



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
TRANSPORTATION STEERING COMMITTEE
FINAL AGENDA**

TSC 1-2021

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Meeting will be held by electronic participation only

Due to efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect all individuals, there is no public access to Niagara Region Headquarters. If you are interested in viewing this meeting or would like to speak to an item listed on the agenda please contact the Office of the Regional Clerk at clerk@niagararegion.ca at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Pages

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**
- 3. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**
 - 3.1. Call for Nominations for Committee Chair
 - 3.2. Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Chair
 - 3.3. Voting for the Position of Committee Chair
 - 3.4. Call for Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair
 - 3.5. Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair
 - 3.6. Voting for the Position of Committee Vice-Chair

4. PRESENTATIONS

- 4.1. Greater Niagara Circle Route 1 - 12

Rita Dillon, President, Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Club

5. DELEGATIONS

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

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2021 Transportation Steering Committee Meeting Dates

- 6.2. TSC-C 2-2021 14 - 15

Greater Niagara Circle Route Workplan

- 6.3. TSC-C 5-2021 16 - 22

Greater Niagara Circle Route - Welland Canal Parkway Trail Extension

7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 7.1. TSC-C 4-2021 23

Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee Refinements

- 7.2. TSC-C 6-2021 24 - 25

2021 Bicycle Facilities Grant Program

- 7.3. TSC 2-2020 26 - 28

Transportation Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2020

- 7.4. ATSC 1-2021 29 - 30

Active Transportation Sub-Committee Minutes
February 23, 2021

- 7.5. GNCRC 1-2021 31 - 33

Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee Minutes
February 26, 2021

8. OTHER BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or events, please contact the Accessibility Advisor at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 (office), 289-929-8376 (cellphone) or accessibility@niagararegion.ca (email).

Greater Niagara Circle Route

Transportation Steering Committee

April 27, 2021

Rita Dillon, President

Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Club

Greater Niagara Circle Route

Rita Dillon, President
Niagara Freewheeler Bicycle Club

Safety

- Swing gates
 - Cross 2/3 of the trail
 - They leave minimal space for passing
 - They are dark in colour
 - Collisions and injuries have occurred due to cyclists hitting gates



Safety cont'd

- Posts
 - In the middle of the trail
 - Several different types (round/cement, wooden/square), with no visible markings
 - Difficult to see, especially when cyclist are wearing eye protection



Safety cont'd (2)

Hazard

- Port Colborne bridge near the flour mill
 - Has two different types of barriers
 - Major dip at the end of the bridge
- Between St. Catharines and Port Colborne
 - No standardization of barrier types
 - Concern with rationale that barriers are to keep motorized vehicles off the trail
 - Suggestion of law enforcement to deal with motorized vehicles operators

Maintenance

- Washouts; parts of the trail have disappeared
- City works cut grass and leave clippings on the trail
- Constant concern with ATVs throwing gravel on the trail
- Numerous cracks in the trail surface between Lock 1 and Homer Bridge



Maintenance cont'd

- Pavement has heaved from frost in Thorold near E.S. Fox
- Potholes throughout the trail
- 5 ft pipe exposed where post was removed



Wayfinding & Tourism

- Signage is required. Tourists express difficulty navigating many sections of the trail.
- Directions to attractions such as restaurants, cycling shops and shopping would be helpful.



Wayfinding & Tourism cont'd

- Tourist experience is diminished by sections covered in debris
- Trail appears to end in downtown Welland with no indication of how to continue
- Transition to the Friendship Trail in Port Colborne is problematic



Wayfinding & Tourism cont'd

- Lack of direction is problematic when emergency medical services are needed
- Tourists are not able to identify what municipality they are in due to lack of signage
- Colour coding trail/markings to differentiate municipalities

Accessibility

- Barriers prevent access for persons using mobility scooters, hand-powered, tandem bicycles and tricycles
- Barriers limit many older adults and individuals with mobility issues from using the trail
- Parents pushing strollers experience the same difficulties



Thank-you
Questions?

MEMORANDUM

TSC-C 1-2021

Subject: 2021 Transportation Steering Committee Meeting Dates

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021

To: Transportation Steering Committee

From: Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

The following is a list of proposed dates in 2021 that have been identified to hold meetings of the Transportation Steering Committee:

June 22, 2021

August 24, 2021

November 16, 2021

A resolution of Committee is required to approve the meeting dates. Suggested wording is as follows:

That the Transportation Steering Committee meetings **BE HELD** on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. on the following dates in 2021:

June 22, August 24 and November 16.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TSC-C 2-2021

Subject: Greater Niagara Circle Route Proposed Workplan

Date: April 27, 2021

To: Transportation Steering Committee

From: Carolyn Ryall, Director, Transportation Services

The Greater Niagara Circle Route proposed Workplan is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee for **APPROVAL**.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Carolyn Ryall
Director, Transportation Services

Appendix 1 Greater Niagara Circle Route Proposed Workplan

2020 Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee (GNCR) Proposed Work Plan

Strategic Focus	Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee Role
Agreements	<p>A. Memorandum of Understanding</p> <p>An Agreement to be drafted between the Municipalities and Niagara Region, which will outline roles and responsibilities, decision-making, technical support, and other duties associated with the mandate of the Committee.</p>
Technical Standards/Practices	<p>B. Consistent Operational and Maintenance Standards</p> <p>The GNCR Committee to establish a consistent set of guidelines/standards/practices related to the operation and maintenance of all Circle Route infrastructure to be adhered to and followed by the Municipalities.</p>
Innovation Technologies Navigation	<p>C. Wayfinding /Signage</p> <p>The GNCR Committee to amalgamate, review and assess a consistent wayfinding/signage strategy for the Circle Route to be adhered to and implemented by all Municipalities.</p>
Future Network Expansion	<p>D. Potential Future Linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Port Robinson/Chippawa/ NF – Ferry b. Port Weller – Lakeshore to Port Weller – Lock 1 c. Fonthill Spur d. Potential Other Future Linkages <p>GNCR Committee to assess technical, financial implications and ownership feasibilities for all future linkages; with capital funding outlined.</p>
Financial Viability	<p>E. Funding Opportunities</p> <p>GNCR Committee to bring forward different funding opportunities across all levels of Government; funding applications and partnerships for approval.</p>

Subject: Greater Niagara Circle Route – Welland Canal Parkway Trail Extension

Report to: Transportation Steering Committee

Report date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Recommendations

That the Transportation Steering Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Public Works Committee:

1. That an extension of the Welland Canal Parkway Trail north of Lakeshore Road **BE APPROVED**;
2. That wayfinding initiatives on the Greater Niagara Circle Route **BE APPROVED**, and
3. That the necessary budget amendments to undertake these initiatives **BE CONSIDERED**.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to address two (2) notices of motion made by the Greater Niagara Circle Route Sub-Committee to utilize \$250,000 of the GNCR Reserve funds for: the extension of the Welland Canal Parkway Trail north of Lakeshore Road; and, a wayfinding initiative to propose a consistent strategy for trail signage.
- The grant amount of \$200,000 to the City of St. Catharines for the extension of the Welland Canal Parkway Trail north of Lakeshore Road, is for construction-related costs associated with a stone path extension and two (2) terminal lookouts over the canal.
- The \$50,000 for the wayfinding initiative is to procure a consultant assignment, facilitated by Niagara Region's transportation department, that will review the current entire trail wayfinding and destination routing and propose a consistent navigation strategy.
- These proposed initiatives were not included in the Council approved Niagara Region 2021 capital or operating budgets.
- Any in-year use of reserves not included in the Council approved budget must comply with the Reserve and Reserve Funds Policy (Corporate Policy C-F-013) as

well as the Budget Control By-law, and are considered a budget amendment which requires 10 days' notice prior to council approval as per Public Notice Policy (corporate policy C-RC-005). There is no impact on the tax levy as a result of utilizing reserves to fund these initiatives.

- Staff will be seeking direction from this committee at a future meeting on criteria for the use of the unrestricted balance of GNCR Reserve for specified purposes while following the Regional budget process each year.

Financial Considerations

The GNCR Reserve current balance is \$1,382,681. It was funded from prior year surpluses and a \$10,760 donation restricted for use on the GNCR.

Staff is recommending a one-time amendment to the previously adopted 2021 Niagara Region Operating Budget in the amount of \$250,000. This consists of a grant of \$200,000 to the City of St. Catharines for the extension of the Welland Canal Parkway trail north of Lakeshore Road and \$50,000 for a consulting assignment to review the current wayfinding and destination routing throughout the entire trail. The initiatives are proposed to be funded from the GNCR Reserve. It is recommended that the restricted portion of \$10,760 (related to donations for the GNCR) in addition to a portion of the unrestricted portion be used to fund these requests. Any unspent amounts for the above noted initiatives will be returned to the GNCR reserve.

Any in-year use of reserves not included in the Council approved budget must comply with the Reserve and Reserve Funds Policy and the Budget Control By-Law. An in year use of unbudgeted reserves is considered a budget amendment which requires 10 days' notice prior to Regional Council approval as per Public Notice Policy (corporate policy C-RC-005). With endorsement of the recommendations included in this report by the Transportation Steering Committee and subsequently Public Works Committee, a report will be brought forth to Regional Council on May 20, 2021 seeking approval of the budget amendment in accordance with policy. There is no impact on the tax levy as a result of the utilization of reserves to fund these initiatives.

Analysis

- The extension of the Welland Canal Parkway Trail north of Lakeshore Road is directed towards creating a safe and convenient trail extension within the City of St. Catharines to be used by Niagara Region residents and tourists.

-
- This project will address current operational and geometric deficiencies; while offering active transportation connectivity to the northern part of this trail along the Welland Canal.
 - This project will be led by the City of St. Catharines in collaboration with the Transportation Services Division at the Niagara Region.
 - There continues to be an increase in all forms of active transportation. This trail extension adds to the appeal of Niagara Region and the Circle Route being a cycling destination.
 - Staff will prepare the necessary agreements as required, including with the City of St. Catharines, in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal & Court Services. The grant will be provided to the City of St. Catharines upon confirmation of the extension costs. If the cost of construction is less than \$200,000, the excess budget will be returned to the GNCR Reserve.
 - Staff will procure a consultant assignment that will review the current wayfinding and destination routing throughout the entire trail. A consistent navigation strategy will be proposed using signage and architectural landmarks. The proposed strategy will be reviewed with the Greater Niagara Circle Route Sub-Committee.
 - Following completion of the wayfinding consulting assignment, any recommendations for enhancements and/or improvements to the trail will be discussed with Transportation Steering Committee (TSC). Any cost implications associated with these recommendations will be considered as part of future budget processes.
 - Property ownership, maintenance and operations fall under the jurisdiction of respective local area municipalities; not that of the Region. As part of the GNCR workplan, roles and responsibilities of the Region and local area municipalities will be identified and brought forward to TSC for consideration and approval.
 - Staff will be seeking direction from TSC in Q3 2021 on parameters for future utilization of the GNCR Reserve for active transportation projects in alignment with the annual budget process.

Alternatives Reviewed

The decision to fund a grant to the City of St. Catharines and wayfinding consulting utilizing the GNCR Reserve could be deferred and considered during the 2022 Regional Budget Process in alignment with normal practice.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

Alignment to Niagara Regional Council Strategic Priority

Vision:

Niagara Region is a mosaic of diverse communities. We strive to achieve a prosperous, safe and inclusive community that embraces our natural spaces and promotes holistic wellbeing and quality of life.

Mission:

Niagara Region will serve its residents, businesses and tourists through collaborative leadership, responsible policy and the provision of effective and efficient community-focused services, while maintaining environmental and economic sustainability.

Corporate Strategic Priorities:

Priority 2: Healthy and Vibrant Community - Foster a high quality of life through safe, healthy, and inclusive neighbourhoods through the delivery of quality, affordable and accessible human services.

Priority 3: Responsible Growth and Infrastructure Planning - Sustainable investments in Transportation, transit and infrastructure, while aligning infrastructure planning with preservation of the natural environment.

Other Pertinent Reports

- ICP 19-2013 March 6, 2013 Greater Niagara Circle Route – Asset Management and Management Issues
- Confidential PDS 4-2017 February 22, 2017
- CL-C 34-2018 June 14, 2018 Motion to Release Funds to Support Extension of the Welland Canal Parkway Trail

Prepared by:

Carolyn Ryall
Director, Transportation Services
Public Works Department

Recommended by:

Bruce Zvaniga, P.Eng.
Commissioner of Public Works (Interim)
Public Works Department

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Dan Ane, Manager Program Financial Support and reviewed by Donna Gibbs, Director Legal and Court Services.

Appendices

Appendix 1 City of St. Catharines Concept Plans



**GNCR Lakeshore Extension-
Malcolmson Park to Sunset Beach**





***GNCR Lakeshore Extension-
Seating Area with views to canal - Typical***



MEMORANDUM

TSC-C 4-2021

Subject: Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee Refinements

Date: April 27, 2021

To: Transportation Steering Committee

From: Carolyn Ryall, Director

Regional Council at its meeting held on December 17, 2020, approved the following recommendations of its Planning and Economic Development Committee:

That Report PDS 36-2020, dated December 9, 2020, respecting Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee Refinements, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the reporting structure for the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee **BE TRANSFERRED** from Planning and Economic Development Committee to Public Works Committee;
2. That this report **BE CIRCULATED** to Public Works Committee;
3. That the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee **BE REQUESTED** to make the completion of the Circle Route in north St. Catharines (Port Weller) a priority in their 2021 work plan; and
4. That the Economic Development Division **PROCEED** to create tourism enhancement elements of the Greater Niagara Circle Route and provide a report to the Planning and Economic Development Committee in consultation with the Public Works Committee.

This information is respectfully being submitted on behalf of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee for **INFORMATION ONLY**.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Carolyn Ryall, Director

MEMORANDUM

TSC-C 6-2021

**Subject: 2021 Bicycle Facilities Grant – Regional Bikeways Network
Facilities on Municipal Roadways**

Date: April 27, 2021

To: Transportation Steering Committee

From: Carolyn Ryall, Director, Transportation Services

Council approved \$200,000 for the 2021 Bicycle Facilities Grant Program, through Transportation's Planning Business Unit. This year's program was extremely well-received with six (6) applications submitted from seven (7) municipalities and funding requests totalling well over one (1) million dollars.

The recipients of this funding are:

Town of Pelham - \$30,000 - This funding is to be directed to the re-construction and urbanization of Pelham Street between Port Robinson Road and John Street. In addition to new driving lanes and concrete sidewalks, the project will feature new on-road dedicated bicycle lanes and a multi-use path in front of Glynn A. Green Public School.

Town of Lincoln - \$50,000 – This funding is to be directed to the construction of a multi-use path (MUP); connecting St. John Elementary School to the existing sidewalk network on the south side of RR81 (King Street) in Grimsby. The project is a joint effort between the Town of Grimsby and the Town of Lincoln, with sidewalks being constructed in both municipalities.

City of Welland - \$50,000 – This funding is to be used for the upgrade to the 1.6 km length of multi-use trail; directly adjacent to local road Clare Avenue. The stretch runs alongside Clare Avenue from Woodlawn to the Pelham/Welland boundary near Quaker Road and is the only pedestrian connection along this road section.

City of Niagara Falls - \$70,000 – This funding is to be directed to the Connects Millennium Trail to Niagara Parkway Recreation Trail; to construct a multi-use path (MUP) along Drummond Road and Morrison Street. This Active Transportation network

is proposed to connect at the north end of the existing Niagara Parkway Recreation Trail.

This grant program is in support of Niagara Region's initiative for increased active transportation via on-road bicycle facilities and MUPs; constructed as part of roadway rehabilitation or reconstruction projects. To help facilitate the Municipal segments of Niagara Region's Bikeways Network, this Grant will be provided as per *Policy 9.F.3 of the Regional Policy Plan*. *Niagara Region's Transportation Master Plan*, 2017 provides details regarding which municipally owned and operated roadways are included within this program and the type of proposed bicycle facility that has been identified.

The expectation is that the Grant funding, once awarded, will be used for design and construction during the annual award year. However, Niagara Region recognizes that these are extraordinary times due to the pandemic, and that some of the awarded projects may not be able to proceed as anticipated for a variety of reasons. If this becomes the case, and the above-noted project is not able to proceed as intended, written notification shall be provided to the Region by October 1, 2021, to allow the Region the opportunity to redirect the funding towards other projects within this fiscal calendar year. Staff look forward to being kept apprised of project status and progress throughout the project.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Carolyn Ryall, Director

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
TRANSPORTATION STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

TSC 2-2020

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

**Committee Room 4 / Video Conference
Regional Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee Members Present in Committee Room 4:	Councillors Ip (Committee Chair), Fertich (Committee Vice-Chair)
Committee Members Present via Video Conference:	Bradley (Regional Chair); Councillors Butters, Junkin; N. Arsenault (Councillor - Niagara-on-the-Lake), D. Cridland (Councillor - Wainfleet), A. Desmarais (Councillor - Port Colborne), N. Dubanow (Councillor - Fort Erie), R. Freake (Councillor - Grimsby), L. Haun (Councillor - Pelham), H. Jonker (Councillor - West Lincoln), M. Mikolic (Councillor - Lincoln), K. Porter (Councillor - St. Catharines), T. Price (Niagara College Student Administrative Council), R. Rehan (Brock University Students' Union), K. Sentance (Councillor - Thorold)
Absent/Regrets:	Councillors Chiocchio, Redekop; M. Butler (Councillor - Fort Erie)
Staff Present in Committee Room 4:	K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, C. Ryall, Director, Transportation Services
Staff Present via Video Conference	M. Evely, Legislative Coordinator, J. Gervais, Health Promoter
Others Present via Video Conference:	M. Bilodeau, City of Niagara Falls, G. Eden, Accessibility Advisory Committee Representative, C. Fullerton, Brock University, S. Kosh, Niagara College Student Administrative Council

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Ip called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Students on the Move

Jackie Gervais, Health Promoter, and Dr. Chris Fullerton, Department of Geography and Tourism Studies, Brock University, provided information respecting Students on the Move. Topics of the presentation included:

- Study Purpose
- Supporting Council's Strategic Priorities
- Overall Survey Response
- Student Satisfaction with Commute to School
- Impact of Transportation on Well-Being
- Future Directions

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no items for consideration.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 TSC 1-2020

Transportation Steering Committee Minutes - February 25, 2020

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by A. Desmarais

That Report TSC 1-2020, being the minutes of the Transportation Steering Committee meeting held on February 25, 2020, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee Update

Carolyn Ryall, Director, Transportation Services, advised that a report recommending the alignment of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee with the Public Works Department will be considered at the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting being held on December 9, 2020. She noted that the tour of the Circle Route had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

7.2 Bike Lanes in the City of St. Catharines

Karrie Porter, Transportation Steering Committee member, inquired about the implementation of bike lane delineators in the City of St. Catharines. Carolyn Ryall, Director, Transportation Services, advised that delineators are an obstacle for snowplows and that staff are considering a pilot for bike lanes identifiable by a unique road paint near the intersection of Regional Road 50 (Glenridge Avenue) and Regional Road 71 (Sir Isaac Brock Way) in the City of St. Catharines and City of Thorold in the spring of 2021.

7.3 Electric Kick-Style Scooters (E-Scooters)

Councillor Greenwood enquired about a pilot for e-scooters in 2021. Carolyn Ryall, Director, Transportation Services, advised that staff will continue discussions with the Local Area Municipalities, Brock University, and Niagara College respecting a potential pilot, however, timing is yet to be determined due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date is to be determined.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Councillor Ip
Committee Chair

Mark Evelyn
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

Meeting Minutes: Active Transportation Sub-Committee

Date: 2021-02-23
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Zoom
ATSC Chair: B. Greenwood
Attendees: C. Ryall, C. Thompson, D. Toppari, D. Wyllie, F. Barr, G. McIlhone, K. Forgeron, S. Morin, J. Gervais, P. Nicholson, G. Guthrie, M. Elmadhoon
Regrets: B. Clark
Minutes: J. MacPherson

Items for Discussion	Action
1) Welcome & Opening Remarks – by C. Ryall	
2) Welcome & Opening Remarks ATSC Chair – by B. Greenwood	
3) Transportation Services EAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Montrose Road, Lyons Creek Road & Biggar Road EA presented by Graeme Guthrie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact info: Graeme.guthrie@niagararegion.ca York Road and Four Mile Creek Road EA and Merritt Road/Rice Road Municipal Class presented by Maged Elmadhoon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact info: Maged.elmadhoon@niagararegion.ca Feedback on EAs is welcome and encouraged. Please submit feedback to the contact information noted above for each EA. 	
4) Meeting Minutes Review – February 4, 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSC Minutes were approved by TSC on February 25, 2020 and were presented at this meeting as a refresher only. 	
5) ATSC Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed TSC Amendments and work plan as a refresher only 	
6) ATSC Terms of Reference Amendments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed amendments that were approved at TSC February 25th, 2020 No comments or questions 	
7) Greater Niagara Circle Route Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reporting structure for the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee was transferred from Planning and Economic Development Committee to Public Works Committee through report PDS 36-2020. This was approved at PEDC on December 9, 2020 On December 7th, 2020, Rita Dillon from the Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Club presented her observations on the current state of the Greater Niagara Circle Route K. Forgeron asked if there is a work plan for GNCR 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Ryall explained that the work plan was drafted, then it was realized that GNCR reported to PEDC not TSC. The GNCR draft work plan will be reviewed at the upcoming meeting this Friday, February 26th, 2021. Once it is finalized, it will be submitted to TSC for approval. • B. Greenwood would like to participate in the GNCR meeting on Friday, February 26, 2021 • G. McIlhone asked if a list of the GNCR members can be provided for reference • C. Ryall said the list can be provided and that there would be benefit in sharing both lists (ATSC and GNCR) to both committees as they may work together in the future. 	<p>J. MacPherson to send invite to B. Greenwood</p>
<p>8) Recreational Active Transportation Map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Ryall suggested forming a sub-committee to move this initiative forward • D. Toppari: There is a lot of room for improvement on the current map. We could go through the copy of Sue Morin's map on the website as a start. • K. Forgeron: People need both paper and digital. We need to find a product that suits both. We should form a sub-committee to come up with a proposal of map and funding requirements • G. McIlhone: As per the Toronto Bike Show, it is a great promotional piece. • C. Ryall: We will need to create a subcommittee. If we proposed a 2 hour kickoff discussion during working hours, would this work? • G. McIlhone: Let's schedule a meeting and see what happens. S. Morin would like to be part of this. • C. Ryall: We can have a kick-off meeting and perhaps come up with the top 4 objectives, then select a lead for each one. Everyone from ATSC will be invited. We will send out a couple of dates. Then strategize on the top 3 or 4 priorities and who will be the lead on each one. 	<p>J. MacPherson to send out a couple dates, then set-up meeting</p>
<p>9) Round Table</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G. McIlhone: Regarding the 2022 Canada Summer Games - I attended the Glendale overpass PIC meeting. There was a lot of discussion on the detour. • J. Gervais: Thank you to those who submitted comments on the Active Transportation 5 Year Strategic Plan. The Students On The Move presentation is on the website if you'd like to see it. We are now looking at what the next steps are on this. We may hire a consultant for a pilot project feasibility study. We are hoping to find some funding for this. • G. McIlhone: The Parks Commission would be a unique opportunity for a pilot for Bikeshare • D. Toppari: Thanks to the virus, cycling is up 200 – 300%. Active transportation got a real boost thanks to Covid. • B. Greenwood: The Millennium Trail extension (Drummond Road to Dorchester Road) is very nice. They've done an excellent job along the canal. There is another one is coming soon. 	
<p>10) Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Ryall: Thank you for your time. It was a great meeting, a great relaunch. We will have additional EAs coming forward. • B. Greenwood: Thank you to everyone for attending. This was a great meeting. Thanks to C. Ryall and her team for all of their hard work. 	

Transportation Services Division



Meeting Minutes: Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee

Date: 2021-02-26
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Zoom
Chair: T. Ugulini
Attendees: T. Ugulini, C. Ryall, W. Campbell, D. Dodge, N. Dubanow, B. Greenwood, L. Sicoli
Minutes: J. MacPherson

Discussion Items

1) **Opening Remarks** - by C. Ryall

2) **Opening Remarks** - by GNCRC Chair

3) **GNCRC Tourism Collateral** – L. Sicoli, Economic Development

- Overview on how Economic Development can engage in Circle Route goals and visibility to the route
- T. Ugulini: Have you reached out to Sue Morin? She is a good resource.
- L. Sicoli: Yes. I have spoken to S. Morin and she provided good context and background
- T. Ugulini: Niagara Freewheelers made a presentation at our last meeting and they would also be a great resource.
- C. Ryall: We have been closely linked with S. Morin and been in conversations about updating the cycling map. It is one of the larger initiatives of ATSC.
- B. Greenwood: I had many great comments on the current map. It's an age of transition, so paper is still necessary.
- L. Sicoli: We can provide some marketing support from our end as well. If you want something specific, we can connect with social media promotion. If you identify social media influencers, we can connect them to our marketing department to move forward.
- T. Ugulini: We need to maintain the link with Economic Development and put our best foot forward promoting the GNCRC. We need to make sure we get the word out and maintain it.
- L. Sicoli: We are happy to support the membership to Ontario By-Bike Association. It is about to expire. It is a "go-to" membership for cyclists.
- N. Dubanow: Made a motion – 2nd by D. Dodge
 - To renew our Ontario By-Bike Association membership, to be paid for by Economic Development. **Carried** – Will go to TSC then to PW.
- C. Ryall: Once approved we will work with Economic Development to move it forward.
- L. Sicoli: I would like to stay as a connected thread to the GNCRC to better understand how Economic Development can assist.
- C. Ryall: ATSC's renewal of the cycling map is a major initiative. We use it in

different forums, showcasing our infrastructure. We are working with S. Morin and the LAMs, looking to get bike infrastructure to include on map update. The intent of the map is strictly around cycling. S. Morin and I are working to complete this by the end of April timeframe.

- B. Greenwood: The timing is great getting this out in time for the good weather.

4) Greater Niagara Circle Route Update

- i) The reporting structure for the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee was transferred from Planning and Economic Development Committee to Public Works Committee – PDS 36-2020 Approved at PEDC December 9, 2020.

5) GNCRC Work Plan Review

- To be submitted to TSC April 27, 2021 for approval, then next steps will be implemented.
- T. Ugolini: R. Dillon met with our Public Works Department and they are implementing improvements.
- N. Dubanow: R. Dillon also met with our staff. She is an excellent resource.
- C. Ryall: In support of what we're doing in GNCRC, we are having her attend TSC and do a condensed version of her presentation.
- B. Greenwood: I think it would be great to pass along the information to the proper committees.
- N. Dubanow: I agree to bring her to TSC to give a broad overview of the Circle Route
- B. Greenwood: Communication among committees and people is vital.
- C. Ryall: Having R. Dillon come forward to outline the current state of the Circle Route, may help with additional funding or other opportunities which may really help us.
- B. Greenwood: Bringing the existing map to TSC to hand out would be helpful. It's a great promoter of the Niagara Region.
- C. Ryall: We will take this away as an action item to reach out to Rita to present a 15 minute overview at TSC.
- T. Ugolini: I absolutely agree.

Wayfinding

- T. Ugolini: Is there a way we can do joint funding between the municipalities and the Region, using resource dollars so the signage is consistent? Does it have merit to work as a partnership and everyone has buy in?
- C. Ryall: We can bring a motion forward that talks to a shared financial contribution between the Region and the municipalities. The region could hire a consultant to do a wayfinding strategy specifically for the Circle Route.
- N. Dubanow: Fort Erie already has a program for wayfinding underway. We did this at the municipal level. It was approved in 2010 and was implemented in 2019.
- T. Ugolini: I think Welland's is also well underway.
- F. Greenwood: Could we have a look at what Fort Erie and Welland has in progress?
- N. Dubanow: We have reports with a specifically designed framework. They are publically available on the website as to how we are moving forward. I am concerned that our signs won't meet the Regional specs for signage. Is there a way we can make it work?
- C. Ryall: The Region put forward a general wayfinding program consistent across the Regional right of way across all municipalities. It wasn't approved a number of years ago. The LAMs have been progressing with their own wayfinding.

Anything on Regional roads has been in consult with the Region. Perhaps we can reach out to the different operations groups at the LAMs that touch the Circle Route and see if they have any strategies they would like to bring forward. I feel it is still best to bring a consultant in to review this. There are many options to use in way finding. Having a consultant as part of the committee is valuable.

- T. Ugulini: In the short term, we should reach out to the municipalities to see where they are at in terms of signage and report back to this group. Then we can make a decision.
- C. Ryall: Yes. We should try to get this done in the next week and be mindful of the timing of next the TSC.
- T. Ugulini: We can host a short meeting on this wayfinding item only. Then make a decision prior to the March TSC.
- C. Ryall: We will reach out to the LAMs for this information and call another meeting.

Future Network Expansion:

- PEDEC wanted to make the completion of the Circle Route in north St. Catharines, a priority in their 2021 work plan.
- D. Dodge: Do we want to put a motion forward to start this work?
- T. Ugulini: The workplan is not in order of priority. We should use bullet points instead of numbers.
 - Dodge made a Motion, 2nd by Campbell – **Carried**
- B. Greenwood: How much money has been invested in the Circle Route over the last couple years?
- T. Ugulini: My understanding is there has been no money spent recently. Any work that has been done, has been paid for by the municipalities (i.e. asphalt repairs).
- C. Ryall: Prior to the group going into abeyance, there was a dedicated pot of dollars. There has been no recent activity for money to be put into. I reached out to Finance to confirm what is available. I would need to go to TSC for a budget adjustment to use those dollars. This wasn't approved through the Capital budget to use those dollars.
- B. Greenwood: This would open it up for new people to understand the ongoing work in the municipalities. It would be a good message to give to the whole council.
- C. Ryall to come back with actual numbers of the money available.
- C. Ryall: I reached out to St. Catharines. There is a design completed and on hold, pending a decision with the Region for \$80k – 90k to do the work. I will brief T. Ugulini prior to TSC meeting in March.
 - D. Dodge: Motion to accept the Workplan as presented - 2nd Dubanow – **Carried**

6) Closing Remarks - by GNCRC Chair

- Thanks to everyone. It's good to be back at it getting some work done.

7) Closing Remarks - by C. Ryall

- May 17th is the next GNCRC meeting. It's been an excellent meeting today.