

2013_04_18_ 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 Saraiya Rashid. The following voting members were present at the meeting: Karyn Crichton, Jonnie Sharp, Al Schroetel, Terry Benjey, Karin Mills, Mike Kirkbride, Saraiya Rashid, Sharon Boyd, Al Sharp, Patrick Riddle. Also present: Jerry Haire, Samantha Williams, Matt Hogan, Steve Whitney, Tina D'Amico Poole, Bethel Paris

The following was the order of discussion for the meeting:

- 1) Approval of meeting notes from the February 2013 Meetings
 - S. Rashid entertained motion for approval. S. Boyd made a motion to approve, A. Schroetel seconded, all approved.

- 2) New Business
 - Quadrant 4 – Intersection Recommendations
 - S. Rashid presented intersections for quadrant 4 for discussion. (Racine and Randall have crosswalks, Hurst and Hamilton have crosswalks – update in database). K. Crichton suggested moving this to next meeting and adding street labels on the map. J. Sharp expressed that a four way pedestrian signal would be beneficial at Independence and Oleander intersection. K. Mills would prefer to cross elsewhere (midblock instead of at the Independence and Oleander intersection). Too hard to cross, this option would be safer. M. Kirkbride mentioned that is done a lot to make it safer.
 - S. Rashid made note that walking and biking is different, so the intersection crosses are necessary for pedestrians. S. Whitney mentioned an alternate crossing west of Independence by Hawthorne and Forest Hills. M. Hogan would add 21st and Princess Place intersection. A. Schroetel would suggest projecting map, and mentioned this is a large number. S. Rashid said goal is to mark where there are needs based on transportation. She added that recommendations will be prioritized later. J. Sharp questioned who is considering bus stops. S. Rashid mentioned the MTP will consider it along with the recommendations. S. Boyd mentioned you need the sidewalk to get to the bus stop, not necessarily crosswalks. S. Rashid reminded we need to look at bike and ped facilities, including sidewalks. K. Mills added we should pay attention to goat paths. Make a note and bring to the meetings. S. Boyd noted this is important for ADA accessibility.

- Quadrant 5 – Identification of Future Needed Facilities & Policy Needs
 - S. Rashid brought quadrant 5 back out to continue from last meeting.
 - S. Boyd suggested to add a midblock crossing by Walmart due to a lot of deaths in that area. S. Rashid said that if we improve the intersection, it will make the intersection safer and will draw pedestrians there. S. Boyd thinks it's a hard sell because it makes you walk further. Others agreed there are no sidewalks and only goat paths. S. Boyd asked is there a way to create an additional signal just for pedestrians. S. Rashid said the hawk signal would be ideal. P. Riddle said the WB one is almost ready. M. Kirkbride said this area is tough because there is not an ideal location. S. Rashid said a study may need to be done. Area was marked to symbolize the most ideal location needs to be determined. K. Mills suggested finding the best place for Shipyard and Carolina Beach Rd. S. Rashid said that is being worked on.
 - S. Boyd asked if there was adequate crossing in the Cross City Trail area. S. Rashid suggested we add those intersections to the map. J. Sharp suggested a crosswalk at the entrance to Halyburton. S. Rashid is apprehensive because of the curve. S. Rashid reminded that we are looking at the barriers for bike and ped and we need to identify the needs. B. Parris said there are two routes for bikers, but T. Benjey said that pedestrians will cross the street right at Halyburton entrance. S. Rashid said we shouldn't encourage crossing there, but others said they will cross anyway so adding an intersection is wise. A. Sharp suggested circling the area and coming back to decide later. T. D'Amico said we can look at places where people are hit over there.
 - S. Rashid proposed looking at intersections on the 17th corridor. K. Mills recalled we discussed these at the MTP meeting. S. Whitney had suggestions for Medical Campus, adding a pedestrian access from Marlewood through an area that was overgrown. Adding connector at Gillette Drive would be ideal. S. Whitney brought up extending the street across the lake to make that more direct for those who don't want to do the whole loop. Could add this to the long range or Greenway plan instead since it isn't a transportation priority.
 - S. Rashid questioned for any other immediate needs. S. Boyd suggested improvement at Shipyard and 17th based on feedback.
 - J. Sharp said big pedestrian crossings on College are needed. S. Rashid made a green dot because it is funded. S. Rashid added intersections at Holly Tree. K. Mills said they will not put crosswalks at Cape Fear Academy. S. Rashid added a bike facility to the map near the area on the east side of college. S. Boyd and A. Schroetel suggested a crosswalk and it was added to make connections. Additional connections were added near Wal Mart to help people get to commercial areas.

- A. Sharp mentioned this is a 25 year plan and we may be over thinking things. May need to let peripheral barriers go to see where they redevelop. B. Paris mentioned cyclists are safer when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles.
 - J. Sharp mentioned we need these plans because if grants and TIP projects come up we won't be ready. P. Riddle reminded everyone that this is a great attack to accomplish being prepared for all opportunities.
 - S. Rashid added an intersection at Hanover Heights. Added signal by Bojangles. Questioned needs from Echo Farms and added intersections. Suggested crosswalk by the school. T. Benjey mentioned adding sidewalk in front of school to extend past the school. A. Sharp suggested a pedestrian improvement at the time of development on River Rd.
 - A. Sharp suggested an improvement at Carolina Beach and Saunders. K. Crichton added something on Antoinette to get to commercial areas.
- Quadrant 6 – Identification of Future Needed Facilities & Policy Needs
 - S. Rashid pulled up Quadrant 6 Part One. Brought focus to the west of College Rd. T. Benjey suggested adding a path at Libscombe. M. Kirkbride suggested adding a cross near the golf course, Beau Ravage. A. Sharp suggested a crosswalk near River Road Park. S. Rashid said these were good connections near the undeveloped land.
 - S. Rashid moved to crosswalk needs at Carolina Beach Road. S. Whitney suggested adding an intersection at base of Snows Cut Bridge.
- 3) Quadrant Review and Other Discussion
- Quadrant 7 selection
 - S. Rashid discussed needs for next time: Discuss Quadrant 6 Part 2 and the East side of College Road (Quadrant 7).
- 4) Updates
- River to the Sea Bikeway & May Bike Month Committee
 - K. Crichton updated. Issue is the bridge at Wrightsville Beach. Cyclists will have to dismount and walk bikes across the bridge. Will be police officers there to help. A. Schroetel said it is dangerous to ride bikes across and this will be a long term issue. K. Crichton said they thought of other options, but this seems the best. A. Schroetel added that information on this will be in pre-ride briefing. Ride is May 4.
 - Bike Suitability Map Subcommittee
 - S. Rashid updated group on the progress. This is going well.

5) Next Meetings

- MTP Meeting – May 9, 2013 at 8:00 am.
- BikePed Committee Meeting – June 20, 2013 at 8:30 am.

6) Additional Comments

- J. Sharp shared that Forest Hills meeting pointed to bike path that is there as a source of crime and wanted to warn the committee of this being a potential obstacle. This neighborhood has political influence, so we need to be aware.
- A. Schroetel wanted to mention upcoming events for May Bike Month. May 11th an event that brings 60-75 riders. May 25th, Brunswick Metric at Town Hall in Leland. June has Run, Ride, Roll. June 15th in Burgaw is Tour de Blueberry, large event.
- K. Crichton asked if we were doing anything as a committee for May Bike Month. C. O'Keefe was supposed to handle, he is not present.