

Minutes from the September 20, 2007 meeting of the WMPO BikePed Committee:

1. Input on Cross City Trail

Maps showing potential alignments for the Cross City Trail were distributed to the committee for comment. Concern was voiced about the feasibility of segments along Bethel, Waltnoor, and Rosemont. It was suggested that the Cape Fear Academy be involved in the planning process for the segment near South College Road. It was suggested that the final plan include intersection improvement recommendations. Comments are due to Joshua by 5:00pm on Friday, September 28, 2007. A resolution supporting the final plan will be introduced in October.

2. Public schools resolution

A resolution was introduced that recommends that all new schools within the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization planning area include bicycle and pedestrian facilities that connect to adjacent residential and commercial areas. The issue was brought to the forefront by a design for a new elementary and middle school in Castle Hayne that lacks any accommodation for bikers and walkers. The committee was informed that the school project in Castle Hayne is already out for bid. The resolution passed unanimously.

3. River to the Sea Bikeway resolution

A resolution was introduced that would move the River to the Sea Bikeway (bicycle route 1) off of the Bradley Creek Bridge and Oleander Drive to Hinton Avenue, Greenville Avenue and Wrightsville Avenue. The general feeling by the committee was that Oleander Drive is safer and more comfortable than Wrightsville Avenue due to the extra lanes and shoulders. The intersection of Wrightsville Avenue and Greenville Avenue is also uncomfortable for bicyclists as there is no place to wait safely for the left turn onto Greenville Avenue. It was recommended that the route remain as is until a left turn lane was added on Wrightsville Avenue onto Greenville Avenue and bicycle lanes are added to Wrightsville Avenue between Greenville Avenue and Oleander Drive. The resolution was continued without a vote.

4. Discuss WMPO Universe of Bicycle Projects & Estimates

A table showing the WMPO Universe of Bicycle Projects with cost estimates was distributed to the group. These cost estimates were developed using data from the NCDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation Division and GIS data. They are rough estimates that do not include any costs associated with acquiring additional right-of-way. A few changes were made by the group. The Isabel Holmes Bridge project was changed from "striped bicycle lanes" to the installation of non-slip metal plates in the shoulder area of the metal grating on the draw spans. The general consensus has been that the committee should focus on projects that improve the Cross City Trail, East Coast Greenway and the River to the Sea Bikeway. Any additional projects that the committee would like to see remain on the list should be noted. These projects should be located in areas of existing bicycle activity or in areas that would stimulate a large amount of additional bicycling activity. Comments are due to Joshua by 5:00pm on Friday, September 28, 2007. Staff will begin to pare down the list after that date.

5. Update on Safe Routes to School workshop

On September 13, 2007, the WMPO hosted a joint Safe Routes to School workshop for Bradley Creek, Holly Tree and Parsley Elementary Schools. These three schools were selected based on interest from parents, school staff and neighborhood residents. The nationally-certified training course was held at Parsley Elementary School on Masonboro Loop Road from 8:00am to 4:00pm. There were 35 attendees representing neighborhood residents, parents from all three schools, school staff, the PTA council, health agencies, five city departments and/or divisions, three county agencies, two additional municipalities, the North Carolina Department of

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Transportation, and the Lower Cape Fear YWCA. The workshop was facilitated by the NCDOT Safe Routes to School Coordinator and two engineering and planning consultants hired by NCDOT. Attendees were presented with health and safety data and potential encouragement, enforcement and engineering strategies to increase the number of students riding bicycles and walking to school. Participants observed dismissal at Parsley Elementary School and devised solutions to some of the issues facing the three schools. A report will be produced within the next two weeks that details the potential programs and projects recommended by the workshop attendees. When NCDOT releases its guidelines for Safe Routes to Schools action plans, one will be completed for each of the three schools. This will allow the city and schools to access federal grant funds administered by NCDOT.

6. Update on Wilmington pedestrian plan

Staff has narrowed the list of candidate firms to two. Interviews will be conducted on October 1 and 2 and contracts should be signed by the end of October.

7. Update on Blue Clay corridor bicycle facilities study

The consultant is continuing to work with the county to incorporate a multi-use path along the county sewer easement between North 23rd Street and Castle Hayne.

8. Update on Pleasure Island Pedal

There was no progress on the Pleasure Island Pedal.

Adjournment