

Minutes, Montpelier Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting – October 23, 2014, 8

Present: Per Tonn, Jon Budreski, Michael Philbrick of PD, Nancy Schulz, Hannah Reckhow, Bill Merrylees, Savannah Riddle of VT Health Department. Meeting began at 8:00 am

Additions to agenda, approve minutes, intros, assign note-taker

Nancy's addition: In light of the wonderful collaboration/cooperation between the Public Works Dept. and this committee on the task of restriping upper Main Street with wider shoulders after recent repaving, should the committee send a thank you letter to city and local press. Consensus was yes, Nancy will draft letter.

Infrastructure discussion of bigger long-term projects to Propose for Master Plan, Recommendations below:

Bike Master Plan long term project proposals from bike committee, 10/23/14 FINAL	
Barre Street (Greening Capitals)	Upcoming grant -specific planning process should include bike committee.
Barre Street/Sibley intersection	This is an important connection within city, most gradual uphill climb from river to College Street elevation. Remove parking in North side of Barre Street from Hubbard east, and install bike lane on each side. Widen existing sidewalk going up Sibley hill to accommodate bikes and walkers both. Consider three-way stop at this intersection.
Northfield Street hill/Prospect area	Public Works says this area needs a full dig and redo for storm water etc. When this job is undertaken, connect prospect to Northfield Street along the old right-of-way with a bike path. It will be two way until it merges into a shoulder bike path at the first crosswalk up the hill. From there uphill there should be a bike lane on each side to the city line.
State Street Bailey to Taylor	Remove car parking on north side and install a 2-way protected bike lane.
Elm street to city limit	This is highly used by cyclist and connects to important destinations. Consider widening the existing asphalt sidewalk and converting it into a protected two-way bike lane from river pocket park to the pool or even North Branch Nature center. Frequent curb cuts do exist, but they are all residential driveways, not prohibitive.
Trails paralleling Elm St.	1. Explore connecting to riverbank just past the condos near end of Franklin Street, and terracing off a trail just a few feet from river. Closer to Cummings an elevated boardwalk may be needed over wetland. 2. Urge the Park commission to open all North Branch Park trails to bikes.
Terrace Street	This is an important conduit into the city from Middlesex. Consider repaving and widening road to accommodate bike lane in each direction.
Dog River Road Park & Ride crossing RR to CV Path	This Lot is only 75% utilized on average according to the CVRPC. Bike Lockers would be appropriate for this location. A connector path should be considered directly across the road, downslope and over the RR track to the CV Path, a straight-line distance of ~20feet. Traversing ramp may be needed to manage elevation change.
National Life Drive intersection connecting to CV Path via RR crossing	A huge biking/walking travel hazard could be eliminated by extending a bike/ped connector from Memorial Drive just opposite National Life Drive to to the Central Vermont Path, by crossing RR and installing pavement markings through liquor control parking lot. Signals at the intersection should be upgraded, with a walk button to cross Memorial Drive and sensors that are sensitive to bikes.

Towne Hill from main Street to East Montpelier line	This road has significant bike commuter traffic in spite of the fact it is dangerously narrow with rough pavement. Repave & widening is needed, installing a bike lane in each direction. In the short term, bike related signage needed near England Farm where line of sight is poor.
School street, St Paul St.	One way circulation on these streets would free up space for bike lanes.
Granite St. Bridge	Add shared lane markings to travel lanes. We also recommended to use the Bicycles May Use Full Lane sign (R4-11) on either approach to the bridge.
Route 2 East	Route 2 is a major arterial. Bike commuters will likely continue to use it even after the CV Path east is constructed. Bike lanes were added to Rt. 2 from Berlin St hill east to Pioneer St. in 2009. 1) Pavement markings for these bike lanes have been worn off by traffic to the point that they are not recognizable. These markings need to be maintained on a regular basis. 2) In the future, consider removing the center turn lane just east of Pioneer St. in order to continue the bike lanes eastward to the roundabout. Very few curb cuts here. 3) Rt 302 from roundabout to Wayside restaurant should have bike lanes. This addition would complete the corridor's bike improvements, as Berlin is adding bike lanes with road diet from Wayside to Price Chopper.

Education/bike culture work group update

Park on the Perimeter: Second meeting held to brainstorm ways to incentivize the behavior of parking outside of downtown and walking, biking or bussing in. Deb Sachs of Go! Vermont described Capital Commuters program for state employees which gives merchant discounts to participants. We cannot expand this program beyond state employees, so we will try to create something similar for piloting in the spring. We have Montpelier Alive as partners. Next step: seek input from the Montpelier Business Association.

Pedestrian Committee's *Walk the Walk Week* summary: there were 145 people in total who participated in walks led by volunteers in the Pedestrian Committee's weeklong promotion earlier this month, and comments were very favorable. It was noted that they did a great job of publicizing series. Bill will explore the potential of more collaboration with them on the May *Walk & Roll Month* promotion.

Cross Vermont Trail fundraiser November 22@VCFA: To be held at Vermont college of Fine Arts Chapel beginning at 6:30 pm, this event will kick off the Build the Bridge Campaign, an effort to raise \$200K locally to leverage \$1 million in federal dollars to build multi-use path and bridge across Winooski River connecting the Montpelier Civic Center with points east- Plainfield, Marshfield, Groton & the Connecticut River. There will be guest speakers and a description of project followed by a showing of winter ski and snow bike movies. Light snacks, a beer garden and raffle will be featured. Admission \$20 adults, \$10. Public is urged to attend this fun community event.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 Respectfully submitted by Bill Merrylees