

Minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting of the WMPO BikePed Committee

Members Present:

Todd Brohaugh
Neil Brooks
Michael Kirkbride
Paul Martinez
Chris O'Keefe, Chair
Tom Rivers, Vice-chair
Allen Serkin
Nolan Smith
Dave Staebler

Non-members Present:

Lawless Bean
Katie Livengood
Andrea Talley
Bethel Paris

Members Absent:

Brian Ennis
Joshuah Mello, Secretary
Katie Ryan
Laura Miller
Mickey Southerland

The Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 5:15. Chairman asked if everyone had a chance to review last

month's meeting minutes. Allen Serkin pointed out that he was not at the meeting yet the minutes showed him as being there.

With that change the minutes were approved unanimously.

Tom Rivers provided some background on the Pleasure Island Pedal. After much discussion the committee decided to tentatively

schedule the ride for November 7, 2009. The ride will be held on the same day as the Boardwalk Makeover. The Board also

chose May 2nd as the date for next years River to the Sea Bike Ride. Chris O'Keefe was nominated as chair to that committee

and Lawless Bean volunteered to assist. Other volunteers will be recruited at our next meeting.

Michael Kirkbride provided more information about the Island Greenway. He also distributed stickers. The Greenway committee

would be presenting the proposal to Carolina Beaches Planning and Zoning Board for their consideration later tonight (P&Z

recommended approval). Mr. Kirkbride added that the proposal will be going before Town Council on December 9th. Mr.

Kirkbride encouraged everyone to come to the meeting to support the proposal.

Michael Kirkbride then presented information on his discussions with Steve Bevington, South Atlantic Trail Coordinator.

Discussion about requesting that Wilmington and the Cape Fear Coast be designated as a destination City on the ECG lead to

the following resolution being recommended unanimously.

The WMPD BikePed Committee resolves to support the designation of Wilmington and the Cape Fear Coast as a destination City on

the East Coast Greenway. The following attractions within the region should be promoted along with this designation:

River Walk
River to the Sea Trail
Island Greenway
Cross City Trail
Carolina Beach State Park trail system
Fort Fisher Aquarium Trail System

Others as determined by a subcommittee to include Andrea (chair), Bethel, Todd, Michael, Allen

The group referred to the active recreation information that Secretary Mello (absent) distributed via email. There was

agreement that the WMPD BikePed Committee should support efforts to work within this program.

Joshua Mello presented information by proxy regarding Sunday road closures within the City of Wilmington. Joshua's proxy

cited great success with a similar program in Portland – the Portland Parkways program. Members volunteered information

about other areas that have also promoted the same type of program, notably Washington, DC and Bogotá, Colombia. The

committee is very interested in this idea and suggested numerous roadways for consideration: 5th Avenue, Park Avenue

(between Colonial and Floral), Chestnut, Grace, Water Street (in conjunction with Farmer's Market). A proposal that John

Sawyer (a local architect) suggested was mentioned. It was suggested that whatever the route, George Perkins should be

consulted as well as other emergency service departments. Committee looks forward to discussing this item upon Mello's

return from the MPO conference.

Committee agreed that our next meeting will be at Bluewater Grill on the waterway in Wrightsville Beach. The meeting will

be on Thursday, December 11, at 5:15 PM.

The Committee recognized Lawless Bean with a round of applause for her efforts promoting the 2008 Commuter Challenge.

Lawless recognized Nolan Smith as representative from Corning who won the challenge this year. No calls for recounts were

suggested by competing corporate and municipal representatives.

Lawless summarized the impact that the challenge had on our commuting and commuting impacts in the following statement (from

and email dated 11-14-2008):

People bicycled enough miles to get themselves from Wilmington to Barstow, CA, and

then to pedal over to see the PACIFIC

Ocean at Newport Beach, with a couple of miles to spare. That's over 5081 miles saved by cycling alone. Your totals of

carpooling, scooting, walking, riding the bus, and biking were astronomical --truly. The 31,895 miles you saved was enough to

travel around the Earth at the equator AND to circle the moon too, PLUS take a trip to Raleigh to brag about it and make it

almost all the way home to Wilmington.

Together you accomplished tremendous savings--almost 1000 POUNDS in carbon monoxide, 160 POUNDS in NOx (the particularly

nasty pollutant that contributes to the formation of acid rain, ground-level ozone, decreased water quality, and global

warming--just for starters), and 130 POUNDS in volatile organic compound pollutants not emitted into the atmosphere. And then

imagine the six dirtiest cars you've ever seen. Their combined weight is less than the over 13 TONS, or 26,902 POUNDS, of

greenhouse gasses you saved from damaging the environment. Way to go!

Two other business items were reported:

Lawless Bean announced that as part of the federal bailout commuting cost associated with biking to work would soon be

eligible tax deductions.

Chairman O'Keefe reported that the County would be matching DOT Board Member Lanny Wilson's offer to fund construction of the

first phase of the "getting connected" proposal linking the Military Cutoff multi purpose trail to Ogden Elementary School

through Coviil Farms Estates.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM.