

# The Urbane Cyclist

The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition quarterly

Issue 17

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

Summer 2003

## **Richmond - Airport - Vancouver Rapid Transit Project** Jack Becker

Representatives of the VACC have been participating in the Richmond-Airport-Vancouver (RAV) Rapid Transit Project community consultation process. After attending open houses and meeting with other representatives of the RAV project and City of Vancouver in March, the VACC made a written submission with its thoughts on the role of cycling / rapid transit intermodal commuting as a means of optimizing the financial viability of the RAV project.

TransLink has given some recognition to intermodal commuting involving cycling and public transit, as exemplified by bike racks installed on buses and bike lockers installed at some Sky Train stations. However, the potential of cycling and rapid transit intermodal commuting has not been exploited by TransLink to any extent. This is unlike cities in Europe where hundreds and hundreds of bicycles can be found parked in front of rapid transit stations.

European research has shown that a comprehensive cycling network leading to rapid transit stations within a 5-kilometre radius can significantly increase commuting traffic of rapid transit lines and reduce private vehicle trips to work. Within this one-five kilometre catchment area from the stations, on a trip time basis, intermodal commute by buses and rapid transit cannot compete with the use of cars and SUVs driven to work. However, cycling / rapid transit can.



The VACC contends that there is a large opportunity to draw commuters away from their private vehicles and see them cycling to a rapid transit station instead. The VACC contends, as a realistic target, that 10% of all users of the rapid transit line would cycle as part of their commute. This growth would come from people who would not use the bus as a way to get to the station, but would drive to work instead. 10,000 additional rapid transit commuters per day would be a realistic goal for the RAV project, increasing the transit revenue significantly.

To achieve this opportunity, the RAV project would have to provide an efficient feeder and collector cycling network to its stations

The cost of the VACC's proposal could easily be funded from transit revenue growth from increased ridership with commuters switching from private vehicles, or from other benefits generating from reduced use of private vehicles.

TransLink's Board of Directors and the Vancouver and Richmond municipal councils need to hear from you, the cyclists, that the inclusion of cycling as part of the RAV project is important to you and must be included. Specifically, let them know that:

**The Urbane Cyclist is now accepting advertising!**

Prices range from \$50 to \$150 per issue with savings for block pricing.

Please contact Teresa for details  
[unonym@hotmail.com](mailto:unonym@hotmail.com) or (604) 253-3910

**June is Bike Month!**

And the VACC is participating. Contact  
[volunteer@vacc.bc.ca](mailto:volunteer@vacc.bc.ca) for details

## The Urbane Cyclist

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

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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. June 10 July 8 Aug 12

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.

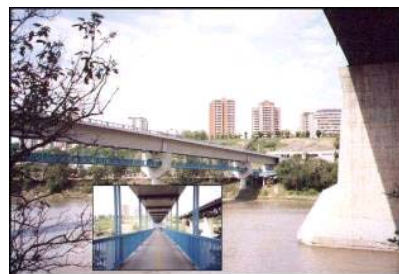
**Next deadline:**

**Friday,  
July 25, 2003**



• Bicycles must be allowed on all rapid transit cars.

• The new rapid transit bridge across the North Arm of the Fraser River must also accommodate the movement of bicycles.



• With reduced traffic on Cambie Street and on the Cambie Bridge resulting from commuters using the RAV line, traffic lanes must be reassigned to bike lanes along the road and bridge.

• A continuous bike path must be built along on-surface or above-surface rapid transit lines, enabling easy access to rapid transit stations.

• A feeder network of bike lanes, routes, and paths must be built taking commuters from home to the closest rapid transit stations and from destination stations to workplaces.

• Bike lanes must be included on all new rapid transit road crossings - over or underpasses.

• Secure, covered and uncovered, readily available bike lockers and bike storage facilities and other bicycle services must be provided at all rapid transit stations for long and short-term rental and use.

The VACC has tried to address all of this in their submission. Please see the website for further information. [www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca)

### *The ABC's of Cycling Advocacy* Bonnie Fenton

Here's the situation: As you predicted, a cyclist was injured on a dangerous cycling facility. What do you do?

- Write a letter to City Council, explain the problem, and ask them to ensure that it gets fixed promptly
- Call up a journalist friend and try to raise a public stink to embarrass somebody into fixing it
- Tell everyone you know what happened and get them all to call City Hall
- Complain loudly about it to anyone who'll listen and tell them you knew something would happen sooner or later
- Nothing

This was one of the scenarios presented to the 40+ participants at the *ABCs of Cycling Advocacy* workshop sponsored by the VACC and facilitated by Bruce Mol.

### *What would you do?*

• Most of us would probably choose D or E. Unfortunately, making positive change isn't as easy as ranting about how bad things are now. That's when it's useful to have a toolkit of tricks up your gortex sleeve to draw from. At the workshop, we discussed the time

and place for using options A, B, and C.

### **Strategising**

Before you fix something, it's useful to know what exactly is broken. What do you want to see happen? What's the best way to go about making it happen? And who can help you do it? Five groups of people to consider in an advocacy campaign are:

1. Your membership
  - Make sure your members all have a shared goal
2. Your allies
  - Develop your allies into an issue-specific organisation (i.e. you don't have to agree on *everything*, just on the issue at hand)
3. The media
  - Develop a timed and focused strategy (Will a letter to the editor do the trick? Is a stunt to get on the 6:00 news a good idea? What about a press release?)
4. The bureaucrats
  - Get to know them, give them facts, advise them
5. The politicians
  - Make them look good and praise them publicly

### **Politicians are people too**

To offer a view from the other side of the fence, Cathy McGregor, a former Kamloops MLA and a long-time community activist, spoke on *Influence and Persuasion: Getting it Right with Politicians*. During her years as an MLA, Cathy assisted dozens of community groups in working with government to achieve their objectives.

As she pointed out, "Politicians meet with hundreds of groups each year, every one of them convinced that their issue is the most important." The successful ones are those that "understand political quid pro quo and have a clear, focused strategic plan." The "quid" might be finding the cash to improve the facility in question. The "quo" is your glowing public praise of a job well done.

### **Nobody said it would be easy**

Change takes time. Even getting started can be daunting. There's a lot to learn. What's a 'bollard'? Who in City Hall really makes things happen? How wide does a safe bike lane need to be? Who's responsible for the Knight Street Bridge?

And finishing can take even longer: issues usually take at least twice as long to resolve as you ever, in your wildest imagination, thought they could.

That's why there are advocacy groups. There really is strength in numbers. You can't do it all yourself, but with the collective expertise (and time, and connections, and political savvy, and humour...) of a group, mountains can be moved and facilities can be improved.

### **What's in it for you?**

A safe sidewalk on the Lions Gate Bridge, bike racks, a greenway from New Westminster to Vancouver, cyclist-activated traffic signals, and the satisfaction of making a positive difference.

### **What can you do?**

1. Ask questions. Inform yourself.
2. Join the VACC - even if you don't have time to participate actively, your moral and financial (just \$20 a year) support go a long way.
3. Join one of the VACC list-servs to find out what issues people are talking about and to add yours to the conversation ([www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca)).

## **Central Valley Greenway Ride**

**Jack Becker**

What do cyclists and railway trains have in common? Cyclists and trains share a common preference for relatively flat travelling surface.

Given that, Vancouver with its rugged setting hardly seems ideal for either bikes or trains. In fact, there are almost no non-hilly routes from Vancouver to the neighbouring municipalities and out of town.

Well, almost!

There is the Central Valley Greenway. The Greenway is a proposed bike route along the only flat, direct route through New Westminster, Coquitlam, Burnaby and Vancouver. Part of the route will parallel active railway lines and the new Millennium SkyTrain line. Some of it will be along traffic-calmed roads. It will carry commuters, families, weekend wanderers and tourists by foot, bike, in-line skating, or wheelchair, safely and peacefully to parks, shopping, school, and work.

Councillor Raymond Louie recently joined members of the VACC and others for a ride along the Greenway. The purpose was to introduce cyclists to the route and to identify what is needed to make this a desirable cycling route for recreational and commuter cyclists.



*Councillor Louie and VACC members ride a new section of the Central Valley Greenway*

Some parts of the Greenway route have not yet been started. Others are under construction. Some have already been completed.

The key to success is making this route as user-friendly as possible. Intersections are common trouble spots, and the Grandview Highway North-East Broadway/Victoria Drive. intersection and the Clark Drive/Grandview Highway North intersection drew particular attention.

The challenge now is to convince the councils of Vancouver, Burnaby, and New Westminster to make the Central Valley Greenway a high priority and get it finished in a year or two rather than twenty.

The VACC has been promoting the creation of this Greenway for many years. Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST) has been active in making this Greenway a reality. VanCity Credit Union has shown its support by awarding a million dollars towards its development. The Greenway is part of the Greater Vancouver submission for the Federal Government's Urban Transportation Showcase Program funding. Slowly the pieces are coming together. The result will be worth the effort.

For more information, go to:

BEST

<http://www.best.bc.ca/programsAndServices/greenway/index.html>

Urban Transportation Showcase Program

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/Programs/Environment/UrbanTransportation/menu.htm>

## ***TransLink Long Range Transportation Plan Jack Becker***

Representatives of the VACC have been participating in TransLink's community consultation process for the development of a new Long Range Transportation Plan. In April, the VACC made a written submission with its thoughts on the role of cycling within the new Long Range Transportation Plan.

While the role of cycling as a transportation alternative has been well recognized by TransLink and some of its municipalities, there has not been a strong, comprehensive program to fully develop its potential. The VACC tried to address this shortfall with its submission.

Within the GVRD, people's attitudes to transportation and their historical preferred mode of travel for any trip needs to change. Current emphasis on motorized vehicle trips and low residential land densities is not sustainable within a region that demands a pristine environment and that cherishes its mountains, farmlands, and seas.

There are strong indications that people want more transportation choices. A survey conducted by Environics Int. Ltd. for Go for Green states that "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". This is backed up by local experience. For example, the Adanac Bikeway showed a 300% increase in cycling one year after opening. TransLink, as the regional transportation authority, has the duty to ensure that the people of the region have safe and convenient transportation choices such as cycling so they are not forced to use automobiles.

### ***Join the fun at the Stanley Park Bike Fest***

Cycle together to the Stanley Park Bike Fest on Sunday, June 15. Join the VACC-led rides from Science World, the Planetarium, or the Lonsdale Quay SeaBus terminal (by the ticket machines). Rides leave at 8:30 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. from these locations.

All welcome. Please wear a helmet.

Check the VACC web site in June for more details ([www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca)).

A vision for cycling is needed for the region supported with a mission statement for cycling, strategies, and action plans for implementing the vision. The VACC proposed that the long-range plan should include funding of \$100 million over a 10-year period for a comprehensive cycling network throughout the region providing a cycling infrastructure for all type of cycling trips. In addition, funding of \$2 million per year should be provided for establishing teams of staff within the GVRD and its municipalities dedicated to the promotion and betterment of cycling within the Greater Vancouver area and for communication, education, safety and other cycling supportive programs.

The VACC is proposing that one of the targets complementing this vision should be a comprehensive cycling network across Greater Vancouver, where cycling facilities are not farther apart than one km in residential neighbourhood or suburbs and not more than 0.5 km apart within built-up urban areas (downtown, shopping streets, commercial areas). Another target should see continuous growth of cycling within the region with eventually 10% of all trips, as a minimum, made, at least, partly by bicycle. Master Cycling Plans should have a 5-year review and update cycle starting in 2004 and complemented with a comprehensive, current understanding of the needs of all cyclists.

The cost of the VACC's proposal would average out to about \$6.00 per person per year within the GVRD for the cycling infrastructure and about \$1.00 per person per year for cycling focused municipal staffing and cycling supportive programs. Not much money for such great benefits to the region. The sources for funding this proposal could include reallocation of the region's transportation budget, deferment of road and bridge construction through reduced use of private vehicles, greenhouse gas credits through reduced use of cars and SUV, increased rapid transit revenue from more intermodal commuting, and sharing of reduced traffic congestion costs for businesses.



TransLink's new Long Range Transportation Plan could set the direction for a more liveable region with a comprehensive focus on cycling as a mode of transportation. The TransLink Board of Directors and your local municipal council needs to hear from you, the cyclists, that this is important to you and must be part of the Long Range Plan. So, write, e-mail, and call, and let them know that you support the VACC submission.

### ***President's Report Spring 2003*** ***Marion Orser***

Busy times are the key words for VACC advocacy since our last newsletter.

Welcome to our new directors: David Perfitt from North Vancouver, and Jack Becker from Vancouver. Ken Wuschke has come back to the board and is already on the executive.

Those who have stepped down include Larry Pamer, Treasurer, and Jesse Neri, most recently Vice President and formerly Web Master. Brian George, Director will be missed for all his hard work and professionalism. Thank you for all the hours each of you has and probably will continue to contribute to make the VACC a viable resource for the community.

For those that are continuing on the Board I thank you as well for the time and expertise you have contributed over the years.

Since I am on a roll of thanks I must mention our **Volunteer of the Year** was Brandon White our Web Site Manager. One day we will see a whole new face on the site as it is sitting in the wings almost ready to unfold. In the meantime, many of the kinks have been gradually removed and as we get the information to him it falls seamlessly into place in all the various sections.

As I write this, it is volunteer week and all in the VACC are short and long term volunteers, many on the board and a vast number filling other positions. It is appreciated and the community is better for your work

Now to the work that we do: I am tempted to say 'too much'. You will see articles about some of the important regional issues written primarily by Jack Becker. (*continued page 8*)



# Bike Month 2003 Event List

Contact:  
Richard Campbell  
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, May 31**

**Lantern Ride** 9 pm sharp David Lam Park, (Drake & Pacific Blvd). Info: Lee 604-255-2102

## **Sunday, June 1**

**Trans Canada Trail Mountain to Inlet Ride** 10am at the Barnet Marine Park upper parking lot. For the adventurous and experienced mountain biker. Info: Ian 604-294-7216

**Trans Canada Trail Family Loop Ride** Guided rides from Kensington Park 11am and 1pm; self-guided rides anytime from 11am to 3pm. Info: Ian 604-294-7216

**Sunday Medium Rides (all month)** 9am Max's Deli at Oak & 15th. Vancouver Bicycle Club. Participants choose the route & destination, and usually go to a restaurant for lunch. Info: Andrea C. at [andcorona@yahoo.ca](mailto:andcorona@yahoo.ca) or [www.vbc.bc.ca](http://www.vbc.bc.ca)

## **Sunday, June 1 to Sunday, June 15**

**Go Motion** Glass Onion Gallery 1103 Union St at Glen. Info: [richard@pedalpower.org](mailto:richard@pedalpower.org)

## **Monday, June 2 to Friday, June 6**

**Commuter Challenge** A friendly competition between workplaces to see who can encourage the most employees to bike, walk, take transit or carpool to work. Info: Liana 604-689-4467, [challenge@best.bc.ca](mailto:challenge@best.bc.ca)

## **Wednesday, June 4 – NATIONAL CLEAN AIR DAY**

**Clean Air Day Pancake Breakfast** 7:30-9am CBC Plaza, 700 Hamilton. Free pancakes for all you clean commuters. Info: Richard 604-669-2860, [bikemonth@best.bc.ca](mailto:bikemonth@best.bc.ca)

**Wednesday Evening Rides** 6:30pm 8th St. at 7th Ave, New West in Moody Park (outside Century House). Join the VACC New West on this weekly ride. Info: Fulton 604-323-5763 or [www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca) (all month)

**Wednesday Pie Rides** 5:30pm Canada Place (west side). Info: [www.vbc.bc.ca](http://www.vbc.bc.ca) (all month)

**Bike Theft Forum** 7-9pm Main Street Café, 2616 Main Street. A free open-mike forum on how to avoid bike theft. Info: 604-737-8065

## **Thursday, June 5**

**Bike To School Day** Get on your bike, blades, skateboard and legs. Info: [www.waytogo.icbc.bc.ca](http://www.waytogo.icbc.bc.ca) or Bernadette at 604-732-1511

## **Saturday, June 7**

**Tour de North Vancouver** 10am-2pm Civic Plaza, Lonsdale & 14th. Info: 604-990-BIKE or [amairs@cnv.org](mailto:amairs@cnv.org)

**Bike To Pitt Meadows Day** Festivities 11am to 5pm.

**REV!** 10am-4pm Science World, 1455 Quebec St. A "ride an electric vehicle" extravaganza featuring electric bikes. Info: Robert at 604-738-2641 or [www.veva.bc.ca](http://www.veva.bc.ca)

## **Sunday, June 8**

**Island City By Bike** (Richmond) Sea Island School, 1891 Wellington Crescent (corner of Templeton Rd & Miller Rd, Burkeville, Sea Island). Pre-Ride Safety Check: 9:30-11:00am Short & Long Tours Depart: 11:00am Info: Joan 604-276-4035 or [www.city.richmond.bc.ca/leisure/events.htm#Jun](http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/leisure/events.htm#Jun)

**Launch of the Grateful Shred** 10am Science World. Info: [www.gratefulshred.com](http://www.gratefulshred.com)

## **Wednesday, June 11**

**Cycling Safety: A European Perspective** 7-9pm Plaza 500 Hotel, 500 West 12th Ave. A public forum and discussion on cycling facilities. Info: Richard at 604-669-2860

## **Thursday, June 12 to Friday, June 13**

**ICTCT Workshop on Safe Non-Motorized Transportation** [www.ictct.org](http://www.ictct.org). Registration required. Contact: Paul at 604-733-7108 or Ralf at [ralf.risser@factum.at](mailto:ralf.risser@factum.at)

## **Saturday, June 14**

**Rick Hansen Wheels In Motion** Locations: Coal Harbour, UBC, GF Strong, Richmond, Surrey, Langley, West Van, Aldergrove, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Port Coquitlam and Whistler. Info: 1-800-213-2131 or [www.rickhansen.com](http://www.rickhansen.com)

**Sapperton Bike Festival** 1-4pm Cap's Bicycle Shop, 434 East Columbia, New West. Info: 604-524-3611

**UBC Bike Rodeo for Kids** 2-4pm in the playing field of Fairview Crescent Residence at 2707 Tennis Court Crescent

on the UBC Campus. Info: TREK at 604-822-9318

**The East Van Chopper Fest** 1-9pm on Union St, from Glen to Vernon (close to the Casa Gelato). A block party followed by a long slow tour of the city. Info Richard 604-306-0925 or [www.pedalpower.org](http://www.pedalpower.org)

**Bikesexual Fetish Ride** 8:15pm at the south end of Davie Street at Marinaside Cres. Info: Peppermint Jenni [peppi\\_jenni@yahoo.ca](mailto:peppi_jenni@yahoo.ca), 604-640-8161

#### **Sunday, June 15**

**Stanley Park Bike Festival** 8 am to noon at Brockton Point in Stanley Park. [www.stanleyparkbikifest.ca](http://www.stanleyparkbikifest.ca)

**Ride to the Bike Festival** from either Science World, the Planetarium, or the Lonsdale Quay SeaBus terminal (by ticket machines). Rides leave at 8:45am and 9:15am from these locations. Info: [www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca)

**Grand Opening of the Georgia Street Bike Lanes** Noon on the south side of Georgia St. next to Chilco St

**Bike to Coquitlam Farmers Market** 9am-1pm Coquitlam Sports Centre parking lot, 633 Poirier. Info: 604-318-8966

**Nature Bike** 7-8:30 pm at the Queen Elizabeth Park. Meet at the south parking lot by the golf course on 37th Ave. Info: 604-327-8693 or [www.greenclub.bc.ca](http://www.greenclub.bc.ca)

**Barkley Sound Salmon Tasting** All 3 Capers Community Markets stores.

#### **Wednesday, June 18**

**Grand Opening of Inverness Bikeway** 5-6pm at Inverness and 37th Ave. Info: Steve B at 604-873-7693

**Wednesday Pie Rides** See June 4 for details.

#### **Saturday, June 21**

**Central Valley Greenway Ride** Registration at 10am at the Trout Lake Community Centre. Keith 604-669-2860 or [www.best.bc.ca](http://www.best.bc.ca)

**Solstice Ride** 7:30pm at Ontario and 37th. Info: Lee at 604-255-2102

#### **Sunday, June 22**

**Bike to Market Day at Granville Island** Sign up at your local Community Centres for a guided ride to the Granville Island Public Market. Info: 604-666-6477 + option 4.

**Vintage Bicycle Swap Meet and Show** 9:30am-3:30pm Cambrian Welsh Hall 215 E.17th (off Main St.) Admission \$2.00 Info: Dave 604-873-3422

**Pedalheads Learn to Ride** 2-4pm at Jericho Hill Centre, 4196 West 4th Ave. Atlantis Please call to book spaces. Claudia 604-874-6464, [www.atlantisprograms.com](http://www.atlantisprograms.com)

#### **Wednesday, June 25**

**Bike to Nat Bailey Farmers Market Day** 2-7pm in the parking lot of Nat Bailey Stadium, Ontario and 30<sup>th</sup>. Info: Richard 604-669-2860 or [bikemonth@best.bc.ca](mailto:bikemonth@best.bc.ca)

#### **Friday, June 27**

**Thousand Wheel Critical Mass** Meet 5:00 to 5:30pm at the Vancouver Art Gallery (by the fountain). Info: [velolove@vancouver.indymedia.org](mailto:velolove@vancouver.indymedia.org) or [www.velolove.bc.ca](http://www.velolove.bc.ca)

#### **Saturday, June 28**

**Mountain Equipment Co-Op Charity Bike Drop** 10am-4pm at the MEC roof-top parking lot at 130 West Broadway. Info: Kate 604-872-7858 ext.317

**Bike To East Vancouver Farmers Market Day** 9am-2pm at East 15th Ave and Victoria. Richard 604-669-2860 or [bikemonth@best.bc.ca](mailto:bikemonth@best.bc.ca)

**The Dinosaur Opera** Meet at 9pm at La Casa Gelato, 1033 Venables, for an escort to the venue in Cottonwood Gardens Info: Lee at 604-255-2102

#### **Sunday, June 29**

**Sanctuary Foundation Bike Rally** Registration 9am at 6879 Royal Oak Avenue, Burnaby. Info: 604-451-1470, [general@sanctuary.bc.ca](mailto:general@sanctuary.bc.ca) or [www.sanctuary.bc.ca](http://www.sanctuary.bc.ca)

#### **Tuesday, July 1**

**Children's Bike Safety Skills Event** Cloverdale Amphitheatre, 176 St. at 64 Ave., Surrey. [www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca)

#### **Friday July 11**

**The Sex and Chocolate Cabaret** 8pm, Polish Community Hall (corner of 24th and Fraser). Info and tickets: [www.pedalpower.org](http://www.pedalpower.org) or 604-306-0925 or 604-873-3877.

#### **On going events**

**Cycling skills and maintenance workshops** Check your local community centre!

**Bikes ride free on Aquabus during June**

**MEC Events:** All events at the Vancouver Store at 130 W Broadway. Phone Kate 604-872-7858 ext.317

Regionally Surrey plans to upgrade the south end of the Patullo Bridge for cyclists this year as a result of a VACC request in 2001. TransLink has applied a reflective tape to better define the sidewalk edge. Although separation from traffic would be better, this is certainly a step in the right direction. Kudos to Surrey City and TransLink for the start of safety and comfort for cyclists on this bridge.

We have heard from Doug McCallum, Chair of TransLink, that negotiations with Safety Engineering Services regarding bicycles on SkyTrain are progressing well. Hopefully bicycles will be permitted on SkyTrain cars in off-peak hours starting in July. All of your letters have made a difference! (However, I am not holding my breath.)

The Surrey VACC committee is having their first ride to look at cycling facilities in the community. Yes, moving ahead, slowly but surely.

In a region such as ours, bridges and crossing human-made and natural barriers can be a problem for cyclists. The Ministry of Transportation (MoT) has announced improvements to the north end of the Queensborough Bridge. The VACC, and particularly the VACC New Westminster committee, have been advocating and working to see this bridge improved for cyclists since 2001. At the time of this writing no assurances have been given that these improvements will happen as a part of this 'upgrade'. 'Transportation' by the Ministry still seems to mean 'motor vehicles'. Let me be clear I do not mean staff of the Ministry. There are many individuals concerned about cycling facilities working in the MoT. We must bring our concerns to the policy makers.

Write Honourable Judith Reid MoT (Contact information on the back page.) As news becomes available it will be noted on our Email list and to the web.

On another note: The VACC supports cycling instructors and values safe knowledgeable cyclists in the community. We often feel that if we rode as a child we know how to ride in traffic. I took Can Bike early in my riding days, however, prior to that, I remember to my embarrassment that I actually hit the hood of someone's car. I felt he was squeezing me. In retrospect I was positioned incorrectly in the lane to make that left hand turn. Consider taking

a Can Bike course. See the VACC web for a course or instructor.

June is Bike Month. Watch for and join in on activities in your area. (See pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.) In the meantime there is no need to wait! Get out and ride that bike to do your grocery shopping, go to work or to have some fun. If in the course of that trip you found problems getting from A to B consider joining one of our regional committees. If there are no VACC regional committees in your area-consider joining with others and starting one! The VACC Directors and/or volunteers would be glad to help.

## **Letter writing 101**

The most effective tool in getting better cycling facilities in the Lower Mainland is writing letters to the politicians who make the decisions. And by writing them yourself you are helping to create and improve cycling conditions in your neighbourhood.

Recently the Sierra Club of British Columbia published an eight-step checklist to help you write your own letters on cycling and other ways of encouraging clean air transportation options. They called it "Letter-Writing 101".

By becoming informed on an issue and writing to your mayor and council, you show that you know and care about what is going on. You are telling them that you will hold them accountable. That gets their attention.

Politicians and bureaucrats are said to count each written letter as representing between 500 and 1000 voters. People who take the time to write are credited with having a better-than-average understanding of an issue and are assumed to be willing to vote accordingly. Writing letter is work, but a few pointers can make it easier and much more effective.

### **1. Write Your Own Letter**

It proves you have taken time to think about the subject and you have made an effort to put thoughts into an orderly form. Form letters, e-mails, postcards, and petitions can easily be signed or sent - and for that reason they may carry less weight.



## 2. Write to a Particular Person.

Write to your mayor and council, and the bureaucrat responsible. Include your full name and address.

## 3. Be Polite

Politicians may be more sympathetic than they seem. But they are under a lot of pressure. Rudeness and name-calling can quickly end communication.

Politicians generally want to get re-elected. But if they think you would never be satisfied, they may simply write you off. What they want to hear-if you can suggest it without dishonesty or insincerity-is that you are simply waiting for the appropriate response that will allow you to give them your wholehearted support.

## 4. Be Brief

Deal with one issue per letter. A one-page letter is more likely to be read carefully; two pages may simply be glossed for general tone. Clearly identify the issue, and your attitude towards it:

*Dear Mayor [Smith],  
I urgently request that your  
government increase its effort to  
develop more bicycle lanes.*

## 5. Show Off Your Knowledge

It helps to demonstrate that you know your subject and what the politician or her/his party has said on it. If they have reneged on a promise, you point this out to them clearly (but politely). You could write:

*The City of Vancouver's  
Transportation Plan, 1997, calls for  
using painted bicycle lanes in the  
Downtown yet only sections of Pender  
Street have been developed in the past  
six years. The City should be working  
closely with the cycling community to  
develop a comprehensive plan with  
implementation by 2006.*

## 6. Be Topical

Discuss issues that are relevant to your community today. If you find any bicycle routes have shortcomings let the politicians know in a polite manner that you are unhappy with the present situation and that you want to see it improved.

## 7. End with a Call for Action

End your letter with a one-paragraph summary of what action you would like to see take place.

*I urge you to support a new bikeway  
linking the Horseshoe Bay Ferry  
Terminal to the Lions Gate Bridge  
through West Vancouver.*

## 8. Congratulate Yourself!

Writing letters is a difficult skill. It takes effort and dedication. However, the long-term benefits of getting the bicycle facilities in place that you want is well worth the sweat to write a letter. Just remember that if you don't raise your voice to the right person how will they know what is wrong in your neighbourhood?

*Thanks to Sharon Chow and Bo Martin of the Sierra  
Club of BC Victoria Group for reproducing their  
original article.*

### KYOTO DISCOUNTS

Over 75 businesses around Vancouver give discounts to customers who arrive by bike and wear a helmet!  
KyotoDiscount@yahoo.com or 604-622-8778

## ***Vancouver on Two Wheels Jack Becker***

The City of Vancouver's Downtown Transportation plan states that the City's vision is for Vancouver to be "the most liveable city in the world... where the transportation network can offer choices that are extensive and exciting, such that getting to and around downtown is an attraction in itself."

The City of Vancouver's 2002 Downtown Transportation Plan envisions a new era for cycling within the downtown area. The plan provides bike lanes, bike routes, and greenways within close proximity of most residents and workers, serving an already active cycling population.

Travel surveys taken during the wet weather months of 1994 and 1999 indicate that the number of cycling trips to downtown doubled in that period. The completion of important missing pieces of the downtown cycling infrastructure should lead to an explosion in the number of people choosing to cycle to or within the downtown core.

Vancouver City Councillor and commuter cyclist Peter Ladner recently joined other cyclists to tour some of the streets in the Gastown and Yaletown areas, observing what will be needed to make the streets Cycling Friendly. VACC ([www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca)) captured these observations and will be communicating them with to City staff, advocating for the speedy implementation of the Downtown Transportation Plan.

In many cases, the implementation of relatively minor changes would serve to make the downtown core a much more welcoming place to cycle.

### **Bike Shop Discount Program**

#### **The Bike Doctor**

1350 Commercial Dr., Vancouver  
163 West Broadway, Vancouver  
Phone: 604 215-7433  
[www.thebikedr.com/](http://www.thebikedr.com/)

**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

### **Segway and Electric Bicycles**

**Jack Becker, Richard Campbell, Christian MacKenzie**

When in line skating became popular, there were outcries from the cycling community. How could these people want to use the few, precious bike lanes to go skating? Cyclists, in a normal, human reactionary manner to change, reacted negatively. While on the one side they were arguing for fair space on the roads with cars and for separate cycling facilities, they were reactionary to this new mode of transportation

that threatened their turf. Fortunately, the reasoning of a majority of cyclists prevailed and today cyclists, in line skaters and wheelchair users share the same facilities.

Cars are the big problem and the main source of congestion in cities. Anything that has a chance of getting people out of their cars is positive. Lets all work together to get better facilities instead of fighting over who gets to use substandard facilities.

One of the authors recently remarked that his electric-assist bike is, sadly, treated with hostility and derision by some cyclists. Yes, it uses electricity (about a penny worth for 30 kms of assist), but the electric assist has enabled this rider, who has asthma, to ride without fear of hills and has reduced his car use enormously. We fail to see how this is a bad thing.

Now for a reality check. Every basement has a bicycle, yet not many people ride regularly. Why? Lots of people are not willing, or not able, to expend energy or effort for their transportation needs. If these people replace even a tenth of their car trips with a Segway, electric bike, electric scooter, or some other electric propelled device, is this not something that should be encouraged and embraced?

What is the difference between a Segway and an electric bicycle? Both have two wheels. And electrical propulsion devices. Both have small pavement footprint in comparison to cars. Both are very low pollution devices. In one case, the wheels are side by side and, in the other, the wheels are one behind the other.

If each device contributes to providing viable options to people for leaving their cars at home, is that not a good thing?

### **Cycling Safety: A European Perspective**

Wednesday, June 11. 7-9pm Plaza 500 Hotel, 500 West 12th Ave.

A public forum and discussion on cycling facilities and safety, featuring presentations by several European transportation safety experts. Held in conjunction with the ICTCT Workshop on Safe Non-Motorized Transportation. Info: Richard at 604-669-2860

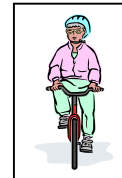
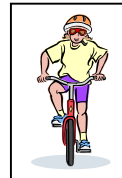
Maybe we need to focus on urban transportation that provides safe and efficient facilities for like types of transportation. Speed, size, and manoeuvrability are some of the criteria for distinguishing forms of transportation modes that would benefit from common facilities. If Segway and electric bicycles were a hit with people for commuting, then the case for cycling facilities shared with Segway, in line skating and wheelchairs would be more easily made to the politicians and the bureaucrats of this and any city.

**YVR Cycling Facilities Concerns Update - A Small Step Forward** *Jack Becker*

Back on March 20<sup>th</sup>, three VACC representatives made the trek to the airport to meet with Vancouver International Airport Authority (VIAA) staff. It appears that VIAA will be making some improvements for bike signage and bike logo markings on the airport road pavement this year. Staff wanted to consult with the VACC on design and types of signs. While more complete signage is still needed for commuting and touring cyclists that pass through airport land, this is still a small and important step forward.

Another step has been taken by the VIAA in its support of cycling to work with the installation of an indoor cage for bicycle parking for the airport staff. Considering there are 26,000 employees on Lulu Island and this is expected to grow to 40,000 in the not-too-distant future, this may appear to be a small step and an opportunity to test staff's receptiveness to cycle to work.

In September 2004, the airport will be the gateway for hundreds of cyclists making their way to the Pro Walk / Pro Bike conference in Victoria. We would like to see these traveling cyclists greeted by the airport with a well-marked path to conveniently-located workbench facilities similar to what is in place at the Calgary Airport. Bicycles could be assembled and shipping boxes could be stored until departure time. What a positive feeling for conference going cyclists if the way from airport terminal arrival level to the ferry docks were well marked with bike signs on the airport lands. These cyclists attending the Pro Walk / Pro Bike conference would have a positive story to take back home and share with other touring cyclists.



**A Tailwind for TransLink from Surrey**



I was at the King George SkyTrain station recently and saw new bike lockers in place! (Now if I could just remember how many :-( It was 16? 20?) There has been a waiting list for lockers at that location for a long time, so it is nice to see more there now.

**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:

- Delta/North Surrey 604 693-1093
- New Westminster Andrew 604 521-2742
- North Shore 604 693-1093
- South Surrey/White Rock Jean 604 531-3484
- Surrey Ian 604 576-4425
- Tri-Cities Brian 604 522-2977
- Vancouver Jack 604 681-5744
- Communications Richard 604 733-1764

- I want to contribute to the VACC by doing the following:

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**Thank you!**

## Greater Vancouver Cycling Map

Jack Becker

Often while cycling, or even while not, it seems more and more often that someone asks if there are any cycling maps of the region available and where to find them. Sometimes the question is if there exists a more recent version than the 1997 Davenport map. Cyclists lack confidence in the information in the maps and complain that their maps do not show all the bike routes and trails that exist.

Obviously there is a demand for a current cycling map. To the rescue comes TransLink that hopes to be publishing a new map by this summer. Stay tuned for more details.

In the meantime, for digital bike maps go to:

- City of Vancouver Bicycle Routes  
<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/engsvcs/transport/cycling/routes.htm>
- Copy of City of Vancouver bike map send to you  
<mailto:cycling@city.vancouver.bc.ca>
- Detailed Vancouver Bicycle Map  
<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/engsvcs/transport/cycling/pdf/bikemap.pdf>
- Bicycles Routes in the Lower Mainland  
<http://www.bikeways.com/maps2/mapsframe.htm>

### 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<br><i>Cyclist</i> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

05/03

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

Hon. Gordon Campbell  
**Premier**  
PO Box 9041  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1  
[premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)  
Phone: 250 387-1715  
Fax: 250 387-0087

Honourable Judith Reid  
**Minister of Transportation**  
PO Box 9055  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
Phone: 250 387-1978  
Fax: 250 356-2290  
[Minister.Transportation@gems5.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Minister.Transportation@gems5.gov.bc.ca)

#### TransLink

Chair Doug McCallum and Board of Directors  
TransLink  
1600-4720 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2  
Phone: 604 453-4500  
Fax: 604 453-4626

[www.translink.bc.ca/Service\\_Info\\_and\\_Fares/Buses/Community\\_Shuttles/Langley.asp](http://www.translink.bc.ca/Service_Info_and_Fares/Buses/Community_Shuttles/Langley.asp)

#### City of Vancouver

Mayor Larry Campbell and Council  
453 west 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4  
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.**