

Minutes from the February 14, 2008 meeting of the WMPO BikePed Committee:

Members present:

Brian Ennis
Michael Kirkbride
Joshuah Mello, Secretary
Laura Miller
Chris O'Keefe, Chair
Tom Rivers, Vice-chair
Katie Ryan
Allen Serkin
Dave Staebler
Nolan Smith

Others present:

Lawless Bean
Todd Brohaugh
Roger Leeson
Bethel Paris
Andrea Talley

Members not present:

Niel Brooks
Pauk Martinez
Mickey Southerland

Agenda

1. Adoption of committee bylaws

With minor amendments, the draft bylaws were adopted by a unanimous vote of the committee members present. These amendments include the removal of any numerical cap on membership and the addition of the election of a Vice-chair.

2. NC Bicycle Committee

Mello and Staebler outlined the membership and responsibilities of the North Carolina Bicycle Committee. There are seven members of the committee appointed to four-year terms by the Secretary of Transportation. Each member represents two NCDOT divisions. Our representative is from Greenville. Staebler will attend the next meeting on March 12, 2008 and report back to the WMPO BikePed Committee. The committee will discuss its next move after Staebler's presentation.

3. Information kiosks for multi-use paths

Bean, Mello and Paris presented a proposal to install information kiosks and branding and wayfinding signage along the multi-use paths within the region, starting with the Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road paths. These kiosks would include maps of the paths, destinations along the paths, and bicycle and pedestrian safety information. Bean explained that the mayor is seeking to identify the paths as City of Wilmington funded projects using logos and signs. A motion was passed unanimously recommending that City of Wilmington, WMPO and Cape Fear Breeze staff work toward installing information kiosks and branding and wayfinding signage along the Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road paths. Staff should also investigate the use of a public-private partnership to fund the kiosks and signs.

4. Bicycle facility maintenance

O'Keefe outlined his concerns regarding the maintenance of bicycle facilities on city and NCDOT roadways. Mello agreed to provide committee members with wallet-sized information cards with local and state maintenance contacts. The committee expressed the need for pavement edging along Greenville Loop Road, as the grass and weeds have encroached on the bicycle lanes. Mello agreed to check with

city staff regarding the street sweeping schedule and the possibility of using the min-sweeper from downtown on the multi-use paths outside of downtown. Mello also agreed to contact the Wilmington Pedestrian Plan consultant and discuss landscaping options along the Military Cutoff Road multi-use path.

5. Policy regarding bicycles during roadway construction

O'Keefe outlined his concerns regarding the apparent lack of policies regarding bicycles during roadway construction. Closing a bicycle lane or path with no notice can be dangerous to riders. Mello agreed to look into city and NCDOT policies for bicycles during traffic control planning.

6. Weekly Bicycle & Pedestrian Newspaper Column

Talley gave the committee the phone number for the Wilmington Star News transportation reporter Pat Gannon 910-343-2328. She urged committee members to call him about significant bicycle and pedestrian issues and events.

7. River to the Sea Ride planning

O'Keefe called an event planning subcommittee meeting for March 4, 2008 at 12:00pm at Fat Tony's restaurant on Racine Drive. A suggestion was made to invite the Cape Fear Cyclists and UNCW staff.

8. Other business

Mello presented the bicycle route map. Committee members recommended changes including: adding a disclaimer, title and Pleasure Island inset, changing the color of un-signed routes, and overlapping the symbols over the route lines. Also, the Murrayville route number needs to be verified.

Staebler expressed his concerns regarding the proposed superstreet intersections at the Brunswick County terminus of the Wilmington Bypass. Mello agreed to check proposed bicycle restrictions at the intersections. If bicycles will indeed be banned from US Highway 17 in the area, Mello will draft a resolution to submit to NCDOT asking for bicycle accommodations at the superstreet intersections.

Adjournment