

2013_02_21_ WMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

A meeting of the WMPO BikePed Committee was held on Thursday, February 21 at 8:30am. The meeting was held in the Conference Room on Floor 3 of 305 Chestnut Street.

The meeting was led by Chris O'Keefe. The following people were present at the meeting: Jonnie Sharp, Katie Ryan, Suraiya Rashid, Craig Mann, Sharon Boyd, Sean Ryan, Al Sharp, Karin Mills, Karyn Crichton, Steve Whitney, Matt Hogan, Bethel Paris, Patrick Riddle, and Bill McDow.

The following was the order of discussion for the meeting:

- 1) Approval of Meeting Notes
 - K. Crichton moved that the meeting notes be approved
 - K. Ryan seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously

- 2) New Business
 - a. Goal of Quadrants and Role in MTP Update Process
 - S. Rashid stated the three prime objectives for the quadrants as (1) identify the most highly traveled routes for cars and major crossing barriers and then locate parallel facilities for pedestrian/bike paths, (2) identify the "pie in the sky" goals, and (3) indentify opportunities for redevelopment when new subdivisions come in.
 - S. Rashid added that the MPO is updating the MT Plan and all projects must be included in this document.
 - K. Crichton questioned if the committee was still using the Greenway Plan as a baseline.
 - S. Rashid responded that the Greenway Plan has not yet been adopted; therefore, those recommendations from the plan can be changed if needed.
 - C. O'Keefe mentioned that new development and redevelopment opportunities need to be monitored, and there must be a record of those potential needs from objective 3. K. Crichton mentioned there must be a shared mechanism with developers, and questioned what other towns/cities use. This prompted a discussion, and S. Rashid noted that it is a great topic for another meeting potentially in April. C. O'Keefe mentioned creating a subcommittee at if anyone in attendance wanted to take part in a subcommittee, there was no interest.
 - S. Boyd mentioned creating a working group to develop the goals and where we would go with strategy. A. Sharp volunteered to develop the strategy, not "do the deed." K. Crichton mentioned working with people from all jurisdictions to find out what was going on and expressed interest in doing this.
 - C. O'Keefe refocused group and stated that the maps of the quadrants will be working tools for the committee.

b. Calendar

- C. O'Keefe asked for questions/concerns regarding the proposed BikePed Committee calendar.
- S. Rashid noted that the MTP meetings would start at 8:00am and run until 12:00pm. She added that the MTP meetings would first address pedestrian and then go to bicycle, and the quadrants would not be addressed.
- A. Sharp pointed out that March 21 was a busy day due to many events going on. Others agreed. S. Rashid suggested moving the March 21 meeting to March 28 from 8:00am – 12:00pm. A. Sharp moved that the schedule be changed. K. Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution – East Coast Greenway

- S. Rashid stated that several sections of the Cross City Trail were completed, and inspections were done to officially designate them as part of the ECG. She added that the portions were Autumn Hall, Independence to Shipyard, and Military Cut Off to Eastwood.
- B. Paris questioned if the resolution would apply once the Randall Parkway section was finished. S. Rashid responded that a separate resolution may be necessary, but it was currently generic. She added that the Cross City Trail is already officially adopted, but the resolution would bring it to the attention of the elected officials.
- K. Crichton noted it was important for elected officials to know where the segments were. S. Rashid moved to add the segments to the resolution prior to sending to TCC. K. Crichton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Quadrant 4 Intersection Recommendations

- S. Rashid stated that she had 57 recommendations for crosswalks in Quadrant 4 that were mostly situated around existing traffic signals. Because of the abundance, S. Rashid recommended that she email the map to the committee to save time at the meeting.
- C. O'Keefe questioned if the committee was after a specific model for designating needs for crosswalks. S. Rashid responded that any need for improvements is appropriate to designate.
- S. Boyd question what the guidelines were for adding crosswalks. Patrick (DOT) described the regulations and the importance of getting requests in early with road resurfacing projects. He added that he needed recommendations from S. Rashid by July 1st. P. Riddle added that if the quadrants are completed, when opportunities come with developers, the standards and the plans are in place to enforce the upgrade.
- A. Sharp questioned if 57 improvements was excessive. S. Rashid responded that it was necessary to first identify the needs and then to prioritize in each quadrant. C. O'Keefe stated that at the next meeting the committee would look at the map of recommendations and prioritize them.

e. Quadrant 5 Identification of Future Needed Facilities

- A. Harrington reviewed the key to the map. C. O'Keefe then recommended the committee go section by section to collect comments and identify needs.
- The Dawson – Oleander section was reviewed first. Comments were made that a lot of pedestrians utilized that area.
- The Shipyard – Independence – Oleander section was reviewed next. Canterberry was identified as a nice place to ride. Steve noted that there were schools in the area. S. Rashid suggested finding something along the mall on the south side. C. O'Keefe stated that many walk to school and ride on Lake. S. Rashid commented that an upgrade would be coming soon with resurfacing. C. O'Keefe instructed to add to the map a path from Lake to Halifax to Lincoln and to the mall. Discussion continued about multiple path options. S. Rashid reminded the group to stay focused on objective one. S. Whitney mention a path from 41st to Holly Tree, and it was added to the map. Options near the hospital were discussed, and past resistance from community was brought up. C. O'Keefe mentioned that the hospital is trying to promote healthy commuter ways, and if the hospital supported the recommendations, they could likely happen. S. Boyd mentioned she was trying to find someone within the hospital to speak with about sidewalk and bicycle plans.
- 17th Street to River (westward) was covered next. C. O'Keefe pointed out that there was a lot already identified. S. Rashid mentioned that she spoke to Paul D'Angelo at the Housing Authority and he wants to promote Wright and Mears streets between 3rd and 16th and 17th. She added that Dawson crosswalks are needed for social equity, and people are dying when they attempt to cross. C. O'Keefe pointed out that the map showed existing bike facilities on 5th, but they are not there yet. S. Rashid responded that they would be started within 5 years.
- C. O'Keefe moved the focus to the Burnette/3rd/Carolina Beach area. S. Whitney suggested Kentucky to Medical Center as a long range grand plan. C. O'Keefe added that a facility along Washington is a goal. S. Rashid commented that the path could go all the way down Carolina Beach Road. S. Rashid added that they tried to add paths through Sunset Park, but the community resisted. She suggested minimizing recommendations in that area.
- S. Rashid discussed an option running south from Washington to act as a parallel facility to Carolina Beach/River Road. C. O'Keefe added that something was needed for Worth and Shipyard. S. Rashid suggested a hawk signal. She added a need for a parallel facility to Shipyard with upgrade signals from the Greenway Plan. B.Paris questioned the need for this. S. Rashid responded that the current option was only on one side of Shipyard.
- C. O'Keefe stated that the committee would stop and pick up next time with Quadrant 5.

3) Quadrant Review and Other Discussion

- a. Quadrant 6 Selection
 - S. Rashid noted that Pleasure Island would be the focus of the next meeting. She added that she would email a map out to the committee the following week. She stated that M. Kirkbride and A. Harrington worked on the quadrant together. A. Harrington noted that the process should be quick and easy. A. Sharp requested a large map to work on because he lives in the area.

- 4) Updates
 - a. May Bike Month
 - C. O'Keefe noted that May is Bike Month. A. Harrington added that May 13th – 17th was Bike to Work Week, with May 17th being Bike to Work Day. She added that she will contact major employers to talk about Bike to Work Week as part of the TDM program. S. Boyd expressed that UNCW is very interested.
 - b. Bike Suitability Map Subcommittee
 - C. O'Keefe asked for updates on Bike Suitability Maps. S. Rashid noted that this would be S. Williams' next project, and there would be updates soon.
 - c. Other
 - C. O'Keefe brought up Earth Day and asked if there was interest in leading a ride for Earth Day. S. Boyd noted that there would be opportunities to educate the public at the Earth Day Festival. C. O'Keefe asked if UNCW students could work a booth at the festival. S. Boyd responded that she would make the arrangements.

- 5) Announcements
 - C. O'Keefe announced that the WMPO Technical Coordinating Committee would meet on March 13 at 10:00am, and the WMPO Transportation Advisory Committee would meet on March 27 at 4:00pm.

- 6) Next Meeting
 - C. O'Keefe reminded the committee that the next meeting would be an MTP meeting on March 28 at 8:00am.

- 7) The meeting was adjourned.