



# STATE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Annual Newsletter  
2006



September 2006

## Reflections from the Chair

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The second annual newsletter of the State Bicycle Advisory Committee (SBAC) highlights activities and accomplishments of the SBAC for 2005-2006. Engaged and active committee members, the formation of subcommittees on priority topics, and increased interaction between committee members and Mn/DOT staff contributed to these accomplishments. I would like to thank members and staff for another successful year.

The committee continued to advise Mn/DOT on topics such as the Bicycle Design Guidelines, the new Safe Routes to School program and University of MN research projects related to bicycling. We've also continued and expanded the successful Share the Road program. We've initiated new programs and activities such as participation in the Bicycle Expo, our first District outreach session in District 2 and the BAM (Bicycling Around Minnesota) ride. These new programs have established themselves as worthy of future expansion because they've increased our visibility and fostered interactions with a greater statewide audience who have the ability to help us accomplish our mission, "To promote the acceptance and use of bicycling in Minnesota."

To learn more about the activities of the committee, please continue reading. Share the letter with other bicyclists and contact me if you have questions or comments.

Mary Nelsestuen, SBAC Chair

## Bicycling Around Minnesota

-Mary Nelsestuen, Metro Rep

The first annual BAM (Bicycling Around Minnesota) was held August 24th-26th and was a success based on personal observations during the ride and comments from riders during the three day event.



Thirty-one enthusiastic bicycle riders gathered in Park Rapids on Thursday, August 24 and headed out under a threatening sky and strong winds. The rain held off and despite the strong winds, riders enjoyed the day and three riders even added 7 miles to the planned route of 93 miles to completing their first century.

The riders included 9 SBAC members, one former SBAC member, several Mn/DOT employees, two Headwaters RDC employees and friends. Also, for 9 riders it was their first experience with a multiple day bicycle ride.

As with all rides, the group seemed to break out into about three groups based on how fast they rode but meals and evenings allowed for interactions between all riders regardless of riding speed.

Indications are that we'll do the ride again next year in the same area and the same time of year with the possibility of extended it to four days, so put it on your calendar for 2007. We look forward to seeing you next August.



## Share the Road Bicycle Safety Program

-Mary Nelsestuen, Metro Rep

### Building Motorist's Awareness

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Mary Nelsestuen and Bob Works made a presentation to the annual Minnesota Driver and Traffic Education Association (MDTEA) Conference in St. Cloud. They focused on the eight rules of the road with visuals depicting critical bicycle and motor vehicle interactions and requested on-going collaboration to help expand motorists' awareness of Share the Road.

### Ride/Conference Materials Distribution

Throughout the year a combination of over twenty organized bicycle rides, transportation conferences and fair events will have featured the Share the Road display banner accompanied by the program brochures, pocket cards, window clings and other collateral materials. Two of the organized rides, the Ironman Bike Ride and the St. Paul Classic, publicized Share the Road ads in their ride promotion mailers that reach a total of 35,000 people. In addition, Mn/DOT's Map & Manual Sales, are mailing Share the Road materials to the general public directly from the request form found on [www.sharetheroadmn.org](http://www.sharetheroadmn.org).

### MN Vehicle Registration Renewal Notices

By the end of September 2006, MN Driver & Vehicle Services will have mailed over 900,000 MN Registration Renewal Guides to motorists across the state with the Share the Road logo and all eight rules of the road prominently placed on the front page of this guide. Mary Nelsestuen championed this notice placement that positioned these key bicycle safety messages so effectively.

### Television Coverage

On July 6<sup>th</sup> KARE 11's "Whatever" show's film crew interviewed Bob Works about bicycle safety and filmed his use of the bicycle lanes in front of the Transportation Building. The show's producer, Dan Schuchman a bicycle commuter, wanted the "Share the Road" message to get out to their teenage target audience. The piece was aired on Saturday morning July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

This appearance led to an opportunity to present Share the Road information on KARE 11's "Showcase Minnesota" on July 11<sup>th</sup>. During the 4 1/2 minute live segment Corbin Seitz led the interview with Mary Nelsestuen by reading the eight rules of the road. In addition, Mary emphasized bicycling as an alternative transportation mode, that bicycles have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists, riding against traffic is illegal, sidewalk riding is more dangerous than road riding, and the importance of wearing a properly fitted helmet.

### Skyway Advertising

Mn/DOT purchased backlit panel ads featuring the Share the Road poster with a take-away brochure at five Minneapolis Skyway locations, three Rochester and two St. Paul locations. The extended coverage stretches the postings of these bicycle safety materials from mid-June through the end of September. It is important to note that a number of the ads are positioned near or adjacent to parking ramps to reach the motorist market.

### Future Emphasis Areas

Educational efforts will continue with the MDTEA to expand the ways in which Share the Road messages and materials are made available to current and future motor vehicle operators. It is hoped that a number of individuals will find an opportunity to work with this Association to further Share the Road messages.

The law enforcement community is especially critical to bicycle safety education and enforcement. Plans to write articles for various police publications in the state, making Share the Road materials available to individual police and sheriff departments, and having our campaign displays and hand-outs for upcoming law enforcement conferences and conventions are being discussed.



## League of American Bicyclists National Bike Summit 2006

-Nick Mason, Industry Rep

The 2006 National Bike Summit in Washington, D.C. was another great success. Over 375 participants turned out from across the country- a record for the summit. This has been the first time in more than five years that bike advocates had the opportunity to say "thank you" to their members of congress for completing the transportation bill. Last summer, Congress passed a transportation bill (SAFETEA-LU) that included great legislature for bicycling programs from Safe Routes to School to the Non-motorized pilot project.

Delegates from Minnesota visited nearly all of their district representatives as well as both Senate offices. These meetings provided some excellent results. General feedback was very good, but a few offices pledged to do more for bicycling in Minnesota. Congressman Jim Ramstad pledged to continue to fully support bicycling in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. Members from Congresswoman Betty McCollum's office were interested in pursuing bicycle accommodations in the renovations of the Union Depot in St. Paul. Summit attendees followed up with McCollum's district office staff, and together, they are working on that project. Senator Coleman's office showed interest in stepping up their support. Follow up with Senator Coleman later lead to the Senator's cosponsoring the Bicycle Commuter Act in the Senate. Please take the time to thank Senator Coleman for his leadership on this great program. As usual, Congressman Oberstar was extremely happy to see a strong turn-out from his district and state, sharing bicycle stories with attendees.

Overall, the 2006 National Bike Summit provided everyone with an opportunity to relax and enjoy time with each other as well as be proactive about future legislature for bicycles. We look forward to even more Minnesotans coming out next year to take part in this exciting and educational conference in our nation's capitol.

## Pro Walk/Pro Bike 2006

-Irene Weis, District 2 Rep

Pro Walk/Pro Bike was held September 5-8, 2006 in Madison, WI The fourteenth international symposium on walking and bicycling was held at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, a building complex designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The beautiful center overlooks Lake Monona, one of three lakes within the city limits of Madison. The walk/bike path follows the shore of Lake Monona, and is integrated with the convention center building, making for a lovely walk/ride. Madison's claim that it is a "city for bicyclists and pedestrians" is absolutely true.

Although, familiar with the City of Madison and the surrounding areas, I was a newcomer to the Pro Walk/Pro Bike conference. The theme, "Making Connections," was evident throughout the conference. The conference events included interesting ideas and relevant presentations backed up by credible evidence and expertise of people from all parts of the United States and Canada. The conference events included presentations on "Share the Road," "Safe Routes to School," "Complete Streets," and "Traffic Justice." Other topics included revealing information regarding the layout of intersections and how various configurations affect safety, along with information on various grants available for projects. Vigorous discussion and interaction from the audience followed the presentations. Whether biking, walking, or driving, we all need to get around our world safely and efficiently. This event made me aware of the connection we all have with our environment and to each other and how it can be made better and safer for everyone.

For more information on the conference, visit <http://www.bikewalk.org/conference.php>.

## First Annual Bicycle, Travel and Fitness Expo

-Anna Kerr, PCA Rep

March 4 and 5 marked the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bicycle, Travel and Fitness Expo held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The event consisted of exhibitors from bicycle vendors to wineries and everything in between; included in the event were an antique bicycle show, indoor test track, racing demonstrations and seminars related to bicycle and fitness topics across the board. The State Bicycle Advisory Committee participated in the event by presenting two seminars and staffing a booth. The two seminars, titled "Bicycling 101" and "Who Me? How to Commute by Bicycle," focused on providing attendees with information on safe bicycling practices, rules of the road, and equipment selection. The booth provided interested expo-goers with similar information, focusing on the "Share the Road" campaign.

This event was created by Michael Fredericks, publisher of *Minnesota Cyclist* magazine. Nearly 13,000 people attended the two day event and approximately 1300 individuals attended a seminar. Next year's Expo is scheduled for the first weekend in March and is sure to bring in another outstanding crowd. Organizers are looking forward to yet another successful kick off to the bicycling season in Minnesota.

## Safe Routes to School

-Kristie Billiar, Safe Routes to School Coordinator

**SAFE  
ROUTES  
TO**

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a new program in the federal transportation bill, SAFETEA –LU, designed to improve the conditions and quality of bicycling and walking to school. The goal of the program is to reverse the 30 year decline in the numbers of children walking to school and reintroduce opportunities for regular physical activity.

At present fewer than 15% of children K-8 walk or bike to school and nearly 50% of school aged children are regularly driven to school by their parents. Coinciding with the declining numbers of children walking and biking to school is an increase in childhood obesity and Type II diabetes. Using a multidisciplinary approach Safe Routes programs works with schools, students, and parents, at a grass roots level, to identify improvements that will make biking and walking to and from school a routine part of Minnesota's students' experience.

From May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 15<sup>th</sup>, nine SRTS workshops were held around the state and attended by 300 people representing cities, counties, schools and school districts. The purpose of the workshops was to introduce the Minnesota Safe Routes to School program and provide training on the application process.

The first SRTS solicitation process was completed on July 6, 2006. A total of 76 applications with requests totaling over \$7.8 million were received. The funding available in this first solicitation is \$1.4 million for infrastructure projects and \$250,000 for non-infrastructure projects. SRTS awards will be announced in September. For more information about the Safe Routes to School program visit <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/index.html> or contact Kristie Billiar, the SRTS coordinator at [kristie.billiar@dot.state.mn.us](mailto:kristie.billiar@dot.state.mn.us).



## District 2 Representative says good-bye

-Vic Olson, Former District 2 Rep



Vic Olson,  
Former District 2  
Representative and  
Vice-Chair

My six-year term on the SBAC has convinced me of one promising conclusion: There is a heck of a lot of people working in our state to promote and champion the recreational and commuter advantages of bicycling. And those people are doing a great job despite the overwhelming amount of work to be done.

It has been a pleasure to be a part of a process that promotes biking in our state, whether on streets, highways, or trails and work with people who share a passion for biking, whether for pure recreation, physical exercise or a means to get from here to there without burning fuel.

My hope and plan for the future is not to discard all that I have learned about biking accommodations, but to continue to promote bicycling in my community, and draw on the excellent resources of the SBAC and MN/DOT. My term ends, but the work goes on, and the joy of biking continues. Thanks!



### Meeting Schedule

- **10/12/06** Bi-monthly meeting—St. Paul
- **12/14/06** Bi-monthly meeting—St. Paul
- **3/2-3/3/07** Annual Planning Meeting — St. Paul
- **4/12/07** Bi-monthly meeting—St. Paul
- **6/14/07** Bi-monthly meeting—St. Paul
- **8/22-8/25/07** Bicycling Around Minnesota Ride

## Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program

-Lisa Austin, Bicycle Club Rep

The Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTP) was established as part of federal law in 2005. Under Section 1807 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), four communities were each given \$25 million to carry out this four-year program. The purpose of the NTP program is to increase trips made by walking and bicycling, decrease motor vehicle trips, decrease congestion and energy use, and promote better health and a cleaner environment.

Transit for Livable Communities (TLC), a non-profit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota, was identified to distribute the funds to implement the program in the Minneapolis area. TLC's program manager for walking and bicycling will manage the pilot program with guidance for project selection and other aspects of this program provided by a Bike-Walk Advisory Committee (B-WAC).

Consistent with the law (Section 1807, subsection a.), program funds slated for infrastructure, will be used to "establish a network .... including sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities that connect directly with transit stations, schools, residences, businesses, recreations areas, and other community activity centers.

TLC recognizes that building facilities is not enough to induce change in travel behavior. As part of the NTP program, TLC will conduct a variety of outreach and educational activities to be developed with consultation with the B-WAC. Additionally TLC will consider implementing a program of small competitive grants to encourage community participation, build public support, increase opportunities for positive media exposure, and promote awareness of program goals.

TLC and the B-WAC will work throughout 2006 to develop a project solicitation process, with projects selected for funding in early 2007. Proposals will be rated on their ability to induce a shift from driving to walking and bicycling.

## District 2 Outreach Session

-Vic Olson, Former District 2 Rep

The SBAC and MN/DOT brought together out-state Minnesotans seeking to accommodate bicycling as an integral part of a community's transportation and recreation planning. The event was held in Bemidji on June 7<sup>th</sup>. About 25 attendees, most of them government officials, attended the morning session that was presented by MN/DOT and DNR staff who spoke about the Bicycle and Pedestrian Tool Box, Safe Routes to Schools, Scenic Bikeways, Federal and State Recreation Trail Programs, and Transportation Enhancements.

Those attending indicated that much work was already being done to accommodate bicycling, but they desired more information, assistance and, obviously, funding sources.

Of the topics, Safe Routes to Schools was often mentioned since every community with a school and children has a desire to provide a safe route for children on bikes at a time when most schools are busing fewer children and studies indicate children need to exercise more.

The session was also intended to build an "information infrastructure" across a dozen counties so that those involved in bicycling issues have greater access to information sources and mutual support.

The SBAC intends to use the session as a "template" in other out-state districts.

## Transportation Choices: The Important Role of Walking and Biking

-Lisa Austin, Bicycle Club Rep

The 2006 Center for Transportation Studies "Oberstar Forum on Transportation Policy and Technology" was held at Coffman Memorial Union on the University of Minnesota Campus April 10-11. The 2006 theme was "Transportation Choices: The Important Role of Walking and Biking"

The Keynote speaker was the Mayor Bert hold Tillman of Münster, Germany. His mission is for Münster to be the most bicycle friendly city in the world. Nearly 40% of Münster's residents bike for transportation to work, school and for errands. In comparison, 3% of Minneapolis residents commute by bicycle.

A panel discussion followed with representatives from the four non-motorized transportation pilot program communities including Minneapolis, MN, Columbia, MO, Sheboygan County, WI and Marin County, CA. The federal transportation funding bill SAFETEA-LU, passed by Congress in July 2005, awards each community \$25 million for the four-year pilot program. Each of these communities is tasked with improving facilities and education to increase biking and walking over the course of the program.



Congressman Oberstar and Lisa Austin  
Photo by Nancy Johnson, Courtesy of CTS

Congressman Oberstar offered his vision of the possibilities non-motorized transportation brings communities across the United States. "American cities are experiencing tremendous growth and face enormous challenges. Non-motorized opportunities do not exist separately from other transportation options." Oberstar continued. "They are integral to an overall mobility system. Imagine a future in which most Americans live within a sensibly designed seamless network of sidewalks, trails, on-the-road bicycle facilities, and transit and rail that provides access to the majority of day-to-day destinations."

Congressman Oberstar enjoys bipartisan support for elevating the importance of bicycling in transportation laws and funding. In a show of appreciation, the Twin Cities Bicycling Club board awarded Congressman Oberstar one of the new club jerseys on June 4, 2006 in Baxter, MN at the Annual Ride with Congressman Oberstar event.

For more information on the CTS forum visit: [www.cts.umn.edu](http://www.cts.umn.edu) in the EVENTS section

For more information on the Minneapolis plans for the non-motorized pilot project visit: <http://www.tlcmnnesota.org/>

## Mn/DOT's Bicycle And Pedestrian Toolbox

-Mary Jackson, Mn/DOT Staff

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Toolbox, published by Mn/DOT, provides transportation planners, engineers, and citizens with information for planning and designing a bicycle and pedestrian network, pointing out the benefits of "active" transportation. The toolbox includes "bikeability" and "walkability" checklists to help identify how bike and walk friendly a community may be. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Toolbox is the result of Mn/DOT's Research Services Section who administers the research implementation grants.

The Toolbox is an evolving document, with new topics being added over time. Your feedback is welcomed! Mn/DOT just received funding for the next phase of the Toolbox. This next phase includes conducting training, creating an interactive web-based outreach, adding a

universal design module that provides information on designing for elderly, children, and those with disabilities, and creating a brochure highlighting bicycle/pedestrian design opportunities for business owners, land developers, and citizens active in the transportation planning process. This work will be completed this fiscal year, with training workshops tentatively scheduled for February or March.

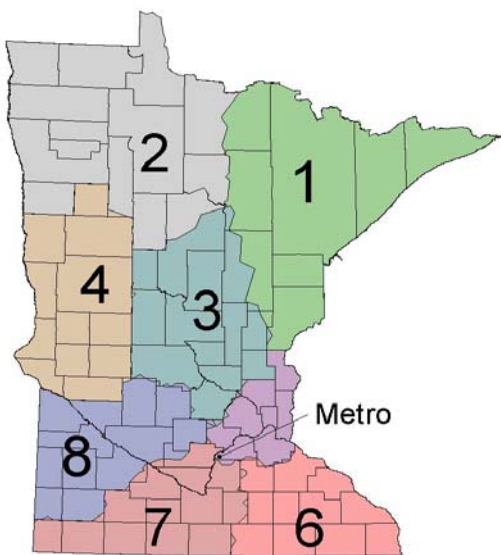
This is an opportunity to reach a wide audience with bike/ped design and planning information, and to respond to some of the most frequently asked questions from cities, counties, citizens. Note that we are revising the original Toolbox and will have it back online for use soon. Check [www.mndot.gov](http://www.mndot.gov) and click on the bike for a copy of the document in the near future.

## The SBAC says Goodbye and Welcome to Members

This year the committee said good-bye to Vic Olson, the District 2 Representative and vice chair, whose 6 year term has been completed. Irene Weis will represent the district. Daryl Arzdorf, the District 7 Representative, has also fulfilled his 6 year term and is now serving on the Multimodal committee for the city of Mankato. Charles Thomas will take over for Daryl. District 1 also said goodbye to its representative. Bill Blank served on the committee for 4 years, finishing the previously vacated term and completing one of his own. Susan Koschak will represent the Arrowhead region.

The committee will miss all of our members as they move onto new things.

We look forward to all of the opportunities our new members will bring to the committee.



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MINNESOTA STATE BICYCLE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Promoting bicycling and its acceptance in  
Minnesota*



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Appropriation law instituted the State Bicycle Advisory Committee in the mid 1980's to advise the Commissioner of Transportation and other state officials on issues pertaining to bicycle transportation in Minnesota. Over the ensuing years, it has operated under its own bylaws and with registration by the Secretary of State. The committee currently has 15 citizen members and 11 agency members and conducts 5 meetings per year. The executive committee and various short-term issue committees work on specific priority projects. The SBAC and Mn/DOT bike staff work to coordinate work plans and objectives.