

September 17, 2009 Biking Meeting Notes

Thanks everyone, for showing up and expressing an interest in the possibility of getting organized to address some of the issues connected with biking in Langley.

Everyone briefly introduced themselves and we had people from all over the Langley's: Brookwood, Aldergrove, Willowboughy, The City, Walnut Grove, Fort Langley, Vancouver and even Maple Ridge.

We heard from the "BEST Mobility Matters" folks, who are initiating a new program intended to get more people biking to work (pick up their materials at the next meeting, or contact them directly).

We brainstormed a list of the issues that were important to the people in the room. (See below).

We discussed how we might get organized to address the issues. The group agreed that there was a lot of advantages to becoming a Langley Advocacy Group connected with the Vancouver Area Advocacy Coalition (vaac.bc.ca). We heard from several of their (informal) representatives. Participants agreed that they would check out their website and mull over this choice. We agreed that we would make a choice at our next (October) meeting.

We quickly reviewed some resources that may be useful in our future discussions.

Actions

1. Suzan and Nathan agreed to set up the next meeting.
Please note that we weren't able to arrange for meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Thursday Oct 28 from 7PM – 9PM at Douglas Community Centre in The City.
2. Suzan and Nathan also agreed to do up a set of notes, and send along a flyer (attached to the email) so that you could help post/ circulate the information about the next session to biking stores and other public places. **Please help us invite and include as many people interested in improving cycling in our communities in our meetings as possible.**

The “Sticky” Lists This was a brainstorm. (You may want to add some more ideas at the next meeting?) Each person wrote out their key issues on large stickies and we organized (roughly) them into the key areas as follows. Note “+” indicates that other people used the same language/ idea.

1. Engineering (Safe) Routes

- Better cycling routes
- Bike lanes go to no-where
- Non-existent bike paths
- Need cycling lanes that lead somewhere
- Where are the lanes/ paths?
- Inability to find a complete route
- No “end of trip” facilities (at work: showers – on routes: bathrooms)
- Too few bike lanes
- Cul-de-sacs in older areas (i.e. Walnut Grove) not connected to any riding paths
- Older communities in Langley have been “left out” over the years and now have few (if any) bike paths
- Transition areas poorly designed (Fraser Highway)
- Lack of connectivity
- Poor connections between communities
- Need good community routes
- Need direct biking routes
- Need info about paved and unpaved routes
- Agreements between cities (communities) so you can continue on a road/trail
- Too many barriers on bike paths
- Gaps in developed bike paths

2. Safe Biking

- Need bike lanes large enough to be safe
- Lack of separated bike paths
- Need separate bicycle infrastructure
- Safe commuting routes
- Need more safety on the roads
- Safety for all ages and abilities
- Unsafe main and secondary roads in and out of Langley and Aldergrove
- Dangerous access (200th and 208th)
- Disappearing bike lanes leave you in unsafe places
- Need marked bike lanes
- Signs: lines and pictures on the road to show bikes exist. Directions for continued bike road/ trails
- Label lanes
- Create safety for cyclists

3. Security

- Bike parking not always available (at Recreation or Business Sites)
- Need secure bike parking+
- No safe places to leave bikes
- Need safe bike lock up at businesses etc.
- Bike security
- Lack of bike racks at commercial outlets
- Bike storage and racks at business establishments
- Covered, safe bike shelters
- Bike outside lockers for safe storage

4. Maintenance

- Maintenance of existing bike lanes
- Dirty bike lanes
- Infrequent cleaning of bike lanes
- Debris and glass etc. on edge of road +
- Sweep lanes
- Cleaning of bike lanes++
- Clean bike lanes/ roads+
- Snow plow lanes for bikes

5. Education

- For clean air
- Education for bike riders and vehicle drivers++
- Everybody relax
- Educating drivers to rights and needs of cyclists
- Cycling awareness for non-cyclists
- Educate drivers about cyclists rights
- Kids biking to school
- Let people know about “comfy” bikes
- Educate cyclists about safe biking

6. Public Relations/ Advocacy

- Aid to get more interest in biking
- Lack of cycling promotion
- Get people interested
- More effort to promote cycling to school and work
- Encouragement
- Promote cycling through organized events
- Need to influence the city (and township)

7. Enforcement

- Enforcement of existing traffic laws

- Licenses for bikes
- Rules on crossing streets using bike paths besides sidewalks