

# City of Lawrence

## Lawrence – Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee

### January 17, 2012 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Burger, Jay Bialek, Lisa Hallberg, Rhonda Houser, Chad Foster, Tom Jerome

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Jessica Mortinger, Todd Girdler, Shoeb Uddin, Mark Heckler

PUBLIC PRESENT: Steve Rosenzweig, Don Varnau, Dennis Maygers, David Hamby, Rick Cagan, Matthew Stratemeier

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- 1. Call Meeting to Order, Assurance of Quorum and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was present and introductions were made.
- 2. Action Item: Approval of the December 6, 2011 Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes from the December 6th meeting was moved by Chad Foster seconded by Chris Burger and passed unanimously.
- 3. Discussion Item: Proposed Shared Use Pathway connection of Burroughs Creek Trail and the proposed Riverfront Connector:** Mr. Girdler explained the history of the proposed Riverfront Connector as a previous work task of the BAC. Ms. Mortinger then asked Mr. Myers to explain the new project he is proposing. Mr. Myers presented the maps and proposed routing for the connection to the Burroughs Creek Trail and the proposed Riverfront Connector. He indicated the desire to have a shared use path connect the parks and funnel people to downtown, improving existing spaces and using the river and conservation areas as amenities to downtown. He also explained the possible potential of incorporating a shared use path into the existing planned public improvements to the Poehler project at 8<sup>th</sup> and Delaware. Mr. Girdler admitted planning the entire route would be fundamental to pursuing additional funding opportunities for other pieces of the route and ensuring all operational details would be accounted for. Not to mention, the changes in property ownership would be a challenge on planning and building this project. Ms. Mortinger asked the BAC not to focus on routing specifics but instead decide if this was additional work they wanted to pursue and work in subcommittee to hammer out the details. Mr. Myers presented the routing that he had drawn up and the optional legs. Mr. Foster indicated that connecting existing facilities was in line with the BAC's objectives. Mr. Uddin indicated that it might be possible to amend the final site plan to include an 8 foot sidewalk instead of the existing 6 foot planned, but the decision to pursue this could not wait until the entire route was planned, otherwise the opportunity would be missed. BAC members generally agreed that they wanted to investigate the entire routing possibilities while at the same time not missing the current opportunity with the Poehler redevelopment. Mr. Myers noted that an 8 foot sidewalk would be a valuable amenity for all users in this area and not just to bicyclists. BAC members also noted they did not want to be stuck on the Delaware link if this sidewalk/pathway is built and that a thorough analysis of the routes could still be done. Mr. Hecker admitted that they wanted to find ways to connect existing shared use paths, while at the same time not creating more gaps in the system. He also admitted the south end of the Burroughs Creek Rail Trail will be a key priority to find a connection to the new trail being built in conjunction with the South Lawrence Trafficway completion. Mr. Burger asked

about availability of the rail line to the north of the existing rail trail. Mr. Heckler indicated it was still under possession of the rail company, knowing that it would be the most ideal routing option for a continuation of the trail on the north end. Ms. Mortinger indicated the BAC will pursue more routing opportunities through the bikeway system plan update that will be occurring over the next 18 months. This will provide ample opportunity to discuss planning connections to existing trails and routes throughout Douglas County.

- **The meeting ended due to loss of quorum. Staff provided summaries of the following work items for remaining members.**
4. **Discussion Item: 2012 BAC Work Plan:** Ms. Mortinger presented the amended draft 2012 work plan, and asked members to submit comments and additions. The item will be added to the February agenda.
  5. **Discussion Item: BAC Bylaws:** Ms. Mortinger presented the amended draft 2012 bylaws, and asked members to submit comments and additions. The item will be added to the February agenda.
  6. **Discussion Item: BAC Logo:** BAC Chairwoman Lisa Hallberg presented new logo designs for discussion, a few suggestions were made. The item will be added to the February agenda.
  7. **Discussion Item: Mobile Applications for Bicycle Mapping:** Ms. Mortinger indicated that staff is following up on the BAC request to pursue a mobile application and mobile access to the bicycle system and rideability maps. More information will be made available as details are worked out.
  8. **Other Business: Bicycle Friendly Community Application:** Ms. Mortinger indicated that staff is working with the BAC Chair to complete the BFC application by the February 27<sup>th</sup> deadline. Completing the application is a charge of the BAC. The application has changed some of the information it collects since the last time around. The League of American Bicyclists who award the levels, provide valuable feedback to the city and BAC based on the application. This feedback is a useful step to help promote bicycling.
  9. **Public Comments:** None.
  10. **Adjournment of Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012.