

2011_04_14_ WMPO BikePed Committee Minutes

A meeting of the WMPO BikePed Committee was held on Thursday, April 14, 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, Karin Mills, Karyn Crichton, Brian Ennis, Mike Kirkbride, Paul Martinez, Travis Barnes, Bill McDow, Adrienne Walters, Amy Beatty, George Perkins, Al Schroetel (Cape Fear Cyclists), Craig Mann (Cape Fear Cyclists), Ernie Olds (AIA Wilmington), Jessi Booker, (NCDOT) and Britnee Adams, (NCDOT).

The following is the agenda for the meeting:

- 1) Approval of minutes from March meeting [B. McDow]
- 2) Old Business [B. McDow]
 - a. Discussion of quorum procedures. Bill discussed the number of voting members for the BikePed committee and number of members required to constitute a quorum for conducting business.
- 3) New Business [C. O'Keefe]
 - a. Discussion of method of remembrance for David and Trey Doolittle. [B. McDow]

The committee discussed the memorial ride organized by local cyclists on April 10, and attended by approximately 1,000 persons. The committee discussed how safety improvements on River Road can help to prevent future tragedies. Craig Mann discussed a resolution Cape Fear Cyclists was drafting to promote safety on River Road. The resolution requests Traffic Calming, reduced speed limits (from 55 mph to 45 mph), increased Bicycle Signs, requested removal of sand and debris on the bike lane, and increased law enforcement on the corridor (for speeding, DUI/Sobriety Checks and Reckless Driving). The committee stated that maintenance requirements for cyclists are different than for motor vehicles, and asked NCDOT to help coordinate a meeting with the Division 3 maintenance supervisor to discuss bike lane maintenance. The committee discussed a request to have the lanes cleaned by the appropriate maintenance organization. NCDOT is conducting an investigation of the accident and performing a speed study for the area. Crash history for River Road may prompt improvements under the Spot Safety improvement program. The committee also mentioned the National Ride of Silence in May, which honors cyclists killed on roadways.
 - b. Discussion of Gary Shell Cross City Trail Open House. [A. Beatty]

The open house was held on April 4, at Cameron Art Museum, to present various designs for the Shipyard Connector. This connector will enable trail users to safely cross Shipyard Blvd., by closing a gap in the trail and providing a seamless stretch of trail between Halyburton Park and Randall Parkway. Over 138 persons attended the open house and nearly 100 comment sheets were submitted. Residents voted on three designs for the connector; (1) a connection straight across Shipyard Blvd at Independence Blvd (2) a connection that follows the drainage ditch from Barclay Commons to Longstreet Dr, then follows Longstreet Dr to Converse Dr and continues on Converse Dr to Independence Dr (3) route along Independence Blvd and Shipyard that goes to Converse Dr crossing, then follows Converse Dr to Independence Blvd. The option that continued straight on Independence Blvd had the highest vote count. Projected costs for the connector range from \$300,000 to \$600,000. City staff will meet to review the comments and make final recommendations for the connector.
 - c. Discussion of Active Trails grant for Pender County. [A. Walters]

Grant was submitted on behalf of Pender County to create trails in the area. Design and development of trails, such as a Battleship to Battlefield trail near the Moore's Creek National Battlefield was part of the purpose of the grant. Award notice for the grant should be in June.

- d. Discussion of Resolution of Support for Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF). [A. Beatty] Amy gave the background for the PARTF, described its contributions to projects in our area, and discussed how pending legislation in the NC General Assembly would make changes in the funding method for the PARTF, thereby significantly impacting the fund and limiting opportunities for land acquisition for parks and greenway/trails development. The committee agreed that changes in how the PARTF is funded would hurt Parks, Recreation and Bicycle projects in our area. Travis recommended that the resolution be modified to include its negative impact on the entire metropolitan area. The committee voted to approve the amended resolution that would oppose changes to how the PARTF is funded.
- e. Discussion of Resolution Requesting the City of Wilmington to Add Protected Bike Lanes to its Technical Specifications Document. [A. Walters]
Adrienne provided handouts on Protected Bike Lanes to the committee. Committee discussed the issue and had some questions on how the lanes would be implemented in our area. The committee would like more information on the item. No action was taken on the resolution.

4) Updates [C. O'Keefe]

- a. Update from the Steering Committee on 22nd Annual River to Sea Bike Ride. [C. O'Keefe]
Registration will begin at Bailey Theater Park at 8 AM, and the ride will begin at 8:30 AM. Traffic control for the River to Sea Bike Ride will be provided by the Sheriff's Dept. WPD and WB Police. The committee decided to use the traffic control to cross the Bradley Creek Bridge, instead of shutting down a lane on the bridge. A lead vehicle and trail vehicle will accompany the riders. Chris O'Keefe, Karyn Crichton, George Perkins (WPD), Chris Stewart (NHC Sheriff Dept) and Bill McDow are scheduled to conduct a ride to check the road conditions for the River to Sea Bikeway and time required to complete the route on April 18, 2011.
- b. Update on NC Sustainable Communities Grant [A. Walters]
The NC Sustainable Communities Grant Fund awarded the Sustainable Community Task force a grant for \$15,000.00. The committee commended Suraiya Rashid for helping to lead the effort to apply for the grant.
- c. Update on the Twilight Ramble Bike Ride on the Cross City Trail. [A. Walters]
The Twilight Ramble Bike Ride on the Cross City Trail is scheduled for May 13, from 8 pm to 10 pm. The ride will start near Alderman Elementary School (at First Baptist Activity Center) and follow the Cross City Trail to Halyburton Park. The ride is being organized by the Good Shepherd House. Mayor Saffo is scheduled to participate in the ride.
- d. Update on the Colwell Avenue Multiuse Path. [A. Walters]
Surveying for the Multiuse path is underway. The project is funded by the Eat Smart, Move More Grant and City Of Wilmington. Construction for the path is scheduled to begin in June.
- e. Update on the American Institute of Architects design contest. [C. O'Keefe]
Ernie Olds told the committee that five entries were submitted for the AIA Design contest. 3 designs were by professionals and 2 designs were by artists. Juried panel was scheduled to meet on April 15 to vote on the submitted entries. Four of the entries were for bus stops.

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