

April 2014 Executive Director Report

Members: 810

Listserve Subscribers: 1695

Facebook Likes: 355

Administrative Activities

Finance

2014 Budget

I've modified the budget to match suggestions and changes requested at the March meeting.

Bombers Bicycle Valet Proposal

Charles, Amanda and I put a fair amount of effort into a proposal to offer the Bombers and improved bicycle valet service for the coming year. We should have an answer back from the Bombers within a week or so.

Committee Activities

Education Committee

Hydro Pilot Project

I've worked with the Education Committee to help prepare a proposal for a cycling education course to be provided to Hydro Employees in the run up to Commuter Challenge and Bike Week.

Bike Week Survey

We will try and include some questions in any on-line survey component of the Bike Week Priorities workshop that will test the market for cycling education skills. We'd be looking at trying to find out how much interest exists for courses, what format people prefer (1/2 day or full day, weekend or weeknight), and how much they would be willing to pay for courses.

Fundraising Committee

Grants

Manitoba Community Services

I'll be working with Kaye on a grant to cover operational costs.

Healthy Together Now

I am reviewing the Healthy Together Now grants to see if anything matches up with our needs. We might be able to get some help with the McPhillips open houses.

Jerseys

I've worked with Bill and Stpehane to create a [page](#) on our website to manage jersey sales. We still need to work a bit on the copy for the page. Stpehane will begin placing posters into bike shops over the weekend so that pre-orders can begin.

Fundraising Concert

We will once again be partnering with the Winnipeg Adult Education Centre's Commuter Cycling Club to put on a fund raising concert on Saturday June 7th. [Romi Mayes](#) will likely be the headliner. We will be looking for people to help sell advance tickets for the show, so please get in touch if you would like to sell tickets.

Membership Committee

Membership Drive

We are working on dates to push membership. We are looking at dates to display at the Forks and at Bike Shops. We will be at the Fort Whyte Alive Earth Day event on April 27th.

BTWD Pit Stop

The membership committee will be operating a pit stop for Bike to Work Day on June 20th as part of Bike Week.

Advocacy Committee

I've been meeting with the advocacy committee to keep them up to date on various city projects and development plans.

Advocacy Activities

Encouragement

Bike Week

Bike Winnipeg Priorities Workshop

I've been working with a group of volunteers to undertake a priority setting workshop that will be open to both members and the general public. We're working with the U of W's BikeLab and the City of Winnipeg has offered to participate as well. Notes from an initial planning meeting can be viewed here. We're looking for more people to help with planning and running of the workshop and preliminary survey.

Here is a draft description for promotional purposes:

Winnipeg cyclists have gained a lot over the last seven years. We've seen new infrastructure, increased education of both cyclists and motorists, and the debut of events like Bike Week that encourage more people to get on their bikes and ride to their destinations. Still, we've got a long way to go before we can safely say that cycling in Winnipeg is a safe, enjoyable, accessible and convenient transportation choice year-round. Bike Winnipeg invites you to join us on the evening of Monday June 16th as we solicit input to help prioritize our advocacy efforts for the coming year. Come out and have your say as to where we should focus our advocacy efforts in the coming years. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Preliminary Survey

As part of the workshop, we'll also try and put out a survey that aims to get feedback on where the biggest barriers to cycling are located, where the best bike facilities are now, and where the greatest opportunities lie for expansion of the cycling network. We may try and base this on the survey that came out of the cycling strategy to increase its data, but we'd also want to use this to help get an understanding of latent demand that we can use when advocating for various projects.

Workshop

The workshop will take place Monday June 16th, from 6:30-9:30pm. We are hoping to attract about 200 people to the workshop. A rough agenda will be:

- Infrastructure Priorities – Up to 6 Breakout Groups based on the City of Winnipeg Community Committees
- Programming and Policy Priorities – Both City and Provincial breakout groups
- Snow Clearing – a Plenary session based on the draft snow clearing plan coming out of the cycling strategy.

Theme Rides

I've been working with a number of people to help organize theme rides during Bike Week. They'll be based on the template we developed for ArtRide in last year's Cyclovia. We can manage registration through our website. Rides will be limited to 25 riders, and participants will have to agree to a waiver when registering. We'll also be recruiting ride marshals to help with the rides. Here are the short blurbs I've submitted to Bike Week to describe the rides.

StrikeBike!

Mark the 95th anniversary of "Bloody Saturday" during the General Strike of 1919 by joining Bike Winnipeg and General Strike enthusiast Steven Strothers for a guided bicycle tour of sites linked to the General Strike of 1919. Learn how the events of 1919 became the platform for future labour reforms.

We will be charging \$20 for this ride.

Infrastructure Ride

Join Bike Winnipeg and Winnipeg AT Planner Erik Dickson on a tour of Winnipeg cycling infrastructure. Learn how and why some of our city's cycling infrastructure has been developed, where gaps remain, and get an experts view on what we might see in future years.

Graffiti Tour

Join Bike Winnipeg for a bike tour of some of Winnipeg's most inspiring murals and graffiti artworks. Discover some of our city's hidden cultural gems while enjoying a casually paced ride through the city.

ArtRide

Join the Winnipeg Arts Council and Bike Winnipeg for ArtRide, an evening bicycle tour of downtown Winnipeg's public artworks as they light up for the night. Ride past some of Winnipeg's most iconic and inspiring works of public art while learning about the works and the artists that created them. This will likely be a late evening tour to witness the full potential from art works that include lighting.

Bike Winnipeg Pit Stop

The Membership Committee will be hosting a pit stop for this year's Bike to Work Day.

Earth Day

Fort Whyte Alive!

We'll be taking the display trailer out to the April 27th Earth Day event being put on by Fort Whyte Alive! I'm also working with Fort Whyte Alive to arrange for a number of rides that will take people into the Fort Whyte Alive site from various parts of the city.

AECOM

I'm attending an employee BBQ at AECOM's office on April 22nd that is Earth Day themed. I'll have the display trailer there to talk about Bike Winnipeg and sell memberships and take donations.

Red River College

I'll be attending Red River College's Earth Day State of Sustainability fair on April 24th to talk about Bike Winnipeg and sell memberships and take donations.

City of Winnipeg Planning Projects

Pedestrian and Cycling Strategies

Open houses for the cycling and pedestrian strategies have been scheduled for April 12th and 15th

Saturday April 12th, 2014 - 11am to 4pm

Manitoba Theatre for Young People located at 2 Forks Market Road

Tuesday April 15th – 3-8pm

Sinclair Park Community Centre located at 490 Sinclair Street

Tuesday April 15th – 3-8pm

Manitoba Hydro Place Atrium located at 360 Portage Avenue

These open houses will be critical, so we'll be hoping to get as many people out to these as possible. Critical points to raise concerning infrastructure:

- The Marion Recommendations listed below
 - Including a separated trail along Lagimodiere instead of paved shoulders
- Inclusion of Cycle tracks in the Osborne Rehabilitations planned for 2015
- The need for AT facilities along Empress as part of the Polo Park Improvements
- Completion of the Second Phase of the Southwest Rapid Transit Corridor as per the preferred option currently listed on the city website.
- Inclusion of a separated pathway as part of any widening of Shaftesbury

Beyond infrastructure planning, we need to make sure that the strategies are also addressing winter snow clearing policy, procedures to ensure cyclists are accommodated during construction projects, and education and encouragement programming. The cycling facility guidelines will also be critical. We will want to make sure that they adequately reflect the needs of cyclists, and that they are being incorporated into current and future city planning.

2014 AT Action Plan

The City's 2014 AT Action Plan will consist mainly of completing the 2013 AT action Plan. The AT Advisory Committee has been more or less dormant over the past year, and has not had input into the 2014 AT Action Plan.

Precinct K

I've submitted recommendations for cycling facilities to be included within the Precinct K plan (southeast Winnipeg). The Precinct Plan will likely go before the Riel Community Committee on May 5th (it has been pushed back from April 7th). I will try and get in touch with councillors on the committee to discuss our recommendations. You can view a draft of the submission being prepared for the Riel Community Committee [here](#). Comments/suggestions are welcome.

Corydon-Osborne Neighbourhood Plan

The second open house for the [Corydon-Osborne Area Plan](#) took place on February 27th. I've put forward a submission on behalf of Bike Winnipeg.

Bike Winnipeg Submissions

- [November 13, 2013](#)
- [March 21, 2014](#)

Northeast Exchange District Engineering Study

An open house for this plan took place on I'll be sending in suggestions for AT improvements for the Northeast Exchange District Engineering Study. Plans can be viewed [here](#) on the city website. I am working on recommendations. Please feel free to contact me with comments or input.

City of Winnipeg Infrastructure Projects

Waverley West Arterials Project

I met with the City on March 13th to discuss AT facilities that are being included as part of this project. Part of my concern was the exclusion of AT on the overpass being constructed as part of the Kenaston/Bishop Grandin intersection. I was told that AT could not be included in this overpass because of a very tight right of way that has forced the city into designing a fairly complex bridge that will have a tilted road surface. The overpass also has to provide for the eventual extension of Bishop Grandin west to the Perimeter Highway (the bridge is expected to have a 100 year lifespan). ON the bright side, there will be lights to stop traffic turning right off Bishop Grandin onto Kenaston. There will not be a similar light to stop traffic turning right off of Kenaston onto Bishop Grandin.

Pembina Highway

The 2014 City of Winnipeg budget includes funding to add buffered bike lanes to Pembina between University Crescent and Markham as part of a mill and fill project being undertaken. The plans will follow the buffered bike lane design used on the section of Pembina between Plaza and Chevrier, with modifications made to the bus platforms (there will be a grass buffer between the bus platform and the sidewalks to reduce the potential for bike/pedestrian conflicts). Because of the high level of bus traffic at north bound Pembina and University, there will be cycle track detour at this stop. The city is looking at ways to get cyclists across the Pembina/University Crescent/Bishop Grandin intersection. Eventually (~ 10 years), the Bishop Grandin overpass will be widened to accommodate cyclists on the sidewalks over the bridge. Long term plans will also hopefully include grade separation for cyclists crossing Pembina along the Bishop Grandin Greenway.

Sherbrook

I am in the process of engaging community members to develop some educational materials and strategies to help ensure that the parking protected bike lane planned for installation on Sherbrook between Wolseley and Broadway this summer is a success. We will be looking at planters to act as buffers between the bike lane and the parking lane. Conceptual plans for the parking protected bicycle lane can be viewed on the City of Winnipeg web site [here](#).

Marion Route 115

The City of Winnipeg has hired a consulting firm (MMM) to prepare a functional design for a widening of Marion between Lagimodiere and Des Meurons and possible grade separation at Archibald. Further design work will take place in 2015. The overall project budget is \$70 million (in 2011 dollars), and is scheduled for completion by 2016. I organized a meeting of interested members on March 27th to review the project and come up with a set of recommendations that we can take to the consultants. Notes from this meeting can be viewed [here](#). A public open house should be scheduled for April or May.

Recommendations

Lagimodiere

- The planned paved shoulders will not provide suitable cycling facilities.
- We recommend a fully separated path between Dugald Road and Cottonwood Road as a far better expenditure of \$760,000 for AT.
- This pathway would create excellent connections between Transcona and Windsor Park, and if extended northward would also eventually connect to the East rapid transit corridor and into Panet/Molson or the Chief Peguis Trails and Kilcona Park.
- The section between Dugald Road and Maginot is critical for connectivity.
- This would make a good link down to the Fermor Trail and the Lagimodiere trail heading into Sage Creek.

Marion

- We recommend raised cycle tracks to accommodate cyclists on Marion.
- Marion is a major trucking route, and has a 60km/hr speed limit, which necessitate separation to create a safe comfortable cycling route.

Enfield Crescent Intersections

- We recommend that traffic signals be installed at the intersections of Marion and Goulet with Enfield to facilitate the use of Enfield/St. Jean Baptiste as a north/south route for cyclists.
- No improved cycling facilities were included in the rehabilitation work done along Des Meurons last summer as the Enfield/St. Jean Baptiste route was identified as a preferred alternative, so these traffic signals need to be included in the scope of the Marion project.

Dawson Road/Speers Road Connection

- We recommend that a pedestrian and bicycle crossing be built between Speers Road and Dawson Road.
- Inclusion of a separated pathway along Lagimodiere could temporarily remove the need for this crossing, but the eventual development of the Public Market Lands would necessitate the addition of this crossing to make the connection to that path along the south side of Dawson Road.

Dufrense Intersection

- Pushbuttons should be installed to allow for cyclists activation of this traffic signal.

Archibald Intersection

- Pedestrian and Bicycle facilities must be included in any grade separation.
- This intersection needs to accommodate a future AT pathway on the east side of the CPR Emerson tracks as part of the Southeast rapid transit corridor.

Polo Park

On March 26th, I attended a stakeholders meeting for the [Polo Park Infrastructure Improvements Project](#). This project will include a widening and extension of St. Mathews Avenue from St. James through to Century Street (resulting in the addition of bike lanes between Empress and Century), a widening of St. James Street between Maroons Road and Ellice (with no improvements to cycling facilities), and a widening of Empress at St. James to install a left turn storage lanes (again with no improvements to cycling facilities). Bike Winnipeg has asked for improvements to cycling facilities along Empress to improve north/south travel for cyclists in the improvement area (see our submission [here](#)). City staff at the stakeholders meeting stated that money was a factor in the decision not to include improvements to Empress. They also stated that Empress was not included because it was not next to the old stadium property, which is of course false. I was asked to contact 311 for clarification on the matter, and have sent an email requesting answers to the following questions:

1. Why were improvements to Empress to improve conditions for cyclists not included in this project?
2. What options for improvements to north/south connectivity were considered during preliminary and ongoing planning for this project?
3. Who was involved in the decision making process that chose not to include improvements for cyclists along the Empress right of way?
4. What is the long term plan to improve conditions for cyclists along Empress?
5. What actions were taken to ensure that the July 3, 2012 sale and rezoning of the old stadium property would not preclude future improvements to Empress to accommodate cyclists?
6. What actions were taken to ensure that the sale and rezoning of the old Winnipeg arena property would not preclude future improvements to Empress to accommodate cyclists?

311 have responded indicating that someone from Public Works will be in contact with me by April 10th.

Osborne Rehabilitation

I have sent an inquiry into the City of Winnipeg asking what cycling improvements are planned as part of the major rehabilitation planned for Osborne Street between Corydon and Don. Similar work is scheduled for Osborne between Broadway and St. Mary in 2015. No improvements are indicated in the 2014 City of Winnipeg budget. I have sent an email to 311 asking for an explanation of what if any improvements in cycling facilities are being contemplated as part of these projects. 311 has responded indicating that someone from Public Works will be in contact with my by April 8th.

City of Winnipeg Election

City Watch

I have been attending City Watch meetings organized by the Social Planning Council as a way to communicate with other community and advocacy groups on Bike Winnipeg's advocacy actions and plans and to find out about similar actions and plans that they are undertaking. The goal is to share information and resources so that we can identify and work on common goals.

Province of Manitoba

Provincial AT Stakeholders Advisory Committee

New Building Canada Plan/Federal Gas Tax Agreement

- We were given an overview of the New Building Canada Plan/Gas Tax Plan
- Negotiations for the new Federal Gas Tax agreement are still underway
- Manitoba's share of the New Building Canada Plan amounts to \$467 million over 10 years
- Manitoba's share of the Federal Gas Tax fund amounts to \$713 million over 10 years
 - The criteria for eligible expenses have been widened quite a bit, meaning there is more competition for AT projects.
- Municipalities make spending determination
- AT has been taken out of the small communities (< 100,000) fund

Federal Trails Funding

\$10 million has been allocated to trails over two years (this is a national figure). This is similar to a larger fund that expired last year. The projects need to be completed in 2014/2015. We can send ideas through to the Manitoba Trails Association. A separated trail along Lagimodiere might be a good candidate project.

Provincial AT Mapping

We looked over a draft AT mapping strategy. The plan seems mainly to gather links to various community, park and trail maps. I noted that the draft would leave out paved shoulders which are an important component of bicycle maps in many other jurisdictions (the province is concerned that listing paved shoulders on highways could open them to liability) and provided links to Oregon and Minnesota state bicycle maps that clearly indicate paved shoulders.