of-membership/24-7-roadside-assistance/bike-assist</a></li> </ul>
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- **Next Steps:** Delta HUB will continue to seek bike repair ideas or contacts for a simple resource document that can be shared locally (\*please send ideas to [delta@bikehub.ca](mailto:delta@bikehub.ca)).

**4. NEW ITEMS:** New topics for discussion by Delta HUB members

Road Closure Advisory: 52 St in Tsawwassen/TFN (Metro Vancouver water main installation)

- From Jan. 2-Feb. 28, there will be a partial closure of 52nd St between Fisherman’s Way and 28 Ave. Metro Vancouver will be installing new water main facilities in the roadway.
- The closure will impact north-southbound travel by cyclists and motorists, 24/7.
- Users will be redirected along Fisherman’s Way and 28 Ave (through TFN, adjacent to the new shopping precinct).

Progress update: Bike lanes along 52 St (south of Hwy 17)

- It was reported that the planned road improvements along 52 St in Tsawwassen (from Spyglass south to 12 Ave) have begun. New bike lanes will be constructed along this section of 52nd St, including the hill (ascent and descent).

Tourism Delta: Call for Submissions (2017 Delta Activities Map)

- Tourism Delta is updating their Delta Activities Map. They will soon be printing the new map, and have asked partners for suggested photos of activity areas or places.
- **Action:** Sandra will provide some trail photos for consideration by Tourism Delta.

1-Metre Rule Between Cyclists and Cars

- Some local cyclists are looking to know more about whether the 1m rule would be appropriate in Delta (1m represents the distance available for cyclists on the road).
- We understand that the law presently allows cyclists 1/3 of the lane (which varies with the width of the lane). We also understand that a cyclist’s chances of being struck by a vehicle rises markedly as one moves from the city centre into suburban contexts.
- Corrie indicated that HUB is currently working with ICBC about possibly adding information and questions to the drivers’ test about driving with cyclists on the road.
- **Action:** Delta HUB will follow-up with HUB and ICBC about their work/research on the topic.

**5. WORKING GROUP UPDATES:**

**Safety/Routes**

Delta HUB "Cycling Priority List" (provided to Delta Engineering)

- Due to staff holidays, no current updates were available about the Capital Plan session that took place with Mayor and Council on Dec. 10. Delta HUB understands that Cllr Heather King brought forward the Priority List (and Spot Improvement List) for review.
- **Action:** Patrick to connect with Delta Engineering re: Capital Plan session/feedback.

Draft Wayfinding/Signage Report (ongoing)

- Anton prepared a draft of Delta HUB’s Wayfinding/Signage Report. The report describes the benefits of wayfinding for key stakeholders (including cyclists, business improvement areas, tourism operators); it will also present some strategic locations for new signage.
- **Action:** A draft will be shared with the Safety/Routes committee during January.

## Local/Regional Infrastructure

### George Massey Tunnel Replacement (GMTR) Project

- The GMTR Cycling Working Group will be meeting on January 10, 2017. The focus of this meeting is to review the Delta connections to the new bridge facility in greater detail (with Delta Engineering); a meeting about the Richmond connections took place in December.
- **Action:** An update on the GMTR will be shared at the next Delta HUB meeting.

### HUB "UnGap the Map" initiative (ongoing)

- Delta HUB has been asked to update Delta's routes for HUB's "UnGap the Map" project.
- Patrick and Roel are working to update the earlier UnGap the Map submissions (2014) with the latest suggestions presented by Delta HUB in the Priority List.
- **Action:** Delta HUB to provide additions to HUB's "UnGap the Map" coordinator in January.

### Bike BC and TransLink cost-share funding

- Delta Engineering has submitted an application for Bike BC funding for the second phase of the Arthur Drive road improvements program (from Augustine House to Deltaport Way); the third phase of the program will be from the overpass south to 52 Street/27B Ave (2018).
- Delta indicated that, while an additional \$8m in BikeBC funding was announced in October, the December deadline – and specific eligibility requirements – were challenging for many municipalities (each project had to be “shelf-ready” and Council-approved by the deadline).

### Tsawwassen Springs and TFN South Neighbourhood Plan (Proposed Multi-Use Path)

- Following-up from our December meeting, Tsawwassen Springs confirmed that the proposed 1-way bike lanes on Springs Boulevard will be between 1.0m and 1.2m wide on each side; meanwhile, the 2-way multi-use path on the adjoining TFN lands will be 3m wide.
- TFN confirmed that a path connecting through the South Neighbourhood Plan area continues to be included as a requirement for future development. As there is an active developer in the area – with approvals in process – they are not yet able to estimate a timeline for construction.

## Education/Engagement

### Cycling to School Survey (from Trinity Western University/Langley HUB)

- TWU surveyed both parents and classrooms at different schools in Langley Township; they also counted the number of students walking, biking, and using scooters.
- Driving was the highest mode share (~50%), followed by walking (30-40%); biking was a smaller share (peaking at 4.5%).
- Key barriers identified included safety of intersection crossings (Langley does not have an adult crossing program similar to Delta's). Other factors included relative distances, weather, speed of traffic, time (i.e. driving to school on the way to work).

### Safe Routes to School maps (Delta Engineering/Delta School District)

- An inventory of “Safe Routes to School” maps are accessible on the Delta School District's webpage: [http://facilities.deltasd.bc.ca/safe\\_routes\\_to\\_schools](http://facilities.deltasd.bc.ca/safe_routes_to_schools). The maps were generated several years ago, and are geared for walking (i.e. the safest routes, given the existing infrastructure).
- It was noted that it might be an appropriate time to refresh the maps (and rename to “Best Routes” vs. “Safe”). This would be done in consultation with school PACs and principals, since they are the ones who socialize the maps with the parents and children at the schools.
- A recent example of a Best Routes to School map comes from Squamish, BC: <https://sd48mamquam.files.wordpress.com/2016/09/best-route-to-school.pdf>
- **Action:** Delta HUB to contact Delta's DPAC for a possible meeting/presentation. The current Safe Routes maps can be included as a discussion topic (along with a potential update).

## 6. OTHER ITEMS:

TransLink Southwest Area Transport Plan Meeting (late January).

- The next Committee meeting of the SWATP will be in late January. The focus will be on Phase 2 engagement for the SWATP, in preparation for the mid-Feb to mid-march 2017 consultation in the Southwest area (South Delta/TFN/Richmond).
- **Action:** Anton (SWATP Chair) will provide an update at the next Delta HUB meeting.

\***Next Delta HUB meeting:** Thursday, Feb. 2nd, 2017 (7pm at Ladner United Church)