

# The Urbane Cyclist

Fall 2002 Issue 14 The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition quarterly

www.vacc.bc.ca

## Getting Around Sea Island

Jim Alix

According to their website, YVR is “among the most modern and efficient airports in the world... [meeting] the needs of... the travelling public... on Sea Island.” (www.yvr.com) – but sadly not a single mention of cycling as a mode of transportation. However, hearing of cycling infrastructure developments, a crack team of VACC cyclists optimistically headed to Sea Island on a sunny Sunday to investigate.



*The Assessment Team*

There isn't space in The Urbane Cyclist to detail everything, but here is some of what we found.

### Off-Road after the Arthur Laing Bridge (southbound)

On the way off the Arthur Laing Bridge, before passing under Grant McConachie Way, there is a break in the concrete barrier, leading to two new-looking, as yet unpaved, paths. These paths are intended for cyclists and should be paved soon. One leads an airport-bound cyclist around the overpass and back onto Grant McConachie Way, eliminating some hills and lane merges. The other loops back under the Arthur Laing Bridge and offers an off-road route to the Moray Channel Bridges and the southern half of Sea Island. Although these trails were attractive on this sunny Sunday, some portions would be very dark after sunset. Unfortunately, the entrance to these paths requires a 180° turn in only 1½ bike lengths. As the average cyclist will be

travelling at better than 25 km/h (downhill) at this point, it is unlikely to be used in its present form. However, if the exit from the roadway can be fixed to allow cyclists to take it safely and at a reasonable speed, these trails might be attractive to some riders.



*Entrance to Bike Trail*

### The Intersection of Russ Baker Way and Miller Road

Just before the intersection, a new lane of traffic coming from Richmond via the Moray Channel Bridge appears. This lane continues and becomes the right-turn-only lane onto Miller Road.

Travelling at normal speeds, one would likely miss the bicycle logo stencilled on the shoulder at the joining of the two lanes. It appears that cyclists are expected to come to a near halt and cross the stream of traffic to their right at 90° (to the shoulder to the right of the right-turn lane). Those heading south to the No. 2 Road Bridge or into Richmond would then have to re-cross the same lane of traffic at a point where many motorists are also changing lanes.

Of the approximately thirty cyclists we saw use this intersection, only one followed the “suggested” route. The others more or less continued along the shoulder bike lane on the roadway, remaining to the left of the right-turn lane, allowing them to approach the intersection in the correct position. With the implementation of a clearly-marked bike lane continuing up to the intersection – alerting motorists

## The Urbane Cyclist

Published quarterly by the Vancouver Area  
Cycling Coalition (VACC)

The views in this publication are not  
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### 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. 10 Sept 08 Oct 12 Nov

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,  
October 25, 2002**



to the presence of other road users – this would appear to be the best route.

### Northbound on Russ Baker Way, approaching Miller Road

Here, the right-most lane is marked as a right-turn lane, separated from the other two lanes by orange pylons. The overhead destination signs indicate that the right lane goes to the Airport Terminal, while the two left lanes go to Vancouver. Seeing these, cyclists bound for Vancouver via the Arthur Laing Bridge may believe they need to be to the left of the orange pylons. Contrary to the signs, however, the right-most lane in fact continues on past Miller Road (where no right turn is allowed) and under Grant McConachie Way, where it splits into an HOV lane to Vancouver and a right-turn lane to the Terminal. Continuing on the right shoulder to this point appears to be the best and safest route.

Indeed, the white line delineating the shoulder on Russ Baker Way is dashed as it approaches Miller Road, indicating that cyclists may execute a lane change at that point. Further on, under the overpass, faint remains of a bike stencil and a dashed line showing a bike lane carrying on to the Vancouver-bound HOV lane show that this was probably the route in the past.

At this point, the Team repaired to the nearby Elephant and Castle to discuss the day. Cycling on Sea Island is improving, but many details still need fixing. Most of the routes we looked at would be much more usable with adequate signage, which, we hope, may already be in the plans. Our plan is to follow up with a letter to the Airport Authority and an invitation to join us for a ride.

### President's Message

#### Marion Orser

With Bike Month just past, the VACC Directors and volunteers have been very busy.

We sponsored two Bike Rodeos, one in New Westminster and one in Surrey (Cloverdale) with funding supplied from New Westminster City and Surrey Metro Savings respectively. Besides being fun, it was encouraging to see the children's interest and to share in their early education process for riding on the road.

Another successful event was the Central Valley Greenway Ride organized by VACC members. For more information regarding this route see [www.vacc.bc.ca/centralvalley](http://www.vacc.bc.ca/centralvalley)

The passing of The Downtown Transportation Plan in Vancouver is the most important success in the past month. It truly makes a statement when the largest municipality in BC recognizes and makes changes to accommodate the bicycle as a valid form of transportation, Thank you to all who have helped make this happen! (See *article page 3.*)

One of the VACCs primary functions as an organization is to advocate for improved cycling facilities. But we also need to raise awareness in the cycling community of who we are and what we do. We also need to find others to help 'carry the torch'. As such we have attended many community events with our well received VACC information booth. I have become aware that there are many willing to assist in carrying that torch, but who walk away from one of our meetings feeling completely bewildered. As in any field, one picks up the lingo over a period of time.

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In advocacy this covers two basic fields. The first is the technical aspect. What makes an appropriate bicycle facility? For example, what are the dimensions of multiple use paths, bike lanes, and shared use lanes? Or for that matter what is a multiple use path, a bike lane, or a shared use lane? The other aspect is how and who to approach in government to ensure that cyclists are included as a part of any transportation plan.

Because of this confusion, the VACC plans to organize a workshop to share some of this information and also to raise awareness for those that attend of their rights in terms of cycling facilities. Sharing of course is always two-way, so we wish to receive feedback from cyclists in the community on their concerns. Watch for the date and agenda this fall!

### **Bike Lanes Downtown Approved** **Richard Campbell**

After years of lobbying by the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition, city council approved a network of bike lanes in Downtown Vancouver as part of the Downtown Transportation Plan. Bike lanes were approved on northbound Hornby, southbound Burrard, southbound Richards, Expo and Pacific Boulevards, Beatty, Beach, Carrall and Nelson southbound between Richards and the Cambie Bridge. As well, Helmcken and Comox will be a greenway/bikeway. Bike lanes along Pender have yet to be decided.

The plan recommends a westbound bike lane along Dunsmuir and an eastbound bike lane along Pender. The VACC would rather have both eastbound and westbound bike lanes along Pender. Further study will be required here.

In addition, council directed staff to report back on the implications of a Robson Street bicycle route between Beatty and Burrard and a northbound bicycle connection along the Homer/Richards corridor.

Staff will report back to council with an implementation plan in early 2003. We expect that some of the bike lanes could be in place by the summer of 2003 as recommended in the city's Transportation Plan.

Please write mayor and council encouraging the implementation of the bicycle network in 2003, eastbound and westbound bike lanes along Pender and bike lanes along Robson and Homer.

### **Burrard: The Bridge So Far** **Richard Campbell**

It looks like the final option for Burrard Bridge has been chosen. In an unsurprising case of *déjà vu*, a pedestrian path of around 3.0 metres would be added outside of the existing sidewalks at deck level. Cyclists would use the existing sidewalk. This is very similar to one of the final options back in 1996. This would be a great improvement for cyclist and pedestrian safety and convenience.

In the last Burrard Bridge Stakeholders meeting, VACC and other cycling representatives, along with heritage advocates rejected a convoluted option that would have had cyclists go through the towers on a path below the deck.

While the separation of cyclists from pedestrians will make the bridge much safer, the city still has not committed to place a railing between cyclists and the high-speed traffic on the bridge. Several cyclists have fallen off the sidewalk and on to the bridge surface. A railing is needed to prevent this. The railing could simply consist of a horizontal bar supported by posts every metre or so. Placing the supports on the inside of the bar would eliminate the risk of catching handlebars on the supports.

The existing sidewalk is 2.8 metres wide. The VACC would like to see the cycle path widened to the 3.7 metre standard for cycling facilities that carry the number of cyclists the Burrard Bridge does.

While some would still like to see a lane of traffic removed to create a 1.5 metre bike lane on each side, city council has clearly rejected that option. As well, the chosen option will provide almost twice as much width allowing cyclists to pass each other and provides a physical barrier between cyclists and the high-speed traffic on the Bridge.

The project consultants and city staff will present a report to city council, likely on September 10th. If the report is approved, the extra funding will be included in the capital plan for voter approval in November.

Please write city council in support of the chosen option, railings between the cyclists and motor vehicle traffic and a 3.7 metre cycle path.

More information for both of the above, including sample letters can be found at: [www.vacc.bc.ca/vancouver](http://www.vacc.bc.ca/vancouver)

## Bike Month 2002: The Stats and the People Behind Them

Bonnie Fenton

With Bike Month (known to the uninitiated as 'June') still a warm glow in our collective memory, it seems like a good time for a brief stock-taking. The first order of business is a huge thank you to all of you who volunteered your time at events surrounding our annual month-long celebration on two wheels.

If you're into statistics, you might be interested to know that this year, as an organisation, the VACC participated in 22 events in seven Lower Mainland municipalities—sometimes as many as three in one day!—and almost doubled our total of 12 in Bike Month 2001. Events included a potpourri of rides, workshops, family festivals, children's bike rodeos, bike races, farmers' markets, our very own film night, and the ever-popular (if somewhat early) Commuter Challenge breakfast.

In all, more than 40 people volunteered their time to make those events happen. In round (but very conservative) numbers, approximately 410 person hours were contributed. If I've done the math right, that comes out to more than 17 round-the-clock unpaid days all in the name of cycling in the Lower Mainland. And that was just in June...

Although Bike Month is a big focus, we don't want to disappear until next June. If you know of any upcoming events that you think the VACC should be involved in, contact [volunteer@vacc.bc.ca](mailto:volunteer@vacc.bc.ca) with your suggestions. We'd especially like to strengthen our

presence in the less central municipalities, so ideas along those lines would be invaluable. Also, if you have suggestions for future VACC-initiated events or activities—advocacy-related, educational, social, or other—please pass those on as well.

Thank you all again. Your presence, enthusiasm, good humour, and good sense are very much appreciated.

## Bike Shop Discount Program

Fulton Tom



The VACC Board is currently negotiating agreements with cycling shops around the region to provide discounts on purchases to VACC (or BCCC) members.

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 card, please contact [pamer@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:pamer@vcn.bc.ca) for a replacement.

The following shops are currently participating:

\* **Guywires cycle tech**, PO Box 28603, Burnaby, V5C 6J4  
Phone: 604-420-9722  
[www.gonecycling.com/guywires.html](http://www.gonecycling.com/guywires.html)

\* **Sideshow Cycles**, 6579 Victoria Drive, Vancouver  
Phone: 604-323-8477

 **TransLink Cycling Services** 

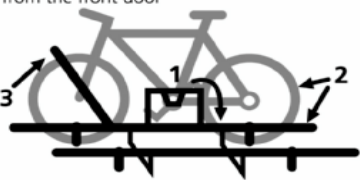
### Rack and Ride.

**Loading & unloading your bicycle is easy at any bus stop on a bike rack route:**

- Get the operator's attention first
- Always approach from the curb side of the street
- Always return the rack upright when it is empty

**Remove child carriers, panniers and other luggage before bus arrives**

- Alert operator of your intention to load your bike, then lower the back rack by pulling on handle ①
- Lift your bike onto rack ②
- Lift the support arm up and over the front tire ③
- Sit at the front and keep an eye on your bike
- When leaving the bus, please advise the operator that you need to remove your bike - leave from the front door
- Remember to raise the rack upright



(Minimum 16 inch diameter wheels)

The user is responsible for properly loading and unloading their bicycle. TransLink or its operating subsidiaries will not be liable for any property damage or bodily injury caused by the loading and unloading of bikes.


### Or Lock and Ride.

**For only \$10 per month, TransLink currently offers secure bike locker rentals at the following locations:**

- King George Station
- Braid Station
- Scott Road Station
- Sapperton Station
- Ladner Park & Ride

The new Millennium SkyTrain line will be opening this coming Labour Day weekend. All Millennium Line Stations (except Commercial Station) will have bicycle lockers for rent. If you are interested, please contact us as soon as possible to receive an application and reserve your locker space. For locker rental information, call TransLink at 604-453-4500.

For information about bike lockers at West Coast Express Stations, call Impark at 604-681-7311.



Please note that bikes should be parked and locked at bike racks or lockers provided at SkyTrain stations. Bicycles locked to fences, signposts, etc. will be removed by TransLink staff and placed in the Lost Property Department.

**TRANS LINK**  
[www.translink.bc.ca](http://www.translink.bc.ca)

**TransLink Bike Program** 1600 - 4720 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2 Tel: 604-453-4500



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## The View from Across the River

Ian Stephen

Things are looking pretty good in Surrey these days. Some highlights: a design charette was held regarding hazardous rail crossings in Surrey. Representatives from the City and two consulting firms met with cyclists to view and test ride a variety of designs. One design stood out from the rest and will be used at the crossing on 64th Avenue by 148 St. The same group of cyclists will have input into signage once construction reaches that stage. This crossing will be observed and will serve as a model for other crossings in Surrey.

The Bicycle Safety Event held in conjunction with Canada Day celebrations in Cloverdale was an outstanding success. Also newsworthy, Surrey Bicycle Coordinator Brad Fisher attended a VACC-Surrey Committee meeting for discussions including plans for improvements to the Surrey side of the Pattullo Bridge. Brad also welcomed the committee's assistance in updating Surrey's Bikeway and Pathway map for its next issue. As we develop greater recognition in the community, the Surrey committee looks forward to good things for cycling in Surrey.

## Canada Day Safety Skills Event

Mary Eickhoff

It was truly a celebration at the Cloverdale Amphitheatre in Surrey, July 1, 2002. Children were lined up from 10am to 5pm to register and cycle the attractive course set up by Martin Prestage of LifeCycle Consultants. Martin's fleet of bikes and rack of helmets were continuously in demand as 158 youngsters went through the course. He was ably assisted by Jeannette Blanchard, Brian George, Ian McLean, Carl Rorison, and Linda Vanderhoek. Jim Alix did double duty, on the course and at the information display table along with Marion Orser and myself. We were kept very busy making up reflective armbands (which captured the imagination of children who then were excitedly decorating them), and interfacing with parents about the aims of the VACC and discussing the various hand-outs. Fulton Tom contributed from the first stages of the application for funding, throughout the development of the project, and created unique letters of appreciation to contributors.

Many thanks to the City of Surrey for providing such an ideal setting for our bike rodeo. It was very rewarding to see that our event was highly visible from all points on the site and provided an inspiring and colourful family activity for all to view, in keeping with the spirit of the occasion.

Our sincere appreciation also to Surrey Metro Savings who pledged their corporate sponsorship.

Communications are key in any venture, so praises are due and hereby paid to Leslie Love, Editor of our Urbane Cyclist, and all who work to keep it circulating.

As one who ventured as a novice into the organization of an event in support of VACC, I can recommend the experience to others, as I was rewarded by 'ALL OF THE ABOVE' who contributed to make it a 'GO!' Thank you all so much. Same place, same date next year!

### Don't Miss!

**The official opening of *Mud Bay Park* in Surrey linking to the Trans Canada Trail and existing dyke trails on Boundary Bay  
Fri Sept 20, 1:30pm**

### 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!**

## Donor Recognition

The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition wishes to thank the following organizations for their support of Bike Fest/Bike Month 2002.

Ace Cycles \* Asama Bicycles \* Bard on the Beach \* BEST  
 Burnaby Heritage Museum \* Cambie Cycles \* Capilano Suspension Bridge  
**City of New Westminster \* City of Surrey**  
 Dairy Queen - New Westminster \* Hemptown Clothing \* HR MacMillan Space  
 Centre \* Keg Restaurants \* **MDS Inc \* Mountain Equipment Co-op**  
 New Westminster Parks & Recreation \* Playland  
 Rocky Mountain Bicycle Company \* Shoppers Drug Mart - New Westminster  
 Sideshow Cycles \* **Surrey Metro Savings Credit Union**  
 Vancouver Art Gallery \* Vancouver Museum \* White Spot - New Westminster

### Congratulations to our Bike Fest/Bike Month Raffle Winners!

Anita Mattice of Nanaimo (1st Prize: \$200 MEC gift certificate, bike supplies, Bike Month t-shirts)  
 Manfred Jordt of Vancouver (2nd Prize: MEC cycling jacket, bike supplies, Bike Month t-shirts)  
 L Kerry of Delta (3rd Prize: Keg gift certificate, movie passes, Bike Month t-shirts)

### 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 The Urbane 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: \_\_\_\_\_

09/02

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 (and other) editions of

#### The UrbanE Cyclist

Hon. Gordon Campbell  
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 Phone: 604 873-7273  
 Fax: 604 873-7750  
[mayorandcouncil@city.vancouver.bc.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@city.vancouver.bc.ca)

Vancouver International Airport Authority  
 P.O. Box 23750 Airport Postal Outlet  
 Richmond, B.C. V7B 1Y7  
 Phone: 604 207-7077  
<http://www.yvr.com/contact.asp>

#### 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.*