

**Minneapolis BAC Minutes**  
**October 26, 2011, 4 PM – 6 PM**  
**Room 333 Minneapolis City Hall**

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

**Members Absent:** Brian Funk, Peter Wagenius, Tim Larson

**Others Present:** Don Pflaum, David Peterson, Michelle Beaulieu (Midtown Greenway Coalition), Soren Jensen (Midtown Greenway Coalition), Rob Gusky (Appleton WI Trail Advisory Committee)

The meeting was chaired by Nick Mason. After member introductions, the Agenda was modified to add a Health Department request, to add a brief description of the Bicycle Traffic Ordinance amendment and to add Bicycle Parking Policy recommendations. The amended Agenda and the Minutes were unanimously accepted.

## **Decisions**

1. The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee voted unanimously to support RiverFIRST: A Park Design Proposal and Implementation Framework for the Minneapolis Upper Riverfront and requests to be included in the review process as detailed designs are created for sections of the riverfront.
2. The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee unanimously supports a dedicated bicycle facility on the Lowry Avenue bridge from 2nd St N to Marshall St NE, including on-street lanes on the bridge approaches, safe and well-designed transitions on the sidewalk area, a dedicated one-way lane on each sidewalk, with appropriate markings and signage (westbound on the north side of the bridge, eastbound on the south side of the bridge, in the same direction as vehicular traffic), and safe and well-defined transitions back onto the on-street bike lanes, similar to the designs shared by the BAC's Engineering subcommittee.
3. The Committee unanimously voted to empower the Engineering Subcommittee to review upcoming LRT plans and their effect on bicycle facilities.
4. The Committee voted unanimously to support the the Education/Encouragement/Enforcement Subcommittee's resolution on pedicabs (see below).
5. The Committee voted to send a letter of commitment for a Health Department grant to the state of Minnesota on reducing chronic diseases. The letter was approved unanimously with two abstentions (Matthew Hendricks and Lisa Bender).
6. The Committee unanimously approved a slight change to the wording of the "Comprehensive Bicycle Parking Guidelines for City Worksites" in the Implementation Plan to read as follows: Currently, there are no clear guidelines for bicycle parking and access to buildings owned or leased by the City. Such guidelines should be created and implemented. It should adopt goals for the provision of bike racks, secure indoor parking lockers, showers, uniform rules for bringing bicycles into City worksites, and the provision of bicycle parking spaces for the general public.

## Summaries of Discussions

### 1. Matthew Hendricks presented updates from the **Engineering/Evaluation/Equity Subcommittee**.

a) Jennifer Ringold and Bruce Chamberlain of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) gave a presentation to the Subcommittee on the **RiverFIRST** initiative, which involves development projects along the Mississippi River from just north of downtown to the city limits. It is a multiphase plan for decades to come and their presentation focused on some early projects. The subcommittee asked them to come back to the BAC as plans develop. The full BAC voted to endorse the initiative (see above). For more information on the RiverFIRST project go to <http://minneapolisriverfrontdevelopmentinitiative.com/>

b) The Subcommittee has continued having discussions with Hennepin County on bicycle lanes and bicycle lane transitions on the **Lowry Avenue Bridge**. The subcommittee is very concerned with these issues and will continue to pursue them. Billy Binder offered to talk to Commissioner Stenglein who lives near the bridge and is an avid bicyclist. Robin drafted a shortened resolution to send to Hennepin County Commissioners and the City Council (see above).

c) Update on improvements to several sections of **Washington Avenue**:

- At Seven Corners, there is a potential pedestrian improvement project.
- West of Seven Corners, possibility of bike lanes during mill and overlay project.
- Between Hennepin and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave S, opportunities during complete reconstruction in 2013.
- 35W Bridge to 11<sup>th</sup> Ave South, sharrows have been added temporarily.

d) Discussion is underway regarding **bicycle lanes on Franklin Avenue**. No decisions yet.

e) BAC members are urged to **choose the top 5 projects** they would like to see in the next five years and send the list to Matthew by November 8. Ward appointees, in particular, are encouraged to submit projects to close gaps in their wards. Projects chosen should be appropriate for the CLIC process, in the \$200,000 to \$1 million range. They could be trail projects, complex on-street projects, or several projects with a common theme (such as crash reduction) could be combined. Projects should be chosen from Chapters 7 and 8 of the Bike Plan and use the ID# from the list. See Don if you have questions about the scope of a project. The submitted lists will be reviewed by the subcommittee and recommendations will be drafted for the full BAC.

f) Jennifer mentioned that **LRT plans** will be coming out in the next 6-8 weeks and that the BAC will want to comment on them. Don said bicycle facilities must be maintained and that he will bring plans to the BAC. This issue was referred back to the subcommittee (see above).

### 2. Jim Skoog reported from the **Education/Encouragement/Enforcement Subcommittee**.

a) **Bike/Walk Week** recap. Bike/Walk week included the following: a video on the new downtown routes and the new Venture North Bike Center, the event with truckers, educational seminars, a celebration at IDS and several opening events. The event was put together by 10 organizations and will move back to May next year to coincide with the national campaign. Nick asked Andrew Rankin to forward data to BAC members when it is available. Email Andrew if your organization is interested in becoming involved next time. Check out the videos online. The link is [www.youtube.com/jakre](http://www.youtube.com/jakre).

b) The subcommittee submitted a list of 6 **recommendations regarding pedicabs** to the City Council. They include the following:

- Support a performance-based brake standard that does not favor a specific design or system.
- Support a width requirement of 66 inches.
- Support an insurance requirement of \$1,000,000.
- Support a passenger limit of three.
- Support a definition of pedicab business that recognizes free services accepting tips or displaying advertising as pedicab businesses.
- Support the operation of pedicabs on bridges.

With the exception of the brake requirement, all of these initiatives passed the City Council. The full BAC voted to support the Subcommittee's resolution.

c) After a three-month delay, **bike lockers** are available for rent to the general public in Ramp B. The cost is \$50 for the year (with shower access, it is \$100 a year).

d) **Ticketing at the University of Minnesota's Scholar's Walk.** After a 3-week "educational" period, people biking on the Scholar's Walk were given \$115 tickets. An alternative east/west route was not set up until October. People felt the BAC should weigh in on this and it was suggested that Steve Sanders talk about bike friendliness at the U of M at our next meeting.

e) Update on reaching out to **truckers about safety.** It was suggested that a BAC member talk to the MN Truckers at their meeting. Roy said there would be an opportunity to talk to Minneapolis bus drivers in November.

BAC members were encouraged to come to the next Subcommittee meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.

3. Sarah Stewart asked the BAC for a letter of commitment for a **Health Department grant** application to the state of Minnesota. The aim of the grant would be to reduce the cost of chronic diseases, such as obesity. The grant would promote physical activity in an underserved area of Minneapolis by researching the conversion of a low use street to a greenway. Our letter of commitment should include the role the BAC would play, such as providing input on routes and design. The letter of commitment was approved (see above). Nick and Sarah will draft a letter.

#### 4. **Other Items.**

- Robin Garwood presented slightly revised wording for the Implementation Plan on the bicycle parking policy for City worksites (see above).
- Shaun Murphy explained the reasoning behind the city ordinance defining traffic to explicitly include bicycles. It was to make parking in bicycle lanes illegal.

#### 5. **Announcements**

- Nick asked members to try to get agenda items to Nick or Don by the second Wednesday of the month.
- Nick said that member attendance at meetings will be checked at our next Executive committee meeting.
- We will probably change the date of our December meeting.
- Jennifer Ringold: There will be several public meetings November 2-5 about developing designs for Theodore Wirth Park.  
<http://www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=52&prid=1658>
- Jennifer: The MPRB Superintendent recommended a budget through 2017 that includes ongoing funding for trail and sidewalk rehabilitation. This will make it possible to

prioritize repairs. The public comment period is Nov 9-22.

<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=52&prid=1659>

- Billy Binder: MPRB Deputy Superintendent Bruce Chamberlain was at the Engineering subcommittee meeting and was interested in a bike/pedestrian connection along Marshall St NE. This should be on the Engineering subcommittee agenda.
- Shaun: City staff are working on an educational campaign for the new bikeways. Let Shaun know if you'd like to be involved.
- Bob Hain: Kudos for the paint marks on the Hiawatha connection to 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- David Peterson: the League of American Bicyclists has put out an alert for people to write to their Senators about an effort to divert Transportation Enhancement money.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 pm.

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