

Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday, March 23, 2016, 4 PM – 6 PM
Room 333 Minneapolis City Hall

Members Present: Richard Anderson, Bill Dooley, Matthew Dyrdaahl, Steve Elmer, Paul Frenz, Robin Garwood, Janice Gepner, Roy Hallanger, Chris Linde, Hilary Lovelace, Nick Mason, Gina Mitteco, Greg Sautter, Ciara Schlichting, Sarah Stewart, Kelley Yemen

Members Absent: Joe Bernard (excused), Sgt. Tom Campbell, Ginger Cannon (excused), Bob Hain, Joshua Houdek, Will Lumpkins, Juana Sandoval (excused), Scott Snelling (excused), Max Schollet, Jose Luis Villaseñor, Peter Wagenius, Lindsey Wallace (excused), Georgianna Yantos

Others Present: Steve Brandt, Matthew Hendricks, Hōkan

Actions

1. The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee recommends to city leadership and the City Council’s Transportation and Public Works Committee to amend the **Request for Committee Action (RCA) template** to include the following for all items involving streets or trails:
“Advisory Committee Review
Date Presented to PAC:
Date Presented to BAC:
If any motions were passed by the PAC or BAC related to this project, include motion language (and date of motion) here.”
2. For the **Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet Master Plan**, the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee prefers *continuous* 2-way bicycle trails around the lakes in order to accommodate families and people not comfortable on the road.
3. The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee prefers Tier III Alternative 2, the “Tight Diamond” design from the **Hi-Lake Interchange Study**, and supports having Project Management Team staff work towards incremental phasing of its implementation. Important considerations are aesthetics, safety, comfort, the incorporation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, and lessons learned from the I-35W Transit Access Project.
4. For the **Godfrey Bridge** on 46th Street, the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee supports the “modified proposed section” with a 9’5” mixed-use trail on both sides of the street.
5. The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee largely supports the **Complete Streets Policy** as presented on 3/15. This document represents an extraordinary amount of work on behalf of the Department of Public Works and great progress forward for the City of Minneapolis in providing a framework that allows walking, bicycling, and taking transit to be the priorities they must be in a vibrant, thriving twenty-first century city.
The BAC recommends to the policymaker work group that a few areas need to be worked on before final presentation and passage.

Under *Planning* section (last paragraph)

-Community engagement language must be stronger than “when appropriate and accessible”. It also must include language around transparency and equitable engagement.

Under *Exemptions* section

The exact language is critical in this section and needs work to uphold the principles outlined in the policy. The BAC recommends:

“When adopted plans and goals call for facilities following the model priority framework and a project does not include those facilities for the modal priority framework- an exemption will be required from the the City Council based upon the following list:”

6. The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee supports the original, three-lane layout proposed by Public Works staff for the portion of **3rd Ave S** to the south of 7th Street, and opposes the removal of the center medians and/or the proposed planted buffers in that section. The original layout already represents a compromise for bicycling and walking but remains a Complete Street for all users because it is more fully protected for bicycles, more protected and pleasant for pedestrians, and safer for motorists because it is not a four lane configuration. The BAC would support a one-year pilot of a three-lane layout that leaves the center medians in place but defers the construction of the planted buffers until the end of the pilot.

Additionally, the BAC is concerned that the original layout, which was vetted twice by this committee, has been replaced by a substantially different and significantly worse layout without any communication with the BAC.

Summaries of Discussions

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm and chaired by Nick Mason. The Agenda was slightly revised. The revised Agenda and February Minutes were unanimously approved.

1. **Resolutions and Request for Committee Action** from Matthew Hendricks – ***ACTION***
 - Matthew presented a motion to include BAC and PAC resolutions in the Request for Committee Action (RCA) template.
 - It would record our resolutions in staff reports so that they would be available to the public and easy to find.
 - Motion also presented to the PAC.
 - Robin Garwood pointed out that this could start a broader conversation about including other appropriate committee reports in RCA’s, too.
 - The motion passed unanimously.
2. **5E’s Subcommittee** Report presented by Matthew Dyrdaul
 - **Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition** presentation to the Subcommittee from Ethan Fawley, Executive Director
 - “**2020 Vision**”: goals for 2020
 - Double bicycling in Minneapolis, with particular emphasis on increasing under-represented groups.
 - Achieve Platinum Bicycle Friendly status.

- 30 miles of new protected bikeways.
 - **Bike Week 2016:** update on plans
 - Bike Week is May 16-22.
 - Emphasis on Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 20.
 - **Open Streets 2016:** update on plans
 - 8 events this year. 7 are in the same locations as last year. The one new location is Broadway (Penn to Lyndale) instead of Lowry.
 - See Coalition website for dates and locations.
- **Nice Ride** update to the Subcommittee from Bill Dosset, Executive Director
 - New pricing for short rides based on data collected.
 - “Ride Once” for \$4/half hour or “Ride a Bunch” for \$10/3 days.
 - Additional riding simplified: just \$4/half hour.
 - Annual membership rules the same: 1 year or 1 month.
 - Short term strategy to “densify” rather than expand. 8 new stations at the U of M by the end of the summer.
 - New map with suggested rides aimed at visitors at hotels.
 - Orange bike program will continue.
- **Bike Training** for city staff housing inspectors.
 - Phillip Schwartz has been using a bike and other inspectors interested.
 - 2 fleet bikes purchased by the city.
 - 20 people interested in a 3-hour training.
 - Matthew asked for additional LCI trainers to help.

3. **Engineering Subcommittee** Report presented by Ciara Schlichting – **ACTIONS**

- **5th Street Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge** presented by Gina Mitteco
 - Gina Mitteco helped MnDOT get funding to replace current bicycle/pedestrian bridge at 5th St over I-35W.
 - 2 concepts were presented to the subcommittee: Concept 1 keeps the bridge in the same location but has big switchbacks for the on and off ramps; Concept 2 has straight ramps up to the bridge but moves the bridge halfway up the block. It also has stairs directly up to the bridge.
 - Subcommittee preferred Concept 2: switchbacks difficult for long bikes and trailers, and old bridge is heavily used and could remain during much of construction. It is also easier to clear.
 - Both concepts would widen bridge from 8 feet to 14 feet, and could therefore separate bicycles and pedestrians.
 - It’s early in process so Gina will come back as plans develop.
- **Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet Master Plan** presented to the Subcommittee by Ginger Cannon – **ACTION**
 - Master Plan to provide a 20-25 year vision for these heavily used lakes.
 - Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) nearly finished – 2 meetings left.
 - CAC focused on access and circulation.
 - The CAC didn’t like suggestion to make bike trails completely 2-way. Compromised on suggesting several short 2-way sections.
 - Members expressed concern that people will continue in the wrong direction on 1-way sections.

- BAC representative on CAC no longer available, so Paul Frenz agreed to go to the remaining meetings as our representative.
 - Public comment period on CAC recommendations sometime this summer.
 - Send suggestions to Ginger or Deb Bartels, the Project Manager.
 - Robin's motion that the BAC prefers continuous 2-way trails around the lakes was passed unanimously with one abstention from Ciara.
 - **Hiawatha-Lake Street Study – ACTION**
 - Current geometry: Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI)
 - Intersection is terrible for bicycles, pedestrians and even cars, and has been studied several times.
 - There is a “Humanize Hi-Lake Petition.”
 - Simon presented the Study to the Subcommittee with 3 Tiers of suggested changes, from Tier 1, easy and not very expensive to Tier 3, complicated and expensive. He provided 5 Tier 3 options for improvement.
 - The Subcommittee preferred Tier 3, Option 2, a “tight diamond” that would eliminate some turn lanes, provide for 2 timed traffic signals, instead of the current one, and reduce crossing distances. It is also consistent with implementing changes incrementally.
 - Ciara presented a motion to support Tier 3, Option 2 and incremental phasing.
 - Hōkan presented a video illustrating that the current traffic light timing is dangerous for bicycles.
 - Discussion on whether to include the signal timing issue in our motion.
 - Roy Hallanger suggested people call 3-1-1 to complain about the timing.
 - Robin said that the Mayor is interested in finding money to fund these improvements.
 - Gina said that some of the Tier 1 improvements could be done right away.
 - Kelley Yemen pointed out that good urban design needs to be considered in addition to dealing with traffic.
 - Motion passed unanimously as presented with one abstention from Gina.
 - **Godfrey Parkway Bridge – ACTION**
 - Bob Byers from Hennepin County asked us to consider a proposed modification to the Bridge at 46th St over Godfrey Pkwy.
 - Bridge slated for reconstruction this summer.
 - Kelley shared a diagram showing the proposed cross section, with four 11-ft driving lanes and 9'5" multi-use trails on both sides of the street.
 - County was looked for BAC support for replacing the existing 6-ft sidewalks with the multi-use trails.
 - Robin's motion to support the proposed modified section passed unanimously with one abstention from Kelley.
4. **Complete Streets Policy** presented by Nick Mason – **ACTION**
- Nick presented a motion that came out of the joint BAC/PAC working group that met last week.
 - He said the policy provides a clear framework with good language on implementation.
 - The motion supports the policy with suggested changes to improve engagement and clarify the procedure for exemptions.
 - The PAC is expected to pass the same resolution.

- Along with the Policy will be a Checklist, but the Checklist will be a “living document” that can be updated as needed.
- The motion passed unanimously.
- Next step is a meeting of the Policymakers group. The Policy goes to Transportation and Public Works in April.
- Robin suggested that the BAC present our Annual Report at the same meeting.

5. **3rd Avenue South** – ***ACTION (again)***

- Robin presented our 3rd 3rd Avenue resolution.
- Since our last resolution, a significantly inferior plan south of 7th St has been adopted, after lobbying from some local downtown businesses.
- The current plan has bollards, not planters, buffering bike lanes and removes the center planters. It’s worse for both bikes and pedestrians.
- City staff has said traffic volumes do not necessitate 4 traffic lanes south of 7th St.
- Original plan was a Complete Street. New plan is not.
- Plan goes to Transportation and Public Works on April 5.
- Wording was added to the resolution to point out advantages of the original plan.
- Robin’s motion to support the original plan passed unanimously.

6. **Announcements**

- From Joshua Houdek (via Nick): the National Youth Bike Summit is May 27-29. Also, Transportation Forward Day at the Capital is April 4.
- Nick: Time to apply for reappointment to the BAC. Park Board announcement posted today.
- Nick: National Bike Summit was 2 weeks ago in Washington, D.C. There were 500 people, with 10 from Minnesota. Conference sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists. Bike Friendly Community applications will be streamlined. League will be hiring an Education Director. They were able to meet with every member of the Minnesota Congressional delegation.
- Nick: Minnesota Bike Summit coming up on March 30 at Christ Lutheran Church. Asks: support Transportation Forward, state funding for Safe Routes to Schools infrastructure, and implementing updated MnDOT guiding rules for bikes.
- Nick: Juana Sandoval has agreed to represent the BAC on the Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Matthew Dyrdaahl: he will soon be posting the job listing for bicycling staff person in his office.
- Gina: she has been promoted so there is a job listing for MnDOT’s Metro District Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator and BAC representative.
- Roy: Minneapolis Public Schools is putting together a Slow Ride around North Minneapolis on May 4. Let him know if you are interested in helping.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janice Gepner.