

Minutes of the February 12, 2009 meeting of the WMPO BikePed Committee

Members Present:

Todd Brohaugh
Neil Brooks
Brian Ennis
Michael Kirkbride
Paul Martinez
Joshuah Mello, Secretary
Chris O'Keefe, Chair
Tom Rivers, Vice-chair
Katie Ryan
Nolan Smith
Dave Staebler

Non-members Present:

Erol Caglarcan
Katie Livengood
Steve Mangiacapri
Andrea Talley
Al Schroetel

Members Absent:

Claudia Bray
Beverly Foscolo
Laura Miller

O'Keefe called the meeting to order at approximately 5:15. O'Keefe asked if everyone had a chance to review last month's meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

1) Discuss the East Coast Greenway Alignment: Mello called attention to a map on the wall showing several alternatives for the East Coast Greenway - Spine Route and the East Coast Greenway - NC Coastal Corridor Route. The committee discussed the merits of each corridor and voted on the preferred alignments. The committee voted to route the East Coast Greenway - Spine Route along the proposed West Pender Rail Trail, Wilmington Riverwalk, South Front Street, Greenfield Lake Trail, Hospital Plaza Drive, and South 17th Street where it would join the East Coast Greenway - NC Coastal Corridor at the Cameron Art Museum. The committee voted to route the East Coast Greenway - NC Coastal Corridor along Military Cutoff Road extension, Military Cutoff Trail and the Cross-City Trail between Military Cutoff Road and the Cameron Art Museum, where it would join the East Coast Greenway - Spine Route.

2) Discuss Potential Sunday Road Closure: Mello outline the Transportation Planning Section's methodology for identifying potential candidates for a regular Sunday road closure. This methodology included several criteria, including a) limited number of driveways and cross-streets, b) aesthetically-pleasing atmosphere, c) adjacent public attractions, d) available public parking, e) mix of land uses, f) city-maintained, and g) smooth pavement. After reviewing area roadways, two candidates were identified: 1) Independence Boulevard between Shipyard Boulevard and Carolina Beach Road and 2) South 17th Street between Shipyard Boulevard and South College Road. After discussion, the committee agreed that closing southbound South 17th Street between Shipyard Boulevard and South College Road on Sunday between the hours of 1:00-4:00pm is the most viable proposal. The committee tabled any further discussion on the topic until the impacts of the construction project on Independence Boulevard can be determined.

3) Presentation on Bicycle Safety Action Plan: Schroetel outlined the Cape Fear Cyclists bicycle safety and awareness plan and sought committee assistance in the continued development and implementation of the plan.

4) Other Business:

- a) Mello outlined the agreement between the City of Wilmington and NCDOT to add continuous bicycle lanes along Wrightsville Avenue between Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road and along North 23rd Street between Market Street and Princess Place Drive. This work will be completed in the coming year after the two roadways are resurfaced.
- b) O'Keefe announced the formation of the River to the Sea Ride Subcommittee and announced the membership of Bill Bolduc, O'Keefe, Rivers, Ryan, Smith, and Talley. The ride is scheduled for May 2. Anyone who wishes to help should contact O'Keefe.
- c) Talley announced several Adventure Pathways events, including: equipment sale on February 28 and the Greenfield Adventure Sprint on March 28, which is a non-traditional triathlon with mystery events.
- d) Brooks announced plans for the Leland Bike Fest on March 14, 2009 and solicited assistance.
- e) Mello brought up the idea of a county-wide bicycle excise tax to fund improvements to bicycle facilities. The committee seemed supportive, but some concern was voiced regarding the public's appetite for new taxes.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.