

Minneapolis BAC Minutes
June 29, 2011
4 PM – 6 PM
Room 333 Minneapolis City Hall

Present: Nick Mason, Hope Johnson, Paul Frenz, Jennifer B. Ringold, Kelly Grissman, Hōkan, Bob Hain, Matthew Hendricks, Gary Nelson, Tom Leighton, Robin Garwood, Colin Harris, Lisa Bender, Brian Funk, Shaun Murphy, Bill Dooley, Richard Anderson, Mackenzie Turner Bargen, David Peterson, David Gepner, Don Pflaum, Georgianna Yantos, Joshua Houdek, Sarah Stewart, Steve Clark, Mary Ellen Heng, Greg Sautter, Heidi Hamilton, Janice Gepner

The meeting was chaired by Nick Mason. After member introductions, the Agenda was revised to move item 3 (Intercity Trail) below item 7. The minutes from the previous meeting were revised to include the Engineering Resolutions. Revised Agenda and Minutes were unanimously approved.

Decisions

1. We unanimously voted to support having more Open Streets events in Minneapolis in the future. We revised the Bike Plan to budget for 3 events/year.
2. We agreed that all topics discussed by subcommittees should be referred to them by the entire BAC. We endorsed 14 topics for future discussion by the Engineering Subcommittee.
3. We voted to endorse the Three Rivers Park District Innerscity Trail, which connects trails in Minneapolis, Bloomington and Richfield. The vote was unanimous except for one abstention by Georgianna Yantos, who wanted more information on the project.
4. We unanimously endorsed the revised "Non-Infrastructure" Table as part of the Bike Plan.
5. We unanimously endorsed the revised Bike Plan Map along with the recommendations from the Engineering Subcommittee, which will also be presented to the City Council. The BAC voted to recommend the following streets be added to the Bike Plan Map: 38th Street west of Bloomington, Lyndale Avenue north of Plymouth Avenue, Nicollet Avenue from Grant Street to 40th Street, Johnson Street NE north of Hennepin Avenue to 18th Avenue NE, and Washington Avenue between Seven Corners and 3rd Avenue S and between Third Avenue S and 10th Avenue N.

Summaries of Discussions

1. **Bike Walk Week report** from David Peterson. Bike Walk Week was very successful and included numerous events. It was moved to June in the hopes that it would be warm, but the temperatures were unseasonable cool. No numbers yet on participation but they will be shared with this committee when they are available.

2. **Open Streets report** from Colin Harris (and Lisa Bender) of the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition. This was the first ever Open Streets event for Minneapolis. It was part of Bike Walk week and it was estimated that 4,000 - 5,000 people participated. There has been lots of positive feedback from businesses as well as attendees. For pictures of the event, check out www.openstreetsmpls.com. There was discussion about how this event should have been sponsored by the city, and also that the city should reduce the administrative hurdles that had to be overcome to host the event. The permit process should be made easier. Volunteers needed to obtain approval from 75% of adjacent property owners; 98% approval was obtained. It will be important to document the financial benefits to local businesses from the event. Barricades at cross streets were set up with motor vehicles in mind and should be revised to better accommodate other modes of transportation. Ways to facilitate more Open Streets events should be discussed in subcommittee.

3. **Engineering Subcommittee report** from Matthew Hendricks. He distributed minutes from their last meeting, a Bike Plan Map Resolution and notes from the Lowry Bridge discussion. Three main topics were discussed at the last Engineering Subcommittee meeting:

- Changes to the **Bike Plan Map**. The Subcommittee looked at 11 streets that were not included in the Map. Matthew presented a resolution that 6 streets be added to the Map now and the other 5 streets should be studied further for potential inclusion in the future. It was suggested a 5th point be added to Washington Avenue stating that there are already lots of bikes on that stretch so it should be made safer. We modified the resolution to include a limit on Lyndale Avenue N (41st St) and Johnson St NE (18th Ave). We tabled further discussion on this until later in the meeting when the topic is the Bike Plan Map.
- The lack of bike lanes on the **Lowry Bridge**. This issue was also discussed in an open meeting yesterday with Hennepin County. There will be a shoulder that could be used as a bike lane but no signs or labeling indicating it's a bike lane. Since the BAC already passed a resolution supporting bike lanes on the bridge, future action on this is not clear. It was suggested that the bridge stay on the subcommittee's agenda.
- The BAC unanimously approved a list of 14 Topics to be discussed by the Engineering Subcommittee. These topics include the following: Lowry Bridge Updates, Glenwood Avenue, Franklin Avenue, Intercity Trail, Minnehaha Avenue reconstruction, Central Avenue, Van White Blvd and Dunwoody Blvd intersection, tunnel under 35W between Bridge 9 and 2nd St, standards for rail/motor vehicle intersections, U of MN Bike Plan, Main and Marshall St NE between E Hennepin and St. Anthony Pkwy, 7th and 8th Ave downtown, Portland Ave south of Minnehaha Pkwy, project updates from Public Works.
- NOTE: The Engineering Subcommittee **meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4 pm** at the Crown Roller Mill.

4. **Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement Subcommittee report** from Nick Mason. The "Nonengineering Subcommittee," also called the "Noninfrastructure Committee" will now be called the "Education, Encouragement and Enforcement Committee." Updates and notes from their last meeting will be forthcoming. The committee **meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 4 pm** at Commuter Connection. The biggest discussion item at their meeting was safety regarding commercial vehicles and bikes. Representatives of the Minnesota Truckers Association will be invited to a future BAC meeting to discuss safety and also to arrange a demonstration at a future Bike Walk Week/Open Streets event. Representatives from law

enforcement will work with the subcommittee to present at a future BAC meeting on a "big picture" of law enforcement and bicycling in the city. Robin Garwood reported that Council Member Schiff would like BAC to discuss some items related to pedicab licenses. The committee approved this topic for subcommittee discussion.

5. Kelly Grissman updated us on the Three Rivers Park District **Innercity Trail** that will connect trails in Minneapolis, Bloomington and Richfield. It's meant as a multi-use trail. Six of the 7 miles of this trail are "urban." The trail starts at Lake Nokomis, follows Cedar Ave south, cutting around 494 at 76th St. It includes at least 3 significant bridges as follows: retrofitting the Bloomington Ave bridge over 62, a new pedestrian bridge over 494, and a bridge over Lake Nokomis. She presented 3 options for a difficult section through Minneapolis involving a bridge over Cedar Ave at the bottom of Lake Nokomis. Two other options suggested were a tunnel and a greenway. BAC endorsement was sought before this project is presented to the City Council.

6. Don Pflaum gave a brief overview on **Bike Facility Maintenance** by the city. He said there is a document about this which he will forward to us. There is also information about this on the city's Bicycling website.

7. Nick Mason suggested that the annual **BAC bike ride** be on August 31st in lieu of our August meeting. Forward ideas on the route to him.

8. Mary Ellen Heng from the Minneapolis Attorney's Office told us how they determine whether **charges** will be brought **after a serious bicycling collision**. First, all of the evidence is examined to determine whether there is probable cause that a crime occurred. The second consideration is whether a charge can be proven to a jury beyond reasonable doubt. A person is usually only charged at the scene if the event is observed by an officer. She shared the considerations in not bringing charges against the trucker in the recent fatal accident with a bicyclist. She suggested we support a bill currently before the Legislature that advocates adding a category of gross misdemeanor for distracted driving. She encouraged people to call her if they have further questions at 612-673-2270.

9. Don Pflaum sought BAC endorsement of updated tables of **Non-Infrastructure Initiatives** as part of the **Bike Plan** to be presented to the City Council on July 12. The list includes Open Streets (ENC-11) and it was agreed to update this item on the table to include a budget of \$75,000 for 3 events/year. It was also suggested to change the lead agency to the City, or possibly the Park Board. Other suggested changes include: revising the amount on item ED-18 on bike rodeos to \$50,000 and have the police dept as the lead agency. Since only a few items on the list are already funded, it was suggested that these items be noted with an asterisk.

Don also handed out an updated copy of the **Bike Plan Map**. The map includes revisions suggested by Robin Garwood, one of the streets that the Engineering Subcommittee (10th Avenue) endorsed adding, and Emerson Ave north of 33rd instead of Fremont. In voting to endorse the revised map, we also agreed to present the Engineering Subcommittee recommendations (see below) to the City Council as an area where we "agree to disagree" with Public Works on the inclusion of 5 additional streets on the Bike Plan Map.

10. Hōkan reminded us to get the list of people who applied to become members of BAC and invite them to participate in subcommittees.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janice Gepner.
send comments to [janice.gepner\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:janice.gepner[at]gmail.com)