

2011_05_12_ WMPO BikePed Committee Minutes

A meeting of the WMPO BikePed Committee was held on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 4:15 pm. The meeting was held in the Planning Conference Room on Floor 4 of 305 Chestnut Street.

The meeting was led by Suraiya Rashid. Those in attendance included Chris O'Keefe, Karin Mills, Jonnie Sharp, Tom Rivers, Karyn Crichton, Todd Brohaugh, Brian Ennis, Mike Kirkbride, Paul Martinez, Bill McDow(WMPO), Andy Fairbanks (COW Parks), Adrienne Walters(WMPO), Suraiya Rashid (WMPO), Jessi Booker (NCDOT), Ernie Olds (AIA), Al Schroetel (Cape Fear Cyclists), Craig Mann (Cape Fear Cyclists), Tamlyn Shields (Obesity Prevention Initiative), Craig Harris (Tidal Creek Coop), Angela Koch (Carolina Farmin).

The following is the order of discussion for the meeting:

- 1) Approval of minutes from March meeting

Minutes were approved.

- 2) Old Business

- a. Discussion of Resolution Requesting the City of Wilmington to Add Protected Bike Lanes to Its Technical Specification Documents.

S. Rashid described why Protected Bike Lanes would be of interest to the committee and also how adding them to Technical Specifications Documents would allow their installation as an option or as a conditional requirement for new development. C. O'Keefe suggested that the resolution be amended to specify that only one-way protected bike lanes be considered at this time. M. Kirkbride moved that the resolution be approved as amended, J. Sharp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 3) New Business

- a. Discussion of UNCW Connection to River to the Sea Bikeway.

This item was introduced by C. O'Keefe but discussion was led by C. Harris of the Tidal Creek Coop. C. Harris explained to the committee that his employees & customers of Tidal Creek Coop were encouraged to take the River to the Sea Bikeway and then cross unimproved areas to arrive at his business. C. O'Keefe mentioned that UNCW used the large parking lot at this location as remote parking for students and suggested that UNCW students could also use this as a park and (bike) ride location. S. Rashid suggested that improvements to this location be investigated as part of the River to the Sea Bikeway Alignment discussion.

- b. Resolution of Support for the River Road Safety Initiatives

C. Mann (President of the Cape Fear Cyclists) stated that the recent tragedy along River Road required action by the Cape Fear Cyclists, but that the resolution was broader than just River Road and extended to area cycling safety generally. J. Booker (NCDOT) mentioned that a speed study was commissioned by Senator Goulsby and that they were waiting on results from Raleigh. J. Booker went on to state that the next steps were to go to Coke Gray (NCDOT –Cape Fear Region) to

re-check if the speed limit is appropriate. The speed study included a study of crash histories on the roadway and signage along the roadway. C. Mann stated that CFC had not approached NCDOT about signage along River Road and asked if the WMPO would take that on or should CFC? B. McDow stated that based on the particular initiative listed within the resolution, the responsible entity would change. M. Kirkbride stated that cyclists needed to take safety initiatives as a matter of personal responsibility as well. C. O'Keefe stated that at the last WMPOBPC meeting the committee did not vote on this resolution but wanted to address the issue by speaking with NCDOT about sweeping the bike lanes, etc. C.O'Keefe suggested that the WMPOBPC accept the CFC resolution and analyze it to determine appropriate bodies to move forward with the resolution's initiatives. B.McDow moved, P. Martinez seconded and the committee unanimously approved the motion.

c. Bicycle Friendly Community Designation

A. Walters stated that the City of Wilmington was designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community –Bronze Level thanks to the efforts of many of the people at the meeting. It seemed that the engineering portion of the application was particularly appreciated, with the first Bicycle Boulevard in the state of North Carolina. A. Walters stated that more feedback was on its way on the application to help the community see what was necessary to take it to the next level. The Wilmington City Council will issue a proclamation for this award.

d. Completion of Colwell Avenue Multiuse Trail

A. Walters stated that the trail was built and that landscaping/curbing is coming.

e. River to the Sea Bikeway Alignment

S. Rashid suggested that a special subcommittee be formed to tackle this project at a later date. A. Walters stated that there was a push to agree on this alignment as soon as possible in order to utilize grant funds for printing maps of the alignment. C.O'Keefe suggested meeting in a subcommittee on 5/17 at 4PM with Wilmington City Engineering attending.

f. Discussion of Method to Receive Funds for BikePed Committee

T. Shields stated that she would like to put a button on the Live Fit Cape Fear website that allowed individuals to make small donations toward bicycle/pedestrian improvements or maps. There was an issue in figuring out who could accept the monies. J. Sharp stated that SEACC took money interim for non-profits that did not have the correct designation to accept funds. A. Walters stated that the WMPO has a donations line item. A. Fairbanks stated the City of Wilmington Parks Department was allowed to accept donations under \$5,000. C. O'Keefe suggested that the WMPOBC should check if they could keep the donations as a line item in the WMPO, but if not they should pursue alternate opportunities.

g. May Bicycle Month Events

A. Schroetel briefed the committee on upcoming events sponsored by Cape Fear Cyclists in May for Bike Month.

4) Updates

a. Update on 22nd Annual River to Sea Bike Ride

C. O'Keefe stated that the ride was a great success – over 200 people registered and an estimated 280 riders partook in the event with only 2 minor crashes.

b. Update on International Ride of Silence in Wilmington May 18

A. Schroetel briefed the committee on this upcoming event. B. McDow stated that parking for this event would be at the Hanover Center.

c. Update on Shipyard Connection for the Gary Shell Cross City Trail

S.Rashid updated the committee on the public involvement and stated that the preferred alternative was expected to be adopted at the May 17th Wilmington City Council Meeting.

d. Update on the Twilight Ramble Bike Ride on the Cross City Trail

A. Schroetel briefed the committee on this upcoming event.

e. Update on the West Pender Rail Trail Grant

A. Walters mentioned that the WPRTA received RTP funding for 1 mile of trail and a parking lot area.

f. Update on the AIA Design Contest Winner

E. Olds went over the top 4 design winners and stated that the AIA wanted to have one of these structures built before pursuing a gateway design competition for the Cross City Trail. A. Walters suggested contacting the community college to do the construction project. C.O'Keefe asked if WAVE Transit had been contacted. E. Olds stated that the AIA was in contact with both WAVE & the City of Wilmington Parks Department with regards to the designs. E. Olds suggested that the committee keep their eyes open for other potential locations for these structures.

5) Announcements

a. WMPO Technical Coordinating Committee, May 11 at 10:00 AM

b. WMPO Transportation Advisory Committee, May 18 at 4:00 PM

c. Next Meeting: June 9th at 4:15PM

The meeting was adjourned after announcements.