

**Minneapolis BAC Minutes**  
**May 25, 2011**  
**4 PM – 6 PM**  
**Room 101 City of Lakes Building (309 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South)**

**Present:** Nick Mason, Sarah Stewart, Bill Dooley, Joshua Houdek, Richard Anderson, Ethan Fawley, Hōkan, Tom Leighton, Robin Garwood, Bob Hain, Andrew Rankin, Matthew Hendricks, Gary Nelson, Lisa Bender, Hope Johnson, Paul Frenz, Greta Alquist, Billy Binder, Georgianna Yantos, Jim Skoog, Shaun Murphy, Don Pflaum, Jennifer Ringold, Brian Funk, Roy Hallenger, Janice Gepner

After member introductions, the Agenda and Minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Decisions**

1. The BAC voted unanimously to recommend that the Lowry Bridge striping plan be adjusted such that two bike lanes of at least 5-feet are created on the road next to the curb and that they include color paint. We recommend that bike lanes be included in the whole project leading up to the bridge from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to Marshall, and also that there is continued discussion and implementation of design adjustments to accommodate bicyclists on the sidewalk.
2. The BAC voted unanimously to applaud Hennepin County for committing to make it a priority to explore adding bike lanes to Franklin Avenue between 16<sup>th</sup> and Lyndale and to recommend that the City allocate sufficient staff time to join this effort.
3. The BAC unanimously agreed to endorse the Bike Master Plan as long as it included the Implementation Plan. The "Implementation Plan" should be renamed "Minneapolis BAC Recommendations for Bike Plan Implementation." We agreed to exclude staff comments from the version submitted. The Implementation Plan issues are included with the understanding that we will discuss them further with staff and work to come to a consensus or identify differences and report back to the Council by the end of the year.
4. Final details on the Bike Plan Map will be determined by the Engineering Subcommittee via email by June 10. Don will email BAC members a PDF of the current version of the Map.

### **Summaries of Discussions**

**Bike Walk Week Update** from Andrew Rankin. Bike Walk Week is June 4 – 12. Alicia Adams is the project lead. Events include the following: Heart Walk on Saturday, June 4, presence at Grand Old Days, Women's Wednesday events on June 8 (ride and clinics in downtown Minneapolis), June 9 Bike/Walk to Work Day (free breakfasts available at many sites from 6:30 to 9 am, including Hennepin County Government Center Plaza and Rice Park in St Paul.) They are sponsoring Open Streets on June 12 (see below). Also on June 12, Bike to the Twins game including a celebration event at Dunwoody and gift bags. There are lots of sponsorships this year. Sign up at [bikewalkweek.org](http://bikewalkweek.org).

**Engineering Subcommittee Report** from Matthew Hendricks. Matthew provided a summary of the recent Engineering Subcommittee meeting where the following two issues were discussed: the Lowry Bridge and the Franklin Avenue Mill and Paving Overlay Project. Bob Byers and Jim Grube from Hennepin County were present at the Subcommittee meeting. Matthew handed out draft resolutions on each of the two topics. The **Lowry Bridge** is now under construction; county staff made the decision to narrow the bridge to save money, so the bridge plan no longer includes bike lanes. The county is open to narrowing buffer zones to make room for bike lanes. The draft resolution states a preference for narrower lanes (to slow down traffic) but county staff does not want to do that. The county agreed to modify grates to accommodate bicycles and that is in the resolution. The subcommittee also discussed having bike lanes on the sidewalk; there is more time to discuss this as this decision is not needed until fall. Shaun Murphy suggested we put our energy into sidewalk bike lanes since that is more likely to expand the number of people who bike on the bridge. The planned sidewalk at 12 feet is more than wide enough to accommodate pedestrians and bikes. Concern is safely getting bikes on and off the sidewalk. A copy of the Loring Park bike lane transitions was passed around. Billy Binder endorsed the use of color markings to increase safety and emphasized that we need to be strong in encouraging a bike lane on the road. The county has money in their budget for signs and markings. Matthew's resolution was modified to include color paint, that the bike lanes are "at least" 5 feet wide, and that bike lanes are included in the whole project leading up to the bridge from 2<sup>nd</sup> st to Marshall. The modified resolution was unanimously accepted.

**Franklin Avenue** from Minnehaha Avenue to the river is being repaved and will include painted bike lanes. We discussed adding sharrows where there are gaps in the lane. Franklin Avenue from 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Lyndale is also getting repaved but no bike lanes will be added. Bike lanes on that section would require public discussions and decisions on changes in parking. We discussed the resolution to encourage these discussions. There are several neighborhood organizations on Franklin who could help with this including Seward Redesign, Sierra Club, Native American organization and others. The resolution was unanimously accepted. This will continue to be discussed at future Engineering Subcommittee meetings which will take place at the Crown Roller Mill on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 4 PM.

**Open Streets Update** from Ethan Fawley. It is being hosted by the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition. Lyndale Avenue will be closed on Sunday June 12 between 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street from 10 am until 2 pm. Volunteers are need for 2 hour shifts. For more information, visit [openstreetsmpls.com](http://openstreetsmpls.com). Let Ethan know if you can use a poster.

Brian Funk shared a 7-minute video that Metro Transit uses to train new drivers about driving safely with bicycles. The **Metro Transit Safety Video** titled "Patience" has won at least one national award. Metro transit also has a discussion after they show drivers the video. When there is a conflict for drivers between patience and staying on schedule, they are instructed to be patient; safety is more important than schedule. The video emphasizes that drivers have to be aware of all kinds of cyclists in all places. They must keep four foot minimum distance to cyclists when passing and a four second space cushion when following bikes. They can use the "spot mirror" within the side mirror. They are instructed to not "pinch a cyclist" by cutting them off to pull over at a bus stop. All bus drivers in the state should see this video. Roy Hallenger agreed to share the video with school bus drivers. It was suggested that the Noninfrastructure Committee should have a lawyer come talk to them about recent fatalities. MnDOT, the

Department of Public Safety, the patrol office and Minnesota truckers are communicating about the Commercial Vehicle Manual; Bike Walk Ambassadors are working on suggestions for the manual. Discussions are happening at the state level to be part of a curriculum. Next TZD (Toward Zero Deaths Minnesota) conference will include safe truck driving around bikes. Truck drivers are interested in improving safety around bikes.

### **Announcements.**

- Sarah Stewart: a Bike Center will be opening at Glenwood and Morgan. The City Council approved it and Redeemer Center for Life will operate it.
- Bill Dooley: Major Taylor Bicycling Club event on June 16.
- Georgianna Yantos: There will be a public hearing tomorrow on the 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue Greenway/Bikeway at 5:05 pm in City Hall.
- Billy Binder: Nonmotorized plan to put bike lanes on Glenwood is stalled. This should be discussed in the Engineering Subcommittee. Hennepin County is repaving Marshall St NE and bike lanes could be included.
- Nick Mason: The League of American Bicyclists has raised their rating on Minneapolis to a "Gold" bike friendly city. Minnesota is still the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked state but we moved up to a "Silver" rating. (The "D" that Minnesota earned for infrastructure was puzzling given that the state has more trails than any other state.)
- Ethan Fawley: When Mayor Ryback accepted the Gold award on behalf of Minneapolis, he announced that the city will be hiring a full time Bike Coordinator in the next couple of months. Ethan and Nick will be involved in the hiring process.
- Joshua Houdek: June 16 is national Dump the Pump Day.
- Nick Mason. Portland's Bike Coordinator will be in Minneapolis June 4 – 6. There will be a public meeting. Talk to Ethan if you are interested.

Discussion of the **Bike Implementation Plan** was led by Don Pflaum. We were given copies of the plan that included staff comments. Heidi Hamilton from Public Works was also present for this discussion. We started by discussing page one and time ran out. The main issues discussed included the following:

- How often should the Master Plan Map be updated? Don reported that Public Works staff felt annual updates were too often. Many on the BAC felt the Map to be a "living document" that should be revisable as needed. It was pointed out that it already needs revision. Should updates be an ongoing effort from this committee? Staff comments suggested the map should be expected to last 10 years but most BAC members felt this was too long. It was suggested that we needed a process for it to be updated according to changing needs and opportunities.
- There was concern that the BAC had not had the opportunity to complete discussion of the Bike Map. Also, the map had been updated but the BAC has not yet seen the most recent version.
- Should the Implementation Plan be presented at the same time as the Bike Master Plan? Public Works felt the issues in the Implementation Plan required further discussion yet many BAC members felt strongly that the ideas in the Implementation Plan were critical to the Bike Master Plan.

- Although time for discussion ran out, Public Works wanted BAC endorsement to present the Master Bike Plan at the June 21 Council meeting. The Plan represents over 2½ years of work.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janice Gepner.  
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