

NONMOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes: 2/12/2009

Thursday, February 12, 2009
3:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Present: James Andrew, Dan Brevia, David Brierley, Tom Engstrom, Paul Frenz, Mark Kinde, Anna Kerr, Susan Koschak, Nick Mason, Tim Mitchell, Bill Morrissey, Michelle Musser, Michelle Natrop, Dave Ohman, Randy Perkins, Jim Rosenow, Jeannette Sample, Grant Scholen, Jenny Smith, Bernie Steele, Benita Warns, Mark Weber, Irene Weis, Mohammed Khan

Absent: Gayle Junnila, Susan Koschak, Steve Sanders, Kelly Wosika

Mn/DOT Bike/Ped section staff:

Lisa Austin
Mary Jackson
Liz Walton

Guests:

Joan Pasiuk, Transit for Livable Communities
Dorian Grilley, Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota

Call to Order

Call to order at 3:40
Agenda amended to include Statewide Transportation plan and economic stimulus projects.
Minutes approved.

Introduction of New Members

Paul Frenz has replaced Lisa Austin as the bicycle club representative. Paul is also a member of the Twin Cities Bicycle Club. He is originally from Chicago and moved to Minneapolis three years ago and enjoys all of the bike facilities available in the Twin Cities.

Mark Weber is the new district 8 representative from Dawson, taking over for Chad Johnson. He works for Humana and was involved in the Freewheeling bike share program at the National Republican Convention in St. Paul last September, where he met Lisa Austin and Nick Mason. Mark also races in his free time.

Jenny Smith, of Crosby, is the new district 3 representative. Jenny owns a silent sports shop that rents and sells kayak, canoes, and bikes. She is the president of the Cuyuna Lakes Association. Jenny is also a member of Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists. The organization is building 40 miles of trails in the Cuyuna Lakes Recreational Area.

Dave Ohman is representing district 4 and is from Detroit Lakes. Dave is a 26 year veteran of the Army National Guard. He also worked for an area hospital providing transportation and is now retired. Dave is also involved in the Detroit Lakes Parks Commission.

Economic Stimulus Plan and Statewide Transportation Plan

Mary Jackson and several members of the SNTC attending the metro public open house for the Statewide Transportation plan. The plan has been or will be presented in each of the districts. Mary noted that this plan is more multimodal than in years past. The plan is available for review at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/stateplan/>. Comments will be accepted until March 30. Benita noted that there were not bicycle projects included on the State Transportation Improvement List. Tim clarified that there are bike/ped projects currently in the STIP, and that this list is just additional projects. The list is not complete as State Aid is still collecting project proposals from counties and cities. The projects available for the economic stimulus plan must be ready in 90 days, but projects with later letting dates have been included. Anna Kerr made a motion to support bike/ped projects in the stimulus plan and Nick Mason seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all. The following districts have not hosted their public meetings yet:

District 1

Hermantown Public Safety Building
5111 Maple Grove Road
Hermantown, MN
Friday, February 20
10:00am - 12:30pm

District 2

Mn/DOT District 2 Office
3920 Highway 2 West
Bemidji, MN
Thursday, February 19
10:00am - 12:30pm

District 6

Ramada Hotel and Conference Center
1517 16th Street SW
Rochester, MN
Thursday, February 26
1:00-3:30pm

Legislative Update

Michelle Natrop presented a spreadsheet with the bills that have been introduced in this legislative session concerning bicycles, pedestrians, and trails. There have eight bills concerning nonmotorized modes, including one that directs Mn/DOT to include bikeways on the Lafayette bridge. There is also bill concerning careless driving not included on the

spreadsheet. For more information about this bill, visit <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/bin/bldbill.php?bill=S0639.0.html&session=1s86>

Bicycle Stopping Requirement Bill

Representative Phyllis Kahn had proposed a bill allowing bicyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs and allow them to proceed through a red light after stopping last May. A similar law has been in effect for 17 years in Idaho. The committee decided to table the discussion for now to see where the bill goes.

Inauguration Bike Event

Nick Mason attended the Inauguration in Washington DC. The Washington Area Bicycle Association and Dero Bike Racks sponsored a bike corral in which they parked over 2000 bikes. They did not lose any bicycles, and only temporarily misplaced helmet. Many people biked because there was a corral. Nick also mentioned that they spent 14 hours outside working at the corral in 25 degree weather.

West River Road Parkway

The Pollution Control Agency recently reviewed a trail project for West River Road in Minneapolis. The parkway trail will slope away from the bluff to allow water to drain into the storm sewer system instead of the river. Anna Kerr wanted to encourage people to comment on projects during public meetings. If there is a project that has environmental concerns, please contact Anna at anna.kerr@pca.state.mn.us.

Round Robin

District 1: Susan Koschak reported that the Mn/DOT District 1 office has prepared proposals for two projects that will improve several miles of roadway for both bicyclists and pedestrians. She also mentioned that Velo Duluth Bicycle Club has increased membership, is beginning to plan the 33rd Annual Split Rock Bicycle tour, and is hoping to add more rides to their calendar. Susan also noted that the Metropolitan Interstate Council continues to include improvements for bicycling in their plans and recommendations.

District 2: Irene Weis attended the Parks and Trails conference that was held in Walker and said that Congressman Oberstar attended.

District 4: Dave Ohman announced that the Detroit Lakes Parks Commission approved a trail system around the lake in Detroit Lakes.

District 6: Randy Perkins reminded everyone that the Bicycling Around Minnesota tour - BAM is going to be in held in District 6 in August. He has been promoting the ride through area bicycle clubs.

District 7: Tom Engstrom mentioned that Blue Earth County is planning on constructing a trail to connect Minneopa State Park to Mankato. The new trail will create a 20 mile loop by connecting with other trails

Metro: Jeannette Sample informed the committee that Xcel Energy has proposed to construct and operate high voltage power lines along or near the Midtown Greenway corridor.

David Brierley inquired about the new SNTC logo and offered to work on press releases regarding bicycle safety.

Benita Warns submitted a proposal for St. Paul's Transportation plan to install bike lanes on Pryor. She also announced that her bike shop gave away 531 bikes last year and have given away 19 this year so far.

Dan Brea informed that committee that the Hennepin County commissioners just passed a Complete Streets resolution. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is holding public meeting for on its Bike, Walk, and Roll plan. Minneapolis is still considering the Bike Sharing program.

Dept. of Administration: Bernie Steele is working with the Capitol Improvement Board to make the installation of bike racks and lockers part of building permits.

Bike Walk Twin Cities: Joan Pasiuk mentioned that Transit for Livable Communities has been conducting bike counts. The report will be emailed out to representatives. She also said that the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot projects will be receiving design help from experts across the country. The Transportation Research Board held a workshop with all four pilot project recipients. The next round of solicitation will focus on livable streets/planning studies with \$5 \$6 million available.

Bicycle Club: Paul Frenz reminded the committee that TCBC will be hosting its Weekend on Wheels in Winona on July 31 to Aug 2. The League of American Bicyclists will be holding their rally in Winona during that time. TCBC recognized as one of the best clubs in America. Paul also mentioned that he will be attending the National Bike Summit.

Trails Organization: Bill Morrissey announced that the DNR has combined the parks and waterways divisions. He also mentioned that the Governor did not make any funding cuts for parks and trails, as of yet. The March forecast had not been announced however, and the legislature has not reviewed funding yet.

Metropolitan Planning Organization: Michelle Musser stated that the St. Cloud Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee was asked if they wanted to disband, and the committee declined. Instead, they have decided to focus on one project per month. Tim Mitchell will be attending their March meeting.

Mohammed Khan from the Rochester/Olmsted Council of Governments said that they have recently completed a bike study in Rochester, which will hopefully result in more bike lanes in downtown.

DOT: Jim Rosenow announced that the Lafayette Bridge will have bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The bridge project underwent a value engineering study, in which bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are usually taken out. However, in this study, there was never any danger of losing the accommodations. The project was running over cost due to rising cost of materials, but instead of removing nonmotorized accommodations, the roadway was actually reduced.

Lisa Austin has been working with the University of Minnesota on a research study on bike counting, and is also representing Mn/DOT on TLC's nonmotorized transportation pilot project task force.

Tim Mitchell announced that there will be a stimulus forum on Feb. 13 from 8:00-12:00 in Blaine. The forum is also available on the web. Tim also mentioned that the bicycle and pedestrian section will be meeting with Mn/DOT districts in the coming months and would like to include the district representatives in these meetings if their schedules permit. Tim also stated that there will Quality Bicycle Products will be hosting a Bicycle Summit on April 25th and that there are plans to host a ProBike/ProWalk MN in September.

Mary Jackson informed the committee that Mn/DOT will be conducting roundabout education training. Roundabouts will also be included on the State Highway Map. Mary also mentioned that 55 people attending the Bike/Ped Toolbox Training held January 14th. The training included bicycle and pedestrian accommodation design as well as ADA design information.

Michelle Natrop announced that the state of Minnesota was recognized as the 5th friendliest state for bicycling. We will be applying again in 2009.

Bike Industry: Nick Mason revealed that Minneapolis has been awarded the silver level for bicycle friendly cities. They are hoping they will be able to achieve Gold level with the increase in mode share they have seen. The bike ambassadors will be teaching a bicycle retailer based Road Skills I class. Nick also mentioned that the National Bike Summit is coming up in March, and so far Minnesota has 11 representatives. Hennepin/1st Ave in Minneapolis are being converted from one-way to two way streets and will have bicycle lanes and bike boxes to accommodate the high number of bicyclists using these streets. Dan Brevia and Nick taught the traffic skills class in December. He also announced that this class will be travelling around the state, and an LCI instructor will be teaching the advanced class in the Twin Cities for those who would like to become an instructor. Nick also mentioned that Bike to Work month will be held in May and planning in the Twin Cities is underway. If you are interested in hosting an event in your town, contact Nick at nickmason@dero.com. The League of American Bicyclists also has a planning kit available on their website, www.bikeleague.org.

BAM: Mary Nelsestuen attending the meeting to inform the committee about plans for the 4th Annual Bicycling Around Minnesota bike tour. BAM is a non-profit, non-

fundraising ride that showcases scenic bikeways around the state. The ride also promotes tourism, health, and safety. The ride will be held August 19-22 and will begin in Rochester. The ride will stay overnight in Lanesboro, Wabasha, and Winona. Registration will be opening around February 15th. For more information about the ride, visit www.bambiketour.org Mary would like help promoting the ride in the districts, so please contact her if you would like to help. She can be reached at contact@bambiketour.org

Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota: Dorian Grilley, executive director, announced that the Alliance will be a co-sponsor of the St. Paul Classic ride in September this year. The Bicycle Alliance also has a new website and encourages everyone to become members to promote bicycling in Minnesota. The website is www.bikemn.org.

Dorian also mentioned that the Mississippi River Trail Inc, and the National Park Service received a grant to sign 72 miles of the Mississippi River corridor in the Twin Cities. There is a proposed project in the stimulus package to sign the rest of the state. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the signs will held on National Trails Day, which is June 6th.

Metropolitan Council: James Andrew noted that the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan was adopted on Jan 14th. The full plan is available online at www.metrocouncil.org

Driver's Manual: Mary Nelsestuen has previously worked on the driver's education manual to update it with more bicycling information, and sent Share the Road DVDs and information to commercial and public driving schools. Tom Engstrom has a bicycle driver's manual from North Carolina and is interested in working with Mary on driver's education.

Subgroups

At the planning meeting, the committee decided on 5 priorities to work on in 2008-09. If you have not chosen a subgroup yet, please contact Irene at ilweis@arvig.net to inform her of the committee you are interested in.

Pedestrian – Anna Kerr, Mark Kinde, Susan Koschak, Benita Warns

Education – Dan Brevia, Tom Engstrom, Steve Sanders, Jenny Smith

Policy and Research – James Andrew, Nick Mason, Randy Perkins

Facilities and Wayfinding - Randy Perkins, Michelle Musser, Grant Scholen (Michelle Natrop, staff)

Outreach – David Brierley, Irene Weis (Lisa Austin, staff)

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:52

Next meetings will be;

April 9, 2009

June 4, 2009