

Minister in Talks for Couva BMX Park

posted by SuperUser Account on Friday, February 02, 2018 12:00 AM

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During a meeting on Tuesday at the offices of the Sports Company of Trinidad & Tobago, President of the T&T BMX Freestyle Association, Trevlon Hall extolled the benefits of developing a Park for the sport to a small team of officials including Minister of Sport & Youth Affairs Darryl Smith, SporTT CEO Jason Williams and Cycling Technical Director Erin Hartwell.

According to Hall, the Association has done pioneering work to introduce the sport to the country. Hall continued, "Having a BMX Freestyle Park in T&T will give young people across the nation an opportunity to engage in a productive activity and for elites to practice in the right environment, leading, in time to representation at the Olympic Games." Erin Hartwell, just returned from a successful World Cup competition in Belarus with the country's leading track cyclists, applauded Hall's initiative, saying that it complements the international trends in the sport and would improve Trinidad and Tobago's bid to become one of five regional development centres for the UCI, cycling's world governing body.

During a brief tour of the sprawling Couva facility and observing where such a Park could be situated, Minister Smith agreed that the construction of a Park will contribute to the vision of Couva becoming a hub for sporting activity, especially given the current transformation of the Ato Boldon Stadium and surrounding lands being developed into the 'Home of Football' for the TT Football Association.

"The conversation about building on the National Cycling Centre's success began with the immediate past President of the UCI and the TT Cycling Federation last year so I am pleased that Trevlon has come to us with this idea, which is certainly an attractive one from the perspective of athletes, administrators as well as potential visitors to destination Trinidad. We will certainly look into the cost and feasibility of such a project going forward and submit a proposal to Cabinet as soon as possible."

Discussions among the stakeholders will continue as more information comes to hand about the BMX Freestyle Park project, which can be multipurpose to accommodate skateboarding, another popular international sport which is growing locally.