

Thursday, April 12, 2007
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Transportation Building, G-22

Present: Darryl Anderson, James Andrew, Lisa Austin, Bob Fischer, Kurt Franke, Michael Huber, Anna Kerr, Susan Koschak, Nick Mason, David Minge, Tim Mitchell, Mary Nelsestuen, Michelle Natrop, Jim Rosenow, Steve Sanders, Bernie Steele, Charles Thomas, Irene Weis, Dave Wogen

Absent: Mike Heikes, Chad Johnson, Gayle Junnila, Mark Kinde, Cory Manthei, Louis Moore, Dawn Olson, Denny Thompson

Guests:

Jim Henricksen, Mn/DOT
Lori Laflin, Mn/DOT
Laura Nehl-Truman, Mn/DOT

Call to Order

Call to order at 3:10
Agenda approved.
David Minge moved to approve the minutes, and Nick Mason seconded. Minutes approved.

Vacancies and Officers

We received 12 applications for the three metro vacancies. Interviews will be conducted in the next month and the new representatives will be announced at the June meeting. Cory Manthei will also be leaving the committee; therefore an announcement will be made to fill the position of law enforcement. We will have 2 positions open on the executive committee. If you are interested in serving on the executive committee, contact Michelle

September Planning Meeting

The planning meeting for 2007-2008 will be Friday, September 14th from 10:30-4:00 in the metro area.

Omnibus Survey

Lori Laflin, Office of Investment Management in Mn/DOT, presented the bicycle issues asked during annual Omnibus survey. 800 people were surveyed by telephone with an even split between metro and greater Minnesota residents. The questions were designed to measure any increase in bicycling over the past year or two. This information will be used to understand current levels of bicycling throughout the state. Questions asked included how often do you bike, what is your reason for biking, what was your frequency of biking 2 years ago, what is your expected frequency of bicycling in two years, and

what is your reason for not bicycling at all. If you have questions about the survey, contact Lori at Lori.laflin@dot.state.mn.us

Strategic Highway Safety Plan, Statewide Transportation Plan update, and Hear Every Voice

Jim Henricksen from the Office of Investment Management at Mn/DOT presented several projects being conducted by his office. Jim first mentioned that a draft the Strategic Highway Safety plan will be out in June. This plan is a county by county analysis of fatalities in the state. The plan looks at the causes and ways to improve safety on Minnesota's highways. The plan also addresses bicycle and pedestrian fatalities.

The Statewide Transportation plan was last updated in 2003. The plan is currently in phase 1, which includes developing the work plan, organizing the steering committee, identifying trends, soliciting input, and conducting the first public review. This phase will continue until September 2007. The new plan should be available in Dec of 2008. Jim has asked the SBAC to be part of the external stakeholders group. The committee would be able to provide input on the plan.

Hear Every Voice is another initiative by the Office of Investment Management. The Mn/DOT vision is to develop a transportation system that meets the needs of Minnesotans while considering available resources and local guidelines. Mn/DOT is seeking citizen input to help balance transportation objectives with community needs. Citizen input is important at every stage of a project, from planning through construction. There are a variety of ways such as serving on local committees and task forces to help make transportation decisions, providing input about transportation alternatives at public hearings and open houses, and attending community and neighborhood meetings to address local transportation concerns.

Trail Crossing

Nick Mason presented some questions, laws, and other material concerning trail crossings and roadways. Please review the materials as we will be discussing this topic more in depth at the next meeting.

Is state law clear enough on the issue of crosswalks, trail crossing and intersections so that motor vehicles and bikes/pedestrians can be educated on who has the right of way?

Do the revised Bicycle Design Guidelines provide enough guidance and add clarity to the issue of trail crossings? Do they provide enough alternatives and design flexibility?

Is there research to support standard crossings throughout a trail system?

When is it necessary to put in a grade separated crossing? And how do we get the bike counts to support this data?

Safe Routes to School

Darryl Anderson reported that 111 applications were received during the second solicitation. The awards were announced on April 10th. Twenty three projects were selected totaling \$1.5 million. Ten non-infrastructure projects and thirteen infrastructure projects were selected throughout the state. For a list of projects, visit <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes>. The third and final solicitation for the 2008-2009 funds will be held in late 2007/early 2008.

Round Robin

District 2: Irene Weis helped out at the Bicycle Expo and attended the Bicycle Summit. She also announced that Park Rapids would like to apply for the Bicycle Friendly Community award.

District 3: Kurt Franke attended the Spring Maintenance Expo and set up the Share the Road Materials. He also plans on attending a health fair sponsored by the City of St. Cloud on May 22nd.

District 4: Mike Heikes has given away over 1000 helmets this year already. He is currently giving 25 presentations this month to various organizations.

District 6: Dave Wogen has been helping the Wabasha high school design a vehicle for a super mileage contest. Durand, WI in Pepin County received funding for paving a trail and is planning a visitor center. An opening ceremony for the trail paving is planned for June 2nd.

District 7: Charles Thomas helped out at the Bike Expo. Charles also mentioned that Mankato submitted an application for a Safe Routes to School grant, but did not receive an award this round.

Metro: Mary Nelsestuen sent a letter to all the coordinators of the Safe Communities. She also has a copy of Enjoy the Ride: Essential Bicycling Skills if anyone is interested in borrowing it. Steve Sanders mentioned that the University of Minnesota would like the light rail to run under Washington Ave and add bike lanes to the street. Also, the University will be losing 1000 parking spots permanently and 3500 spots temporarily due to the stadium construction.

Dept. of Transportation: Mn/DOT will be hosting training for the Bicycle Design Guidelines in May. Darryl Anderson announced that the new Twins Stadium will have 2000 bike parking spots within 200 yards.

Dept. of Public Safety: Dawn Olson has received a new position. Her replacement on the committee will be announced in the coming months.

Federal Highway Administration: Congress created The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission in 2005 under Section 1909 of SAFETEA-LU. Since May 2006, the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission has met regularly to hear about the challenges facing America's surface

transportation network. Commissioners have heard testimony from national transportation advocates, policymakers, industry, labor, and from the general public in a series of Public Sessions in Washington, D.C.

On April 18-19, 2007, field hearings will be held in Minneapolis-St Paul, Minnesota to hear about issues and dynamics that affect America's transportation system. Further details and agenda for can be accessed at <http://www.transportationfortomorrow.org/>.

TCBC: Lisa Austin announced that TCBC has made donations to several bike related non-profits, including Parks and Trails Council, Transit for Livable Communities, the Gateway Trail Association, Midtown Greenway, League, Bolder Options, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance.

Metropolitan Council: James Andrew reported that the Metro Bikeways map is available on the Met Council website at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/transportation/Bikeways/index.htm>. The map includes existing and proposed bikeways. James also mentioned that the regional solicitation will be released at the end of May and applications will be due in July. The draft solicitation is available on website at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/transportation/regsolicit.htm>

Dept. of Admin: Bernie Steele announced that the Capitol complex has added 3 new buildings. The new Health building has seen a lot of visitors on bikes and some days there are not enough spaces available at the racks. The bicycle lockers are filled by employees.

Dero: Nick Mason presented a seminar at the Bicycle Expo on winter cycling and was the highest attended seminar. Nick also attended the Bicycle Friendly Community workshop in Rochester. He mentioned the extensive process involved to determine if your city is friendly. Nick also mentioned that Minneapolis is working on a transportation plan called Access Minneapolis, however not much is mentioned about the need to expand capacity and make downtown more friendly for bicycles. TLC submitted 4 pages of feedback on the plan.

Pollution Control Agency: Anna Kerr will be hosting a brown bag lunch presentation on commuting during Fitness Fever next week. Those who pledge to bike at least once this summer will receive safety vests. Anna also mentioned that the Living Green Expo will be focusing more on bicycling this year as will the Eco Experience at the State fair.

Parks and Trails Council: David Minge reported that the SBAC will be attending the Parks and Trails Council's meeting on May 15th to explain how the committee works. David is also planning a ride over Labor Day weekend in SW Minnesota. The ride will start at Lake Shetek.

Bike to Work Day/Commuting

A kit on bike commuting was given to the citizen members. The kit included the IL DVD, the bike commuting presentation, and teaching materials.

If you have any Bike to Work activities going on in your community, email Kurt Franke at kurtfranke@gmail.com.

Susan Koschak announced that Duluth will host Bike to Work day activities throughout the day. Activities will include bike rack demo on buses, and quick gear checks. Susan mentioned that bicycle enthusiasts plan to write letters to the editor from May 1-18 promoting bike to work day and reminding motorists to share the road with bicyclists.

Irene Weis announced that Park Rapids will host a Bike to Work week. One of the local teachers will lead a group of students on a ride. Park Rapids' motto will be Bike to Work, Bike for Health. This motto will target not only employees, but also retired citizens. In addition to the activities, two contests will be held for the most mileage and for frequency during the week. Park Rapids has also conducted a survey of barriers.

Minneapolis/St. Paul will host a Bike to Work day on May 18th. The festivities will begin at 6:30AM and are hosted by the Minneapolis and St. Paul TMOs. Nick Mason also announced that both mayors are riding to the festivities in their respective cities.

Bicycling Around Minnesota

Irene Weis reported on the planning activities of the Bicycling Around Minnesota ride. The ride will be held August 22-25 and begin and end in Park Rapids. The ride will stay overnight in Bemidji, Walker, and Wadena. Irene and Mary Nelsestuen are working on meals in those cities as breakfast every day and two dinners are included in the registration fee. There are currently 49 people signed up and the ride is limited to 150 riders this year.

Legislation

Michelle Natrop handed out a sheet of bills being proposed in the MN House and Senate pertaining to bicycles, pedestrians, and trails. Visit <http://www.leg.state.mn.us> to learn more about the bills being proposed. A final update will be given at the June meeting after the 85th Legislative session concludes.

Share the Road

The Share the Road campaign will be at a variety of events this summer. Mary Nelsestuen passed around a sign up sheet to volunteer to set up the banner at these events. New posters are also available that display the Share the Road poster and allow space to advertise events at the bottom. If you are interested in these posters, contact Bob Works at bob.works@dot.state.mn.us. The posters are also available in Spanish.

National Bike Summit

The National Bike Summit is hosted by the League of American Bicyclists every March in Washington D.C. Nick Mason, Irene Weis, and Michael Huber attended this year, along with 427 other bicycle enthusiasts from around the country. The first day of the

Summit includes a variety of workshops for participants. The lunch presentation included a motivational speech from the Mayor of Louisville, Kentucky and surprise guest speaker, Floyd Landis. At the end of the first day, advocate training is provided to prepare participants for meetings with their congressional and senate representatives. On the second day, eleven Minnesotan residents met with every congressional representative and both senators. The third day and final day of the Summit concluded with a discussion of marketing strategies on how to get people cycling who aren't. Shimano is launching a campaign called Coasting and is producing a new bike to make biking easier. Presentations from the Summit can be found at <http://www.bikeleague.org/conferences/summit07/summary.php>

Bicycle Leadership Forum

The State Bicycle Advisory Committee (SBAC), along with the University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) and Humphrey Institute State and Local Policy Program (SLPP), are hosting the Minnesota Bicycle Leadership Workshop: The Future of Bicycling in Minnesota. The workshop is scheduled for June 7, 2007, from 8:30am-3:00pm on the campus of St. John's University in Collegeville, MN, near St. Cloud.

The workshop will bring together representatives from bicycle-oriented citizen organizations and professionals from around the state to discuss the future of bicycling in Minnesota and consider establishing a common agenda. Topics will include identifying priority issues for bicycle users and professionals and mechanisms for establishing effective communication among stakeholders. An optional bicycle ride through Stearns County, along portions of the Lake Wobegon Trail and county roads, will conclude the day.

The workshop is limited to 75 participants and each organization is allowed one participants. A list of participating organizations will be sent out to the SBAC committee.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:02

Next meeting will be 3:00-6:00 June 14, 2007