

Newark Bicycle Committee
August 20, 2009, 4:00-5:00 pm
Wilmington Area Planning Council

Minutes

In attendance

Rachel Anderson
Alan Coffey
Heather Dunigan
Mike Fortner
Steve Hegedus
Jeff Riegner
Lt. George Stanko
Frank Warnock

Not in attendance

Anthony Aglio
Bob Bennett
Mike Brown
Charlie Emerson
Cindy Genau
Jerry Kauffman
Willett Kempton
Drew Knab

Introductions

The meeting convened at 4:05 pm. Jeff Riegner welcomed the attendees and asked them to introduce themselves to the group.

Continuation of initial brainstorming discussions from June meeting

Heather Dunigan distributed copies of the draft 2002 Newark Bicycle Plan. She noted that the plan was never formally adopted. WILMAPCO's upcoming Newark multimodal transportation plan provides a good opportunity to update and formally adopt a bicycle plan. She agreed to update the maps to reflect projects that have been built or are in progress. The members agreed to review the draft plan and provide comments on recommendations that should be added, deleted, or modified.

Lt. Stanko talked about education, which he and Cindy Genau have discussed at length. There are many opportunities for improved bicycle education in Newark. One of the most important issues to be addressed is the education of English Language Institute students regarding local laws, customs, and equipment. Other education ideas discussed by the group include:

- partnership with ELI and/or Studio Green
- peer-to-peer education by and for UD students
- safety checkpoints (very well received in Sussex County)

Lt. Stanko noted that the Office of Highway Safety no longer has funds available to support the City's past fall bicycle enforcement efforts. Frank Warnock asked whether money could be made available for public service announcements and/or billboards. Lt. Stanko replied that funds, where available, are allocated based on crash statistics.

Frank said that a study in Cambridge, Massachusetts indicated that installation of good bicycle facilities increased compliance by 30 percent. He suggested that engineering issues such as pinch points, appropriate lane widths, and right turn lanes without bicycle accommodations be addressed.

Steve Hegedus suggested that the Committee address two broad goals: (1) safety for current riders and (2) encouragement of new riders, who often don't ride because they perceive bicycling as unsafe. He noted that the University of Delaware is pushing for reduced auto use over the next year as part of its climate change initiatives. Jeff Riegner agreed, and said that to evaluate whether we're successful with the second goal, we need to measure ridership now and after recommendations are implemented. Frank added that increased bicycling could have the secondary effect of meeting some of the City's other goals, such as reduced traffic and noise on Main Street.

Establishment of committee goals

Jeff recommended that establishment of committee goals be deferred until the next meeting so more members can participate. The attendees agreed. Jeff will solicit suggestions from all members prior to the next meeting.

Mike Fortner suggested that the Bicycle Friendly Communities criteria be used as potential goals for the study. Heather said that the next BFC applications are due in March. The benefits of this program are widespread recognition if Newark is successful, and good feedback about the next steps to take whether we're successful or not.

Regular meeting schedule

Jeff suggested maintaining the third Thursday of each month as a regular meeting schedule. All agreed.

Final membership list

The following individuals, through attendance at meetings, email responses, or recommendations of committee members, are current considered members of the Newark Bicycle Committee:

- Anthony Aglio
- Rachel Anderson
- Bob Bennett
- Mike Brown
- Alan Coffey
- Heather Dunigan
- Charlie Emerson
- Mike Fortner
- Cindy Genau
- Steve Hegedus
- Jerry Kauffman
- Willett Kempton
- Drew Knab
- Jeff Riegner
- Lt. George Stanko
- Frank Warnock

The following were recommended by the attendees as additional members:

- Rich LaPointe, City of Newark Public Works
- Jim Grimes, UD Police Department
- a representative from the UD Cycling Club

Jeff suggested and all agreed that this constitutes the full membership list.

New business

Frank asked whether a webpage could be set up for the committee. Heather will add committee information to WILMAPCO's Newark Bicycle Plan page.

Review of action items

- All members will provide comments on the recommendations of the 2002 draft plan.
- Jeff will email copies of the draft plan to members not in attendance and ask for their comments as well.
- Heather will update the maps from the draft plan to reflect changes in conditions.
- Heather will put committee information on the Newark Bicycle Plan webpage.
- Jeff will update the membership list and contact new members.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.