

STATE NONMOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes: 4/09/2009

Thursday, April 9, 2009
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Present: Dan Breva, David Brierley, Paul Frenz, Mark Kinde, Anna Kerr, Mohammed Khan, Susan Koschak, Nick Mason, Tim Mitchell, Michelle Natrop, Dave Ohman, Randy Perkins, Jim Rosenow, Steve Sanders, Grant Scholen, Bernie Steele, Benita Warns, Mark Weber, Irene Weis, Kelly Wosika

Absent: James Andrew, Tom Engstrom, Gayle Junnila, Bill Morrissey, Jeannette Sample, Jenny Smith

Mn/DOT Bike/Ped section staff:

Lisa Austin
Mary Jackson

Call to Order

Call to order at 3:15

Agenda approved

Dave Ohman corrected the minutes to state that he is on the Detroit Lakes Park and Recreation Board. Mark Kinde made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Anna Kerr seconded. All were in favor and the minutes for February have been approved.

Ombudsman

Deb Ledvina is the newly appointed ombudsman. An ombudsman is an independent neutral official with the authority to investigate citizen complaints and to provide avenues of redress. The ombudsman reviews complaint received by citizens, cities, and counties to determine whether Mn/DOT's decision making may have been unreasonable, unfair, arbitrary or improper. This position was established to provide a way for the public to contact the Department of Transportation with transportation concerns and complaints.

Mn/DOT's Pedestrian Section Activities

Mary Jackson presented some of the trends and opportunities concerning pedestrians that the Mn/DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian section are seeing. One trend affecting pedestrian activities is an increase in elderly population. This population is walking more and many have disabilities. Another trend is the increase in the use of transit, and therefore an increase in the number of pedestrians along transit routes. There is the need for continual integration of Americans with Disabilities Act Standards to make all streets accessible. There is also the need to analyze shared use roadways and how to handle conflicts between different travel modes and differing abilities of those using those travel modes. There are several opportunities arising for pedestrians. There is a strong connection to the health community. Mn/DOT is leading a Complete Streets study to be completed in December. Minneapolis has just completed a pedestrian master plan. Universal design

groups are being designated for more projects, including the Stillwater Lift Bridge and the Lafayette bridge in St. Paul. The increased awareness of ADA standards ensures that bicycle/pedestrian facilities are designed correctly. Mary also noted that the Bike/Ped Tool Box Training will include ADA training. Roundabouts are also getting a second look at how pedestrians travel through them.

Walking for Health

Mark Kinde spoke about the risk and reality of pedestrian injury in Minnesota. Due to time, he gave a brief summary of the presentation which can be found at www.mnsbac.org/minutes. Pedestrian deaths in Minnesota are lower than the national rate, and pedestrian deaths are decreasing, however, there are still over 30 deaths and 950 injuries each year in Minnesota. Most of these fatalities and injuries occur at bar time, and during the morning commute and afternoon commute.

Bike to Work Day

Lisa Austin and David Brierley were wondering if there are any Bike to Work Day events planned around the state. Bike to Work Week is May 10-16, and May 14th is the official Bike to Work Day. If you know of any events going on, please email Lisa at lisa.austin@dot.state.mn.us and David at brierleydg@aol.com. If you are interested in hosting a Bike to Work Day event, the League of American Bicyclists www.bikeleague.org has a toolkit to help plan the event. Lisa also mentioned that Governor Pawlenty will be issuing a proclamation about Bike and Walk Safely to Work Week, and a press release is also going to be issued. Lisa also mentioned that the ABC Ramps will provide a free bike corral for 5 Twins games, including one on Bike to Work Day. Bikers will receive \$5 off select tickets.

Research Ideas

Lisa Austin will be submitting research ideas on behalf of the bicycle and pedestrian section. In the past, research has been conducted on crash analysis, and bike trail use, and Mn/DOT is currently funding a project on developing software that counts bicycles and pedestrians. Lisa said that one of the ideas for future studies is to research the effectiveness of the crosswalk law. Irene Weis suggested researching how placement affects the use of the trail. Nick Mason mentioned researching the economic benefit of biking in terms of tourism and industry. Benita Warns wondered what the effect of being named a Bike Friendly community had on biking and walking. If you have any ideas you would like to submit, send them to Lisa at lisa.austin@dot.state.mn.us.

Bicycle Summit

Nick Mason and seventeen others represented Minnesota at the ninth annual National Bike Summit. In total, there were over 580 bicycling advocates attending the summit held in Washington DC in March. Part of the summit includes meeting with senators and congressman representing your state, and Nick said they were able to meet with all of their representatives except for Congressman Kline. Nick mentioned that Copenhagen has a mode share of 36% and was aspiring for 50%. He suggested that Minnesota set a mode share goal. It was suggested that the executive committee work with Mn/DOT to

determine a goal. Benita Warns suggested that every city with a population over 50,000 be designated as a bike friendly community and that Minnesota aims to become the number one state for bicycling.

Round Robin

District 3: Jenny Smith reported that Mn/DOT is reconstructing Hwy 6/210 from Hwy 18 in Bay Lake Twp to Ironton. Jenny inquired with the District office to see if Share the Road signs would be included as part of the project. The project was not scoped to include the signs and therefore they will not be posted. Jenny felt that this is an important corridor for bicyclists and pedestrians, especially during the tourist season, that signage should be added to the project. Jenny also noted that the Traffic Skills 101 class will be taught in Brainerd on May 29th and May 30th.

District 6: Randy Perkins mentioned that the Ironman is April 26th. The ride begins in Lakeville and travels through Dakota county and Le Sueur county.

Metro: Benita Warns said that the Prior Ave project ranked 11th in the CIB funding. Since the project ranked well, funding for the project looks positive.

Jeannette Sample was unable to attend but wanted to inform the committee of the Twin Cities Greenways Initiative, www.tcgreenways.org. This is a grassroots project promoting the construction of greenway-quality trails to better connect the Twin Cities area. They are proposing several corridors to connect downtown with north Minneapolis, south Minneapolis, northeast Minneapolis and parts of St. Paul. The group is willing to present their organization and progress at an upcoming meeting.

Complete Streets: Irene Weis reported that the first technical advisory committee met.

Safe Routes to School: Kristie Billiar is the Safe Routes to School coordinator. Kristie reported that 105 applications were received in the 2009 solicitation, which ended in November 2008. The projects requested \$11.5 million. \$2.1 million was available this round which funded 25 projects around the state. The next solicitation has not been determined.

Economic Stimulus: Tim Mitchell said that the state will be receiving \$15 million for enhancement projects which include bicycling and walking. Half of this has been given to the Met Council.

Bicycle Club: Paul Frenz reminded the committee that Weekend on Wheels is July 31 – August 2 in Winona. He also mentioned that TCBC will be emphasizing safety to its members this year.

Metropolitan Planning Organization: Mohammed Khan announced that Rochester has adopted a Complete Streets policy and has conducted a downtown study.

DOT: Mary Jackson mentioned that the Bicycle and Pedestrian section will be represented at the Living Green Expo at the State Fair Grounds on May 1st and 2nd. Jim Rosenow noted that the new state highway map will have a panel on roundabout education for drivers. Jim also said he has a presentation on roundabouts.

Bike Industry: Nick Mason announced that Transit for Livable Communities has announced the grants for 2009. The awards totaling more than \$4 million include a bike share program, featuring 1,000 bikes located at 75 security kiosks throughout Minneapolis, and a first-of-its kind frequent bike rider program, powered by a radio frequency identity system (RFID), which will be installed in conjunction with the new University of Minnesota Bike Center.

Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota: The Traffic Skills 101 classes have been scheduled for the following locations and dates: Duluth on May 15th and 16th, Brainerd on May 29th and 30th, and Winona on July 31st. This class is a prerequisite to becoming a League Certified Instructor. If you are interested in registering for the class, please visit www.bikemn.org. The Bike Summit is also fast approaching. There is still room available if you would like to register. The Summit will be held April 25th, at 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Quality Bicycle Products, 6400 W. 105th Street, Bloomington, MN. To register, visit the Bicycle Alliance's website.

Membership Development: Susan Koschak suggested adding another subcommittee to focus on membership development. This subcommittee could potentially help with the recruitment of new members, interview questions, and developing a pre-interview packet. Also to help new members when they come onto the committee, Susan suggested pairing them with others for mentoring and introducing them to local Mn/DOT staff and other important contacts.

Subcommittees

The subcommittees met to discuss setting up meeting times before the June meeting.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:07

Next meetings will be:

June 4, 2009

September 18-19