

Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting minutes
November 7, 2013

Attending: Bill Merrylees, Nancy Schulz, Jon Budreski, Steve Gladczuk, Per Tonn
Jessie Baker, Alex Prolman, Hannah Reckhow

Meeting started at 8:05

Review of goals, action steps, working groups

Ideas about a *two-way communication system* between residents and City:

- Very basic, feedback goes to one person who redirects it to the appropriate person
- Use technology to improve the system as we are able to

The committee discussed the website's potential role in this feedback system, and Jessie explained the progress on getting a new website that has better infrastructure for feedback. Nancy pointed out that improving communication requires there to be a well-advertised contact for concerns more so than there being a whole committee devoted to it. It was also decided that feedback may overlap with pedestrian concerns and John offered to reach out to pedestrian committee to coordinate this system with them.

Master Plan

Hannah and Sasha have expressed interest in working in this group.

Jessie: Gwen reached out to state funders, received feedback on RFP selection criteria, but we're able to move forward after those changes

Mike Philbrick will work on the police safety goals and action steps.

Education

Nancy and Bill expressed interest in this group

Bill has been in contact with Local Motion's Safe Streets Collaborative, which received a Governor's Highway Safety grant. They would be interested in meeting with the committee to discuss collaborating on future committee projects. (For example, a 50% match on materials for projects, stipend money for volunteers, etc.)

Nancy suggested that there should be an 'infrastructure' working group, of which the feedback group could be a part of. Jessie added that that would be helpful from the city's perspective for the bike path committee to join in there. The committee decided to combine infrastructure work, the master plan, and the feedback system into one group. Per and John will join infrastructure group with Bill, Sasha, and Hannah.

Encouragement (bike culture)

Alex and John expressed interest.

The committee discussed their perception of the current bike culture, noting that there was no letter to the editor after the bike path's big price tag was presented at the forum. Jessie added that while there was no negative feedback on the bike path, there is some negative feedback on 'bike friendly' measure in general.

Current Topics

Bike Friendly Community Event

The committee discussed feedback received about the announcement event for the city's bronze designation of a Bike Friendly Committee – that it came out of the blue, confusion at what it means.

Per described Anthony design ideas for Barre St. end of Main Street:

- Roundabout at 2 and 12 intersection, roundabout at Barre St intersection, roundabout at State and Main

- Barrier in center, can only turn right (use roundabouts)

- Leaves room for parking, opens up bike lane space

- Concerns: Railroad at Barre St? Gas station access at 2 and 12? Jessie pointed out that the proximity of two roundabouts could back up traffic and there may be engineering regs about unsignaled roundabouts

Sign location

The committed discussed putting up the Bike Friendly Community sign in the spring after State Street is done. It could be ceremonial and get in the paper, and be done when there is more visual evidence of the City's commitment.

What are the regs about where we can put it?

Nancy: who do we want to see the sign? The most people, even if by those in cars

Jessie: Montpelier Alive is doing wayfinding signs, perhaps a change to collaborate with them

Berlin Street

Nancy reported on her discussion with Tom McArdle about the Berlin Street bike lanes. The paving is not going to continue to shoulders (too expensive) and there is little that can be done about the cars parked over the lane. The committee discussed this miscommunication between 'bike friendly' and engineering regs, and Bill will contact Tom on the subject.

Jessie mentioned that she met with Public Works about what 'bike friendly' means, and that the committee could advocate for bike friendly items in prioritization process of the Capital Improvement Program committee 10 year funding plan. Jessie will share next meeting date with the committee.

Nancy offered to write a letter to the editor about what being a 'Bronze' Bicycle Friendly Community means.

Bill announced that the bike festival is definitely happening next year. Montpelier Alive is meeting 14th 1-2 pm to discuss it.

The agenda is open for future meetings, and committee members should offer up topics they think are important.

Meeting ended at 9:20