

Minneapolis BAC Minutes
July 27, 2011, 4 PM – 6 PM
Room 333 Minneapolis City Hall

Members Present: Bob Hain, Matthew Hendricks, Robin Garwood, Roy Hallanger, Jim Skoog, Hope Johnson, Lisa Bender, Georgianna Yantos, Tom Leighton, Paul Frenz, Billy Binder, Greta Alquist, Nick Mason, Ethan Fawley, Gary Nelson, Hōkan, Joshua Houdek, Richard Anderson, Jennifer Ringold, Sarah Stewart, Janice Gepner

Members Absent: Andrew Rankin, Bill Dooley, Brian Funk, Peter Wagenius, Tim Larson, Shaun Murphy

Others Present: David Peterson, Patrick Kuidera, Chris Büdel, Mackenzie Turner Barga, Don Pflaum, Adam Chelseth

The meeting was chaired by Nick Mason. After member introductions, the Agenda was modified to switch the order of items 3 and 4. Hōkan suggested we amend the Minutes to include the name of the person who abstained from our endorsement of the Three Rivers Park District Innercity Trail. The amended Agenda and Minutes were unanimously accepted.

Decisions

1. We unanimously approved a resolution requesting that the City Council add electric-assisted pedicab statute modification to their legislative agenda.
2. We unanimously approved a resolution that the city lift all time restrictions for pedicab operation downtown.
3. We unanimously approved referring discussion of the Implementation Plan to the Engineering Subcommittee.

Summaries of Discussions

1. Nick Mason made two **housekeeping announcements**. He urged committee members who had not completed their mandatory ethics training to complete it within the next 30 to 60 days. He said Don will email instructions. He also noted that in the future, we will follow up when people miss several meetings.

2. Matthew Hendricks presented an **Engineering Subcommittee report**.

Lowry Bridge update: the committee expressed concern that County staff were announcing in public meetings that the bridge will not have any **bike lanes**. The latest word is that County staff are open to adding lanes after the bridge opens. The plans for the bridge have been modified to narrow the sidewalk and the buffer between car lanes and the median so that there will be a five foot space between the right lane and the curb. The County wants to see how traffic flow works before making a commitment to label a bike lane. There was concern in the subcommittee that a bike facility be planned for coming off the bridge heading east. Plans are being drawn up for bicycle/sidewalk transitions. They will be made available to this committee

when they are done. In answer to a question, it was reported that Jack Yuzna is the city staff person involved in this project. Members of the BAC expressed hope that the "new" BAC will have a better working relationship with Hennepin County than the "old" BAC did. The issue of the Lowry Bridge will remain ongoing for the Engineering Subcommittee.

"Point People" were assigned to the various Subcommittee projects. A few projects still need a Point Person. Members can find out more about a project by contacting a Point Person. Also, let Matt know if you are interested in becoming the Point Person for a project.

There was a request from CLIC (the long range capital improvement committee) that the BAC look at issues related to **funding bicycle infrastructure**. Joshua Houdek read a statement to this effect from the CLIC Report to the City Council and Mayor. Funding issues are addressed in the Implementation Plan.

The **next meeting** of the Engineering Subcommittee will be on **Monday, August 15** (instead of Tuesday, August 16).

3. Adam Chelseth from the Minnesota Trucking Association presented a PowerPoint titled **"Sharing the Road: Commercial Vehicles and Bicycles."** First, he provided background on the Trucking Association. It is a nonprofit and one of their charges is to organize events to educate the public about safety around commercial trucks. He provided advice for bicyclists to improve safety. He suggested that the safest thing would be to never pass a truck on the right, due to a truck driver's limited visibility. It was pointed out that that is frequently not practical. Members had suggestions for improving safety, including requiring trucks to have skirts, the use of hood mirrors by trucks, using new technology such as to indicate blindspots, and having trucks make noise when they turn right. It was suggested that it might be helpful for a bicyclist to talk to truckers and vice versa. Adam encouraged us to get in touch with him at adam@mntruck.org if we have further questions. The Bike/Walk Twin Cities event the 1st week of October will include a community meeting with a trucker speaking to bicyclists. It was suggested that other types of commercial vehicles, such as a bus or city truck, be represented at that event.

4. We received an update from Steven Mosing of Public Works on the **new Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Position**.

- Time line
 - The position will be advertised in 3 weeks.
 - A candidate should be picked out by 6-7 weeks.
 - The person would be ready to start work by the fall.
- The working format for the position will be the Bicycle Master Plan and the Pedestrian Master Plan
- The position will be supervised by Steve Mosing in Public Works.
- Key functions will be project and program management and communications. It will be important for this person to communicate with other city departments as well as to other cities. The person will keep track of what's going on in Minneapolis so things don't fall through the cracks and issues can be addressed as they come up.
- The position would include lobbying for funding and recommending funding options.
- Minimum requirements will include a degree in transportation planning or engineering and at least 5 years experience.
- Ethan Fawley and Nick Mason of BAC are closely involved in this process.

Robin suggested that a key need is communication within Public Works. What systems will be built in to help coordination? Don said that a key problem with coordination is often differing attitudes and policies between city departments. The position will evolve. Robin expressed hope that Public Works provide support for this person, help them navigate the system, and also give them some authority. Bicycling has grown a lot in Minneapolis in the past 10 years and much of the progress is not in engineering.

5. Jim Skoog presented a report from the **3 E's Subcommittee**. There were lots of people at the meeting last Thursday and they mainly dealt with four items:

- Ordinances affecting **pedicab** operators.
 - Allow electric-assist pedicabs in Minnesota and Minneapolis.
 - Remove ban on pedicabs downtown during the rush hour.
- Dialogue was begun on **enforcement initiatives** with Sgt. Nelson (BAC member).
- **Bicycling and commercial vehicle safety**. There will be truckers at Bike/Walk Week. Shaun Murphy is working on a tool designed to educate truck drivers about bicyclists.
- A **traffic diversion program** is being investigated by Nick so that people might take a class in lieu of paying a ticket.

The next meeting of this subcommittee is August 18. Send ideas for agenda items to Jim.

6. Minneapolis **Bike Plan Update**. The Plan was approved by the City Council last week. The BAC thanks Don Pflaum for all his work on this. There is lots of work for the BAC to do now. Council Members want us to complete the Implementation Plan by November, not December as we originally suggested. November completion would enable funding to be included in the legislative agenda. Don said there are only approximately six issues in the plan that still need to be debated. Discussion of the Implementation Plan was referred to the Engineering Subcommittee, where it will be a major agenda item.

7. Our August meeting will be a **bike ride**. Send ideas to Don and Nick. The ride will include the following streets: Central, Glenwood, Marshall and Washington. The ride will be at a slow pace and will start at City Hall, with maybe 3 or 4 stops. BAC Members should invite other people from Hennepin County and MnDOT to join us.

8. Announcements.

- David Peterson made an announcement about Bike/Walk week funding.
- Roy Hallanger reported that the Southside Sprint was a successful event. It was the first amateur bicycle race in Minneapolis in 26 years. Hopefully, it will be repeated next year.
- Billy Binder urged all members to attend the Eastside Bike Summit on Monday, August 1 from 6-7 pm, at the Ritz Theatre. Attendees will include neighborhood organizations, residents and 1st and 3rd Ward Council Members.
- Don Pflaum gave an update on the University of Minnesota Trail. The University has agreed to allow the trail to be on their property. The money that was set aside to buy land will now go towards building a tunnel. The city is working with the Park Board on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janice Gepner.
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