



Minutes of BPAC Meeting, June 10, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee held on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in Room B190 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 400 4th St N, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Members Present: Sandy Sechrest, John Boland, Bob Fisher, Mike Henderson, Ginny Loehr, Bill Ferguson, Dave Conklin, Ed West. **Members Excused:** None. **Others Present:** Officer Stephanie Welch, Matt Gallagher, Rachel Hazuga, Jackie Eastwood.

1. Approval of Minutes of the May 18, 2009 Meeting:

John Boland called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Sandy Sechrest motioned to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2009 meeting. Ed West seconded. All were in favor.

2. Develop bicycle/pedestrian presentation topics:

Jackie Eastwood handed out an updated version of a draft document sent out in the meeting materials. She went on to say that this document was meant to facilitate discussion of bicycle and pedestrian safety talking points that Officer Welch could use when she goes out to present to driver's education classes. Jackie continued to say that she has been working with the crash data and reading the crash reports and feels that the police department does a good job of interpreting the events of bicycle/motor vehicle crashes. The reason behind the talking points is to teach young drivers what to do to avoid a crash with a bicyclist or pedestrian, not how to be a bicyclist.

Officer Welch said she would report back to the BPAC the response to the talking points. She stated that this was the first time bicycle and pedestrian information will be presented to driver's education students and suspects they will have a lot of questions.

3. Discuss local and regional bicycle route signage:

Jackie Eastwood stated that she would like to begin discussion of route signage. She displayed some examples from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) that might be appropriate for regional and local bike routes. She suggested that the signage be consistent throughout the region, but that regional and local systems be differentiated some how. John Boland suggested we use pavement markings to direct bicyclists along routes. He also suggested we use colored pavement to enhance trail crossings and alert motorists to trail crossings with a sign similar to MUTCD W10-3.

Bob Fisher voiced concern that signing only certain routes would give motorists the impression that bicyclists belong only on the signed routes. He questioned how routes were initially identified. John Boland stated a city committee sat down and drew out the routes. Jackie Eastwood stated that she used the existing bike route system as one input into the corridors considered in the bike plan and stated that some would be recommended for and others removed from bike route status based on roadway conditions, connections to destinations, and safety. The route designations would not be arbitrary.

Tim Tiber liked the MUTCD D1-3c sign for regional routing because it identified the direction and distance to a community. Rachel Hazuga suggested designing a sign that combined signage types to identify trails and to direct people to communities and destinations. She said we need to promote such assets as the connection between Riverside Park and the La Crosse River State Trail. She suggested we could have a regional design contest to design our trail and route signs.

John Boland spoke of funding opportunities for route signage. He stated that Trek has two programs: an off-road program from which our Human Powered Trails people received funding and an on-road program that helps communities reach Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) status or move up in the BFC designations (silver to gold or gold to platinum). He also suggested contacting local businesses to sponsor signage that would direct bicyclists to

their businesses. Jackie Eastwood stated that the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is another source for funding for bicycle signage on roadways to improve safety.

4. Updates and information items:

John Boland read a letter outlining the results of the efforts of Bike to Work Week. He congratulated Ed West and the other organizers on the success they had this year with Bike to Work Week.

Jackie Eastwood informed the committee that the Driftless Region Bicycle Coalition is in need of volunteers for its bicycle valet service at Riverfest. Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, July 1 through Sunday, July 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Jackie Eastwood passed out a letter of invitation to a public information meeting regarding the proposed plans for the highway improvement project on CTH OA between CTH FO and CTH O in the towns of Barre and Greenfield. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Fox Hollow Banquet Hall. She stated that because of the importance of this county road to bicyclists, bicycle advocates should make an effort to voice their desire for wide, paved shoulders.

5. Future Agenda Items:

- Update on the progress of the bicycle/pedestrian bridge connecting North Salem Rd to Enterprise Ave over the BNSF railroad yard.
- Update on the Monegan Overpass resurfacing project.

6. Other business; Adjourn; Next meeting TBA:

Sandy Sechrest motioned to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Ed West seconded. All were in favor.