

2011_02_10_ WMPO BikePed Committee Minutes

A meeting of the WMPO BikePed Committee was held on Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 4:15 pm. The meeting was held in the Traffic Conference Room on Floor 4 of 305 Chestnut Street.

The meeting was led by Chris O'Keefe and Bill McDow. Those in attendance included Chris O'Keefe, Tom Rivers, Jonnie Sharp, Brian Ennis, Mike Kirkbride, Paul Martinez, Travis Barnes, Katie Ryan, Bill McDow, Adrienne Walters, Suraiya Rashid, Mike Kozlosky, Andy Fairbanks, Rec. Dept., Karyn Crichton, (NHC Planning), Al Schroetel (Cape Fear Cyclists), Craig Mann (Cape Fear Cyclists), David Illigen (Town of Navassa Planning), Ernie Olds (AIA Wilmington) and Mark Laudermilk (AIA Wilmington).

The following is the agenda for the meeting:

- 1) Approval of minutes from January meeting [C. O'Keefe]
- 2) Old Business [C. O'Keefe]
 - a. Adopt A Trail Program: WMPO will work toward developing what an Adopt a Trail Program would look like. Andy Fairbanks discussed current maintenance conducted on existing trails, such as Halyburton and Gary Shell Cross City Trail, including the need to address pine needles and gravel on the trail. As new trails were added, resources were not added. Adopt a Trail program could augment City and county maintenance of trail resources, which already provide maintenance at park sites. If adopting agency requires a blower or truck to clean the trail, the policy should ensure equipment requirements, vehicle width and height restrictions are listed in the documentation. Goal is to create a template that can be used on City/County trails to allow an agency or external group to clean up. Possible groups include America the Beautiful, School Bicycle Clubs and Corporate sponsors. Sponsors could adopt at Gold level by purchasing equipment such as trash receptacles, benches, or at Silver level by conducting quarterly cleaning.
 - b. Resolution of Support for Proper Installation of Rumble Strips: Al Schroetel and Craig Mann (Cape Fear Cyclists) provided updated resolution for the committee to review. Rumble strips have shown an ability to improve vehicular safety and bicycle safety when they are installed properly. Rumble strips installed incorrectly deny the cyclist the use of the shoulder, such as portions of US HWY 17 and I-140, and endanger cyclists who attempt to travel these roadways. Al will present resolution to the NCATA on Feb. 12, to help get a consistent policy throughout the state. Some NCDOT divisions such as Div. 14 have installation policies that support proper installation of Rumble Strips. Committee recommended that CFC review what policies are adopted in neighboring states and states along the East Coast Greenway Route. Committees adopted a Resolution requesting that NCDOT Division 3 review its local Rumble Strip installation procedures and ensure the policy's compliance with state guidelines. Revised Resolution will be forwarded to the TCC for action.
 - c. Bikes Belong Grant update (Adrienne Walters) The WMPO was not awarded the grant, therefore, work planned for Greenville Loop Road to add pavement markings could not be funded at this time.
- 3) New Business [C. O'Keefe]
 - a. Formation of River to Sea Bike Ride Steering Committee [C. O'Keefe]
River to Sea Bike Ride is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2011. Committee requested volunteers for a steering committee to plan the event. Steering Committee members will be

Chris O'Keefe, Katie Ryan, Bill McDow, Jonnie Sharp, Adrienne Walters, Ernie Olds (AIA Wilmington), Karyn Crichton, and Al Schroetel. Craig Mann will attend for Al Schroetel at first meeting. First steering committee meeting was scheduled for Feb. 15 at 5 pm.

- b. Discussion of Local Chapter of American Institute of Architects design contest. [C. O'Keefe]
Chris O'Keefe introduced Ernie Olds and Mark Laudermilk of AIA Wilmington. The AIA has developed a design contest to encourage Student, Artistic and Architectural passion and excitement for the promotion of the Gary Shell Cross City Trail. Design categories would be for a) CCT Bus Shelter and b) CCT Gateway Feature. Gateway design locations would include entrances to Halyburton Park, Empie Park, McCrary Park Pedestrian Bridge, and start of CCT Phase 1 at John D. Barry Dr. Contest is open to residents of New Hanover, Pender and Columbus County. Committee requested that Brunswick county residents be permitted to enter also. Designs will be displayed at 2011 Azalea Festival. People's choice award will be selected based on Festival voting. Juried Prize will be awarded based upon Judges Panel for contest. Private companies can fund the winning design or other design for their Adopt a Trail contribution. Gateway Designs that are 3 dimensional should be designed to allow maintenance vehicles to enter under the gateway feature/ arch. Parks and Rec. department will follow up with Mark and AIA to ensure design specifications allow vehicles to pass under the gateway.
- c. Discussion of NHC Schools request for Bike Safety Training. [B. McDow]
Eleven Elementary and Middle schools have requested bike safety training. Adrienne discussed plans to provide an approved class to PE teachers at all NHC Elementary schools during the 2011-2012 school year. CFC would develop the curricular based on the Traffic Skills 101 course. Training class would feature helmet fittings, safety material handouts and possible bike giveaways. CFC will follow up their Education Chairperson, Bethel Paris, to develop the curriculum.
- d. Discussion of Route Selection process for designating local routes as part of East Coast Greenway. [W. McDow]
The East Coast Greenway Association Coastal Task Force is asking groups to submit route information for coastal segments that are ready for ECG designation. Some areas within our area may qualify for ECG Designation, including new parts of the Cross City Trail, the River to Sea Bike Way and parts of River Road. Carolina Beach Trail was also mentioned as a candidate for designation. Once a segment has applied for designation, letters of endorsement should be submitted and a field review will be scheduled. After the field review, the section must be reported to the NC-ECG Chair to secure a nomination of the segment to the ECGA Trail Council for further consideration and approval. Sections that are successful in receiving ECG designation will be added to the ECG route.
- e. Discussion of inaugural Cross City Trail Bike Ride for fall 2011. [C. O'Keefe]
The CCT is here and it should have a ride to commemorate it. The sponsorship of the ride has not been determined yet, therefore, another group other than the BikePed committee may be ultimate sponsor. Mike suggested discussing ride with Bo Dean, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, who may be interested in being sponsor. Committee will contact the Parks and Recreation Advisory board.
- f. Discussion of resolution to identify existing utility and roadway corridors for potential shared use with Bike/Ped facilities. [C. O'Keefe]
Chris discussed the potential for reaching out to utility and water/ sewer providers to identify right of way corridors that can be used for shared Bike and Pedestrian trail usage. All municipalities are encouraged to support this effort. Committee will begin exploring a resolution of support for municipalities to identify shared utility right of way corridors for use as bike and pedestrian trails at an upcoming meeting.

g. Revision of WMPO Bicycle Map. [A. Walters]
Revision of the Bicycle map has begun. Funding for printing the map is a concern. NCDOT paid for most of the printing costs in 2008. Current map may be funded by a grant and other sources. Map will probably be printed in phases with around 4000 initially printed and more printed later. Committee wants to ensure safety information on the back of map is retained. The information acts as an introductory safety manual for newer riders. Adrienne is working redesign with D. Haynes. Other options for the map include a digital copy of the map, and a copy on Facebook. Mark suggested making the addition of a Facebook page for the map as a student project at UNCW Information Technology department.

4) Updates [C. O'Keefe] Updates were given on possible items that corporate sponsors could contribute to bike trails, such as trash receptacles, map board displays, and pet waste stations. The final adopt a trail policy should include instructions on how to donate or purchase these items.

5) The announcements were read by the secretary, and then the meeting was adjourned.