

LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY MPO BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes for Wednesday, April 16, 2018 Meeting

Voting Members

David Hamby (City of Lawrence)
Marianne Melling (City of Lawrence)
Steve Hitchcock (City of Baldwin City)
Bill Anderson (City of Lecompton)
Cameron Jacques (Douglas County)
Jacki Becker (Douglas County)

Staff

Ashley Myers (Transportation Planner)

Ex Officio Liaison

Kathryn Schartz (Lawrence Transportation Commission)

1. Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions

David Hamby called the meeting to order at 5:01. A quorum was present and introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Action Item: Approval of minutes from the January 10, 2018 meeting

David Hamby asked if anyone had changes to the minutes. Bill Anderson moved to approve the minutes as amended to correct two typos; the motion was seconded by Jacki Becker; passed unanimously, 6-0.

4. Discussion Item: Countywide Bikeway Plan Update

Ashley Myers explained the purpose of the Countywide Bikeway plan update. It has been five years since the last update and during the Transportation 2040 (T2040) update process revealed priorities of residents had changed. Residents are wanting more biking, walking, and safer non-motorized facilities and these desires need to be reflected in the bike plan update. In the last five years there has been a lot of work completed and the biggest change is the availability of dedicated non-motorized funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects. This work ties in with the non-motorized prioritization policy created by the Transportation Commission (represented by Kathryn Schartz). The MPO staff is sharing the scope of work with the MPO BAC to get their feedback and input about the different stages of the bikeway plan update. This process will go from now until summer of 2019, just over a year. The MPO staff plan to show the region's goals and, develop a continuous bikeway network, address short- and long-term bicycle amenities, performance measures, which can tie into T2040. Along with the MPO BAC acting as the steering committee for this update, there will be staff groups providing technical assistance.

The main goal of this plan is to create a low stress network across the city and county. The MPO staff will be talking with people about what low stress means, what is comfortable for everyone and how it will be implemented in Lawrence, the county, and other municipalities. The MPO staff is looking at doing 3 phases; the first phase starting soon with an open house and a survey to talk about the bikeability goals, bikeway preferences, and bikeway network desires. There will be a survey so people can participate even if they cannot go to the open house. The MPO staff would also like to do some bike rides all across the city, the county, and other municipalities to get a feel for how biking actually is, and get people who are not confident bicyclists involved with the rides. Marianne Melling asked if this would be a community event and Ms. Myers replied yes. Mr. Anderson asked if the MPO will be renting or providing any bicycles for the event. Ms. Myers said that planning for the event had not gotten that far yet; there is a possibility of using the KU Bike share bikes. The MPO staff would like the assistance of the bicycle advisory committee for these bike rides, open houses, and gathering input. David Hamby asked if staff was going to be writing this in-house

or using a consultant, Ms. Myers said it is being written in-house. Mr. Anderson asked for clarification on what the final plan tour listed in task one entails. Ms. Myers said there would be a presentation to each of the municipalities. Mr. Anderson then asked for clarification in the introduction on what non-single occupancy mode means. Ms. Myers said this means there is more than one person in a vehicle. Ms. Myers described the procedures for the second phase, which will take place in the fall, outlining that it would consist of another open house and survey to review the draft bikeway network and develop priorities.

Mr. Anderson asked why the recent T2040 update does not include specific facility prioritization procedures and asked whether the new bikeway plan would, in fact, address specific facility conditions. Ms. Myers answered T2040 does not have prioritization of projects because it was incorporating the current bikeway plan which didn't have prioritization. The current bikeway plan doesn't have prioritization of projects because no dedicated funding existed at the time. However, now there is dedicated funding, which will be used to prioritize projects.

Ms. Myers said a hope of the plan is to help prioritize projects and develop a path that will lead to a higher bicycle friendly community ranking. Mr. Anderson asked how that would help us and whether the federal government looks at it when deciding funding. David Hamby said the ranking is more of a reflection of communal values and not a metric necessarily used for funding, because it is difficult to determine financial need based on the bicycle friendliness of a network.

Ms. Myers asked whether the committee had any ideas on when or where public engagement events should be held throughout the upcoming process. Jacki Becker said it would be extremely important to coordinate with neighborhood associations in order to establish community-wide support and genuinely hear everyone. The committee came to the consensus that having a balance of times and locations would be beneficial to ensure consistent feedback. She noted a major concern with reaching the public pertains to the timing of events and ensuring that students from Baker, Haskell, and KU before have an opportunity to participate. Mr. Hamby mentioned if we are not able to catch the university students before summer break there will be opportunities for them to be involved in the second phase in the fall.

5. Discussion Item: Bike Rideability Map Update

At the Bike Rideability Map Update Subcommittee meeting there was a discussion of making the scope of the update larger. Ashley Myers suggested incorporating the bike rideability Map update into the countywide bikeway plan update. This would remove any timing conflicts with the bikeway plan update for the next year. David Hamby said Jessica Mortinger discussed the need to change the formatting of the rideability map to include things such as where cyclists shouldn't ride, stress-levels, low-grade routes, etc. This would be a more extensive process than the previously scoped bike rideability map update. Ms. Myers said these changes would fit better into the countywide bikeway plan update. Bill Anderson suggested changing the color-coding to be more intuitive for new riders or visitors. There was a discussion about the need for more education for bicyclists and how this new rideability map could be a part of this.

6. Quick Updates

Ashley Myers said the MPO has purchased the Association of Bicycle and Pedestrian Professionals webinar series. The webinar will be shown in Lawrence City Hall, City Commission room on the 3rd Wednesday at 2 pm. Committee members are welcome to attend.

7. Other Business

Steven Hitchcock brought up the work being done by Baldwin City and Midland Railway. There are going to be potential future trails along the railway easements toward Ottawa. Baldwin City purchased the 100-ft wide right-of-way from Midland Railway to be able to build a trail. This is 11 miles of track that tie into the BNSF railway.

Bill Anderson said the Bicycle Rideability Subcommittee has not met again and the MPO BAC needs to plan the ride with commissioners for Bike Month in May. Ashley Myers said Porter Arneill the City

Communications person and Stephen Mason are organizing this event but they would appreciate the MPO BAC participating.

Steven Hitchcock said Senate Bill 331 went through the Senate and the House committee to designate the Flint Hills trail as a State Park. This has not been passed yet but eventually some of the trails could connect to the Douglas County trail network.

Jacki Becker said she is meeting with Silverback and another welder to discuss how to design mobile bike racks for events that the City can use. There is a potential for writing a grant later in the year. The MPO BAC members talked about perhaps having bicycle racks being sponsored by local businesses if they cannot get a grant.

Mr. Anderson asked if the Bike Rideability Map Subcommittee should meet soon. Ms. Myers said the whole BAC should meet after the Open Houses instead of only the Subcommittee since the bike rideability map is being incorporated into the bike plan update.

8. Next Meeting: Future date set by the MPO BAC

The next meeting will happen after the Open Houses. The meeting adjourned at 5:51.