



Bike to the Future

c/o 3rd floor, 303 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 2B4

Fax: (204) 942-4207

Email: biketothefuture@gmail.com

Web: <http://biketothefuture.org/>

River East Trail Committee Meeting Notes

January 30th, 2007 6:00pm

Agenda

1. Update/recent developments – Chief Peguis Pedestrian Trail
2. City of Winnipeg Updates – Marconi Trail Developments
3. Next Steps – Marconi Line

There were 14 people present including Councilor Browaty and Lester Deane Public Works Engineer in charge of the Marconi project implementation. Familiar faces included Sigrun Bailey President RETC, Vince Sansregret, Facilitator, Janice Lukes, Winnipeg Trails Association, Anders Swanson, One Green City, Philip Roadley, Bikes and Beyond and Manitoba Cycling Association Recreation and Transportation Director and myself representing Bike to the Future.

Chief Peguis Pedestrian Trail Extension

The Chief Peguis extension will connect Henderson Hwy to Lagimodiere. Sigrun had asked Councilor Browaty what plans there were if any to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians. Councilor Browaty replied that he has had conversations with Public Works Chief Bill Larkin and other officials and the plans are to include these facilities, including a connection to the Marconi Path. There will be community consultations likely starting this spring. There will be consultants hired to do the community consultations similar to Winsmart but with no steering cmte. Councilor Browaty also indicated the extension would be built as an undergrade from 1.5 to 4.5 metres below street level to reduce traffic noise for nearby residents.

Marconi Trail Update

The Marconi path will cost approximately two million dollars. All of the 2007 budget and one third of the 2008 budget. This includes a 12 ft wide asphalt path and intersection connections. This does not include beautification projects or mid-block access points. Browaty confirmed what we already suspected: that all 7 million dollars pledged over the next 5 years in the capital budget will be spent on recreational paths. Commuter infrastructure will have to be included as part of the Road and infrastructure budget. Browaty indicated that the RETC and others interested in Marconi beautification and extra access points would have to contribute private funding and resources for this. Anders expressed the need for mid-block access points in order to gain support from local businesses and schools etc. Lester Deane outlined how the intersections would be handled. The path will split into two with a narrow path heading west

onto the sidewalk towards Raleigh and a double path heading east towards Gateway where it would cross the intersections right where a normal sidewalk would cross. A simple and inexpensive solution. However cyclists will still be required to dismount when crossing them as they are legally considered "Pedestrian Crossings" Philip Roadley advised that he had been told by Kevin Nixon that Parks and Recreation will be creating a really cool kid's dirt bicycle park that will be located just east of the Fire Hall between Nairn and the CP Rail Main Line on Archibald. That's great news for the kids in that area!

Marconi Trail – Next Steps

The proposed kid's dirt bicycle park makes it more important than ever to get CP Rail's permission to connect Marconi to Mission St. I asked Councilor Browaty if he would support a letter of recommendation by the EK-TR Community Cmte to CP Rail and he said yes. We know Councilor Thomas will also likely support that. Hopefully we can get a similar gesture of support from the Riel Community Cmte. Janice Lukes proposed that all the interested cycling and trail groups join together and ask for a meeting with Dan Vandal and a fellow named Norm (sorry I don't know his last name but he's a community and business development leader in St Boniface) to discuss the connection as well as the proposed route Kevin Miller outlined last fall from Mission St thru La Verendrye, Seine River Parkway, Notre Dame to Tache etc.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Don English