

Minutes from the March 13, 2008 meeting of the WMPO BikePed Committee:

Members present:

Niel Brooks
Brian Ennis
Michael Kirkbride
Paul Martinez
Joshuah Mello, Secretary
Chris O'Keefe, Chair
Katie Ryan
Allen Serkin
Mickey Southerland
Dave Staebler
Nolan Smith

Others present:

Lawless Bean
Todd Brohaugh
Roger Leeson
Bethel Paris
Anthony Prinz
Andrea Talley

Members not present:

Tom Rivers, Vice-chair

Agenda

1. NC Bicycle Committee

Staebler briefed the committee on his opportunity to listen in to the last meeting of the North Carolina Bicycle Committee by phone. He believes that there is little opportunity to alter the composition of the committee and believes that our interests would be best served by staying in regular contact with Jennifer Smith, the NCDOT Division 2 and 3 representative. The WMPO BikePed committee agreed to invite Ms. Smith to an upcoming meeting. Staebler also announced that he will be leaving the Wilmington area shortly.

2. Bicycle helmets

Staebler touched on the following bicycle crash data for the entire state of NC between 1997 and 2005 (from <http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/pbcat/>).

Helmet used - 4%
Unknown - 8%
Driver no helmet - 10%
Helmet not used - 78%

Assuming that "Driver no helmet" is another way of categorizing "Helmet not used," that means 88% of the bicyclists in accidents were not wearing helmets.

Looking at the fault within categories,

Helmet used - 28% bicyclists at fault, 52% motorist at fault, 10% both at fault, 10% unknown
Helmet not used - 54% bicyclist at fault 20% motorist at fault, 14% both at fault, 12% unknown
Driver no helmet - 47% bicyclist at fault, 26% motorist at fault, 13% both at fault, 14% unknown
Unknown - 36% motorist at fault, 39% bicyclist at fault, 13% both at fault, 12% unknown

Staebler believes that cyclists who do not wear helmets are more likely to cause accidents than those that do, probably because the cyclists without helmets are not

educated about of the rules of the road.

The state average for helmet use is around 20% (as of 2002). This is higher than the helmet use in the accident data (less than 10%). This may be because it is skewed by the higher probability of cyclists without helmets causing accidents.

After listening to Staebler's presentation, the committee agreed to look at a helmet distribution program and well as bicycle safety education.

3. River to the Sea Ride planning

Harris volunteered to assist riders at the half-way point. Josh agreed to reserve the Thalian Hall parking lot for the morning of May 3. Chris announced the next planning subcommittee meeting to be held at Fat Tony's Restaurant on Tuesday, March 18 at 12:00pm.

4. Wrightsville Beach bicycle planning efforts

Mello and Ryan outlined the potential bicycle improvements illustrated in the maps attached to the agenda. At its next meeting, the WMPO Transportation Advisory Committee will be considering the programming of \$20,000 in planning funds to complete a more detailed bicycle plan for the Salisbury Drive, Lagoon Drive and North Lumina Avenue corridor. If approved, these funds will be paired with \$9,000 from the Town of Wrightsville Beach.

5. Other business

Mello and Talley outlined planned improvements to the River to the Sea Bikeway at its intersection with Donna Avenue, just east of Wallace Avenue.

Adjournment