

City of Lawrence

Lawrence – Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee December 17, 2013 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Hamby, Rhonda Houser, Lisa Hallberg, Justin Eddings,
Chris Rogge, Chad Foster
MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Bialek, Josh Ediger, Chris Burger
STAFF PRESENT: Jessica Mortinger, Todd Girdler, David Woosley
PUBLIC PRESENT: Terry Smith

1. Call Meeting to Order and Assurance of Quorum: The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. A quorum was present and introductions were made.

2. Approval of the November 19 & December 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes/Notes

A motion to approve the minutes/notes from the November 19th Minutes and December 3rd notes was moved by Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. Eddings and passed unanimously.

3. Discussion/Action Item: Review December 3rd Special Work Meeting Goals and Activities for BAC work

Ms. Mortinger shared with the BAC the list of notes she typed for the BAC members for their special work meeting. Ms. Mortinger asked the BAC to list activities under each goal that are program or activities they want to work on in 2014 as their priorities. Mr. Foster was assigned to record the ideas the committee members had while they brainstormed activities to support the goals. The goals for the work of the committee were agreed to be:

1. Achieve parity in all transportation processes
2. Make it easier to travel by bike
3. Develop clear expectations of parity in responsibilities & behaviors for all road users
4. Create and foster a common cycling experience

BAC members discussed the action steps the committee should take on their goals including, how to coordinate bicycle and pedestrian issues to increase parity with a possible joint committee and/or work to support dedicated funding for bike/ped infrastructure. Members discussed options for coordinating existing committees and stakeholder groups around bicycle and pedestrian issues. BAC members discussed the benefit of having a public works staff member with experience in bicycle infrastructure design, and as an example of recent work with a parity issue the design of -6th Mass/6th Vermont were discussed. Particularly the standards of the southbound sidewalk off the 2nd Street Bridge. For bicyclist it requires tight left turn and the ramp curbs prevent a bike from being able to use the crosswalk without a very difficult turning movement required to go from southbound to eastbound on the sidewalk system near City Hall. BAC members indicated it would be helpful to discuss and review with engineering staff the recent improvements and the design standards. BAC members brainstormed activities for each of the goals and narrowed the list down to the following items of greatest priority for the BAC's 2014 work program.

- a) Host advocacy summit: joint meeting with other groups to educate everyone about the ongoing advocacy and plan ways to coordinate efforts

- b) Host law enforcement summit
- c) Prioritize projects and dedicated funding and spending on bikeway plan improvements in the Countywide Bikeway Plan
- d) Continue and expand activities/promotions work to outreach to citizens and businesses including bike to work breakfasts, revised letter to local business owners for bike month, and other promotions
- e) Host and invite Public Works staffs and elected officials to take (city & county) tours by bike or host ride-alongs where a BAC member partners and rides with staff or elected officials.

Ms. Mortinger indicated that she would add some of these items to the BAC work program and they could entertain approval of that work plan in January.

4. Discussion/Action Item: No Parking on Vermont:

Terry Smith presented the issue of the traveling from the south into downtown. She requested to entertain the consideration of contra flow bike travel on Vermont Street along the west side of South Park. BAC members reviewed the current ride ability map and T2040 Bikeway System map to note the network shows that Massachusetts Street is the bike route from the south until 11th Street when Vermont and New Hampshire become the bike routes. Ms. Mortinger mentioned that in the current drafted bike plan we would call for sharrows markings to be added to those street segments based on the high traffic volume and moderate speed. Mr. Girdler indicated the additional considerations for bike lanes or road diets would require additional traffic analysis.

Mr. Foster indicated that the BAC is struggling with the perception of the bicycle friendliness and the actual bicycle friendliness and that the preference would be to put the infrastructure on Massachusetts Street. Mr. Woosley noted that a road diet on Massachusetts would also change the parking requirements on Massachusetts Street because parking is currently allowed on evenings and weekends. The BAC members agreed to take no current action on this item. Ms. Hallberg thanked Ms. Smith for her feedback and for attending the meeting.

5. Other Business/ Updates

Thank you to Jay Bialek & Rhonda Houser for their service on the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Ms. Mortinger informed the BAC that the Multimodal Studies consultants are revising the draft reports and will provide final drafts to the MPO staff in the next few weeks. MPO staffs are expecting January and February acceptance and approval by local governments.

Ms. Mortinger informed the BAC that the MPO staff coordinated a staff level meeting to discuss the data available and prepare a safety analysis scope of work on assigning responsibilities to the other staff and departments requested to be involved with the BAC in examining crash data. The LPD will attend in January and review police reporting requirements 101 with the BAC. The MPO staff will continue to update the BAC on a future agenda once the committee has conducted some work.

Ms. Mortinger asked the BAC if they wished to continue to meet at the Parks & Recreation Conference Room location. They agreed they did.

Ms. Hallberg informed the BAC there were local efforts going on to start up an Earn a Bike Program in Lawrence similar to the Topeka Community Cycle Project.

6. Public Comments: There was none.

7. Adjournment of Meeting:

The meeting ended at 6:22 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 14th.