

WMPO Bike and Ped. Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2010

The meeting was scheduled for 4:15 PM in the Traffic Conference Room on Floor 4, 305 Chestnut Street.

The meeting was led by Chris O'Keith, and Joshua Mello,
The following is the agenda for the meeting:

1) Approval of minutes from September meeting [C. O'Keefe]

Chris discussed September meeting and minutes. Since there was no quorum in September, no business was conducted. Bethel commented on the added detail and asked for more detail in the future minutes.

2) Resolution supporting NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Program applications [J. Mello]

Joshua Mello discussed Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Program applications and possible projects for the grants. He discussed River to Sea Bikeway and planned improvements to planned multi-use path at Colwell Ave. The committee asked Joshua to draft the final resolution, and then approved the resolution.

3) Update on Eat Smart Move More, Safe Kids USA Walk This Way and Physical Activity in the Built Environment grants [A. Cook/J. Mello/T. Shields]

Eat Smart Move More Grant- Amy Cook of New Hanover Health Dept. stated that NC received additional funding under Eat Smart Move More Grant for evaluations/ local projects. NHC is conducting study at Forest Hills Elem., Girls Inc and Vesta Village Housing Association for 2010 and 2011. Program is for 9-14 year olds and distributed 75 accelerometers which were worn by participants for 7 days. Program will provide free helmets and bike safety classes. City donated bikes and Howard Capps is designing landscaping plan, which will be maintained by facility at Vesta Village. Some classes will include parents, such as the Girls Inc, which require parental involvement for their 50 participants. Chris asked if there could be some benchmarking for Walkers/ bike riders to Forest Hills Elementary. Joshua mentioned that bike counts are being conducted for this area and other areas. Bethel updated committee on status of certified bicycle training instructors within Cape Fear Cyclists, which will increase by end of Nov. to 6 instructors.

Safe Kids Move This Way Grant- city received \$25,000.00 for grant, which is the maximum awarded. City plans to use funds on project at 10th St and Dawson St and 10th Street and Wooster St, which will add pedestrian signal heads to both intersections. Other locations were evaluated, however, this intersection was chosen.

Physical Activity in the Built Environment Grant- DHHS provided \$25,000.00 for the grant to the City, which will pay salary for Adrienne Walters. Amy mentioned that this is not first grant of this kind for the county, which is part of their partnership with the city. The committee discussed American Community Survey results for bike survey. Survey results showed that bike usage for transportation went up ~15% in our area, based upon MSA level survey data. The neighborhood or Block group data for the area is not available at this time.

4) Update on Barclay Hills Drive, Market Street, North 23rd Street, Princess Place Drive and Oleander Drive sidewalk projects [J. Mello]

All sidewalks missing on the map will be constructed in the next year, except one project, (project 10F, on handout, which has not been designed. Funding includes \$1 million dollars for this year and \$50,000 dollars for next year.

5) Discussion of final *Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Transportation Plan* [J. Mello]

Bicycle projects for the Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Transportation Plan were developed by the Bike and Ped. Committee. Discussion of the plan included the top 5 bicycle projects. Plan is on the website. Plan went to TCC on Oct. 13, 2010 and is scheduled to go to TAC on Oct. 27, 2010. The plan will be official once it is adopted by TAC, NCDOT and FHWA.

6) Old Business [C. O'Keefe]

- Connections to Cross City Trail at Independence Mall: Joshua has discussed issue with mall manager, Helen Lewis. Committee will draft a letter to Independence Mall to reconsider the connections, Chris O'Keefe, Bike and Ped. Committee chair will sign the letter.
- Pine Grove and Oleander Bike Lane maintenance and Greenville Loop Rd Bike Lane maintenance: Streets department has been notified and they have a street grading machine, which should be able to remove the grass and sand from the lanes.
- Cross City Trail Way Finding Signs: Temporary signs are being made and will be installed on the trail. Committee had requested signs at Canterbury Rd and Independence Blvd.
- Bike Lanes on Front St from Dawson St to Burnett Blvd: Request was made to add 2 more ft to shoulders for the lanes, however, Tom Norman had contributed \$90,000.00 to add corrective features at RR crossings on Front St.
- Facilities Deficiency and Maintenance Needs: The bike safe grates at Mall. Bill checked the grates during his Cape Fear Ambassador visits to location on Oleander Dr. and found two gates that appeared to be improperly positioned, (near Sears and near Belk). Items will be passed on to mall staff.
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7) New Business [C. O'Keefe]

- During September meeting the committee felt that the Bike Ped. Committee should develop an Adopt a Bike Route and Trail Program to promote trail maintenance and awareness.
- Committee had a discussion on how to address the Trails policy and Use policy, regarding proper trail use and guidance.
- Joshua announced his resignation from City of Wilmington to accept position as Assistant Director of Planning for the City of Atlanta, GA. Committee will plan an informal send off for him.

8) Announcements [contact WMPO staff for more information]:

- WMPO Technical Coordinating Committee, October 13 at 10:00 am
- Wrightsville Sound Small Area Plan community workshop, October 16 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
- WMPO Transportation Advisory Committee, October 27 at 4:00 pm

9) Next meeting: December 9 at TBD [holiday celebration]

10) Adjournment