

2013_06_20_WMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

A meeting of the WMPO BikePed Committee was held on Thursday, April 18 at 8:30am. The meeting was held in the Conference Room on Floor 3 of 305 Chestnut Street.

The meeting was led by Adrienne Harrington. The following people were present at the meeting: Katie Ryan, Johnnie Sharp, Adrienne Harrington, Sharon Boyd, Karin Mills, Steve Whitney, Matt Hogan, Bethel Paris, Patrick Riddle, George Eckart, Michael Kirkbride, and Chris O'Keefe.

The following was the order of discussion for the meeting:

- 1) Approval of Meeting Notes from the April 2013 Meeting
 - C. O'Keefe asked for changes or corrections (fix one spelling). Motion to approve K. Ryan, B. Paris seconded, all approved.

- 2) New Business
 - Formal Welcome of New Committee Members
 - C. O'Keefe welcomed S. Whitney. S. Whitney introduced himself. A. Harrington clarified S. Whitney will be official voting member of Brunswick County.
 - Moment of Silence to Remember Terry Benjey
 - C. O'Keefe recapped T. Benjey's great contributions to the cycling community over the last 40 years. Observed a moment of silence.

 - Discussion of Recent Bicycle Accidents
 - C. O'Keefe stated that these accidents are not due to lack of facilities, but they point out issues that may need to be addressed. Added that the public assumes that accidents are because of a lack of facilities, often not the case. B. Paris questioned about the cyclist that was injured at Wrightsville Beach, was he using lights, was he wearing a dark clothes? Group further discussed details of the accident. M. Kirkbride mentioned new helmet technology that the US has not adopted yet. B. Paris will send an article about this. M. Kirkbride discussed the Flaming Amy's ride and described T. Benjey's constant push to be safer.
 - A. Harrington mentioned that See, Share, be Aware needs to gain momentum again. Added that there are other statewide education initiatives in elementary schools as well as other programs for advocacy that are similar to See, Share, be Aware. K. Ryan said that adults need to be targeted more than the children. S. Whitney mentioned safety issues at Greenfield Lake with pedestrians and cyclists. He added that the lack of cars leads the cyclists believe they can go faster. B. Paris stated that she thinks existing trails should have signs that describe etiquette for passing, etc. She

added that would create consistency. S. Boyd added that she agrees consistent signage with cues would be helpful. She also stated that videos and public service announcements may make a difference.

- C. O’Keefe began a discussion to discover where we are with the See, Share, be Aware effort. A. Harrington recapped where the program left off. She stated that bumper stickers were made and tools were developed, and the program is waiting to be implemented. S. Boyd added that six videos were made for the effort, and that there was talk to develop official lesson plans for the schools. K. Mills asked who would be taking the program into the schools. A. Harrington stated it was WMPO staff, UNCW staff, and volunteers. B. Paris added that League Certified Instructors should be involved. C. O’Keefe questioned if the BikePed Committee should get more involved with See, Share, be Aware. A. Harrington stated she would send an email including details about See, Share, be Aware and all of the other safety programs that are going on in North Carolina. B. Paris added that other videos are in existence with the League that are longer and could be used. She also questioned coordinating a better effort for Bike to Work month next year and utilizing that time to educate adults.
 - K. Mills asked if we could send letters to businesses in the community to acknowledge those who are doing great things for cyclists and pedestrians. All agreed this may be a great strategy. C. O’Keefe suggested adding this to the next agenda and honoring one place a month.
 - M. Kirkbride reminded the group that the beach communities tend to be against helmets. He added that targeting the beach cruisers is necessary.
 - A. Harrington went back to say that the BikePed Committee would not have time to take on See, Share, be Aware. However, she added that members could contribute. S. Boyd suggested adding See, Share, be Aware to the next meeting’s agenda to address safety issues.
 - C. O’Keefe recapped the points that the discussion of the accidents brought up. He stated that we need to be sure that we address the safety campaigns and decide which one to get behind. He also added that we need to be sure that the MPO can support it with infrastructure. S. Boyd said that we should look at timing on implementation of See, Share, be Aware and potentially apply for grants. B. Paris said that we need to be sure it sustains over the long term. C. O’Keefe restated that discussing recognition of local businesses would be added, and K. Mills will lead a subcommittee to do this. C. O’Keefe asked for volunteers. C. O’Keefe, B. Paris, and S. Whitney volunteered to help K. Mills. B. Paris said this could tie to See, Share, be Aware.
 - C. O’Keefe added that A. Harrington and S. Rashid will discuss the MTP plan timeline at the next meeting as well so the committee will be aware of the progression.
- Change of activity name to Sections

- A. Harrington stated that quadrants will now be known as quadrants.
- Section 6 – Identification of Future Needed Facilities
 - A. Harrington distributed copies of Section 6. She also pointed out what the committee already identified. A. Harrington pulled out the bicycle chapter of the long range plan and discussed that the recommendations are fiscally constrained. Discussion began about needed facilities in Section 6. B. Paris suggested adding something near Snows Cut Bridge to come off the bridge and go under. M. Kirkbride added that this could be a challenge for multiple reasons. A. Harrington reminded us to think in terms of the year 2040, these are long range recommendations. S. Whitney pointed out a vacant area that could be utilized down the road because lands are owned by Cape Fear and the county and are nature preservations. It was decided to add a dotted line to ensure that this option is considered. M. Kirkbride reminded us about the community resistance in that area. S. Boyd suggested upgrading facilities on Halyburton Parkway. C. O’Keefe pointed out additional connections. M. Kirkbride suggested adding a parallel facility by River Rd. The group discussed finding a connection to the Harris Teeter shopping center. A. Harrington added a dotted line to identify this need.
 - K. Mills questioned if a bicycle bridge could be added to the 2040 plan for Snows Cut Bridge. C. O’Keefe reminded that the elevation needed is determined by the Coast Guard.
 - C. O’Keefe suggested adding a connection by Golden Rd and between Carolina Beach and Myrtle Grove.
 - P. Riddle stated that NCDOT has a project to put a roundabout at intersection of River Rd and Sanders. He also stated that concerns about this area will be taken into consideration. He added that we need to have solid recommendations for Carolina Beach Rd. crosses so that they can be submitted to NCDOT to be considered with a project that they have coming up.
- 3) Other Discussion
 - A. Harrington stated that we will pick up where we left off at the next meeting, and distributed copies of the maps to take home.
- 4) Updates
 - River to the Sea Bikeway & May Bike Month Recap
 - C. O’Keefe stated the River to the Sea ride went well, and there were only a few incidents. Stated that we may need to address where these occurred because they were due to lack of infrastructure (Oleander near Salt Works). P. Riddle took note of this location to look into it.
 - A. Harrington updated group on the Run, Ride, & Roll. She stated that 250 people can out for the event, and it was a great success. She added that it

may be shifted to a different portion of the trail next year as new facilities are complete.

- A. Harrington handed out copies of the press release from Bike to Work Week. She discussed her approach, and stated that it went fairly well. She also shared some data based on participation levels. She feels that this was a great success for the first year, and it resulted in many contacts.
- B. Paris asked about other existing data, and A. Harrington stated she would look into finding it.

5) Announcements

- B. Paris announced that the LCIs will be in on June 29 and for 5 Saturdays after to host a family/beginner/social ride with an education component. Time and locations will be determined. Cape Fear Cyclist will have all of the information on their calendar. These may be continued through September.
- J. Sharp stated she will be moving back to the west coast, and this may be her last meeting. C. O'Keefe and the committee thanked her for all her work in the area. It was noted that we need to formally go through a procedure to get a replacement for her.
- M. Kirkbride will lead a ride down to Ft. Fisher, email about this will come.
- S. Boyd noted that bike repair equipment is getting a lot of use at UNCW, and program is getting better. Services will be available two days a week. She added that the Bike Share program is still in the works. A. Harrington added that the Hampton Inn is adding a Bike Rental facility. S. Boyd said that may work for UNCW before investing in full Bike Share facilities.
- WMPO Technical Coordinating Committee, August 14 at 10:00 a.m.
- WMPO Transportation Advisory Committee, August 28 at 4:00 p.m.

6) Next Meetings

- MTP Meeting – July 18, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.
- BikePed Committee Meeting – August 15, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

7) Adjournment