

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on October 6, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Ruff (C), Plath, Follendorf, Gisselman, Winters, Draheim (4:10 p.m. via teleconference)

Others Present: Pat Peckham, Brad Lenz, McKinley Lentz (Wausau EGL student), Dennis Helke (Wausau Wheelers), Dave Mack (County Planner), Dave Meuret (WI DOT)

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Welcome and introductions

Chairperson Ruff called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. and welcomed members. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Approve minutes of August 25, 2014 meeting

Winters motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on August 25, 2014. Plath seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Update on the bike rack request process with the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce

Ruff stated that Wausau East agreed to produce their kayak bike rack and Wausau West will redo a smaller version of their Wausau bike rack. Both schools are working on estimates for the racks and then a quantity can be determined.

Peckham added that his understanding was that Wausau West would like to know the quantity of racks in order to produce a quote and suggested requesting a quote for different quantities.

Ruff said that NTC also agreed to produce bike racks.

Peckham added that NTC is interested in creating original designs if needed.

Ruff displayed the survey that will be distributed to local businesses to request a bike rack. This could be distributed to the Chamber and/or the River District. This will help determine how many racks are needed.

Peckham said he had a concern about public dollars being used to place bike racks on private property and said it was discussed that the racks could be installed on the sidewalk adjacent to a building.

Follendorf suggested adding text to the survey that making a request does not guarantee a rack. Perhaps businesses could sponsor racks and have their name on the rack.

Mack suggested that businesses could also purchase a rack themselves.

Ruff stated that interested businesses could be given the option to have a rack placed on public right of way near their property, contribute a portion of the bike rack cost, or purchase the rack completely with their own funds.

Follendorf will coordinate with the Chamber and the River District to distribute the survey.

Peckham will request a quote from Wausau East. He'll request a quote from Wausau West for purchasing five racks and a quote for purchasing 10 racks. Peckham will ask NTC for some designs with pricing.

Presentation of bike/ped safety video transcripts

McKinley Lentz handed out pamphlets he created that explain bike safety. He is in contact with a fourth grade teacher in Merrill who will make sure the pamphlets are at a fourth grade reading level. He wanted to include topics such as riding on the wrong side of the road, using hand signals, and biking on the sidewalk. Lentz asked for feedback from the committee on the pamphlets.

Plath said he liked the text that bikes can't oppose traffic on one way streets.

Follendorf said she liked the graphics and suggested reducing the copy and enlarging the graphics.

Gisselman suggested adding information about using red and white lights now that it's getting dark earlier.

Follendorf recommended using graphics and visuals to explain sharrows.

Dennis Helke asked about adding the 45 second rule to the pamphlet. Meurett said the Bike Federation likely has information on this rule that is easy to understand.

Follendorf asked how Lentz chose making the pamphlets understandable for a fourth grader. Lentz explained that this age was when he and his friends started biking on their own without parents.

Follendorf asked if Lentz could email revisions to the committee before the next meeting. Lentz agreed and will email the changes.

Update on adding temporary bike racks to special event permits

Lenz stated that he spoke with the clerk's office since this department accepts the applications and they are working on other changes to this form. They will take this to the Public Health and Safety Committee so Lenz will send the proposed wording to the clerk's office. He will also check with the parks department to confirm adding this to the application and whether or not a fee should be added to use the temporary bike racks.

Discussion and possible recommendation on pedestrian accommodations near Athletic Park

Draheim explained that at the entrance to Athletic Park sidewalk curb ramps were missing at the intersection. He explained that this is a safety issue and he saw a woman in a wheelchair at Athletic Park that had to go down the street in traffic to find a ramp to access the sidewalk.

Lenz displayed a photo of the intersection and will discuss with the engineering department on how to proceed in order to remedy this.

Draheim motioned to add curb ramps at the intersection in front of Athletic Park. Winters seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Update on Thomas Street designs

Lenz stated that CISM forwarded a design to the Common Council. Council will vote on it next Tuesday. CISM recommended the design that includes three lanes west of 3rd Avenue to 17th Avenue, and a four lane section from 3rd Avenue to the east. Both sections are proposed to include a median and four foot bike lanes on the street.

Mack asked what the speed limit would be. Lenz said the proposed speed limit would remain 25 mph.

Mack asked how wide the sidewalk would be. Lenz stated the sidewalk would be five feet wide. There would be a six foot terrace, a 12 foot travel lane, with some extra space between the travel lane and the inside median for emergency vehicles. He handed out the design with the proposed widths.

Meurett asked if there would be mid-block pedestrian crossings. Lenz said they are not being proposed because the blocks are relatively short.

Plath asked if Kolbe & Kolbe had input on this design. Lenz said that Thomas Street is a truck route and a bus route and this is being considered.

Mack asked how turn lanes would be incorporated. Lenz explained there would be left turn lanes at most intersections. The two-way left turn lane (“twiddle”) is another option that the engineers and consultants do not feel is as desirable mainly because of pedestrian safety. An off-street multi-use path was also an idea that is not favored by staff or the consultants. Meurett agreed that this area is probably too urban for an off-street path.

Update on Grand Ave Project Completion and discussion of Community Ride

Dave Meurett said the pavement replacement project on Grand Avenue is completed and is expected to last 8-10 years. Then they will determine whether pavement needs to be replaced again or if a reconstruction is needed. The reconstruction would be very expensive and the city would need to contribute funding along with state and federal dollars. The major intersections at Sturgeon Eddy, Townline and Thomas Streets would also need to be updated to meet current standards.

Mack asked if the state was finished with this project.

Lenz said that engineering was informed that there may be some temporary lane closures to look at stormwater issues.

Mack confirmed that the DOT will not be having a media campaign explaining the bike sharrows. He'd like to organize some media coverage and plan an event to highlight these sharrows.

Plath asked if the bike shops were going to lead this. Ruff stated that the bike shops don't have the time to lead an event although they would be a part of it. He suggested involving the mayor in an event similar to the bike to work with the mayor where a group would ride the new section of Grand Avenue.

Helke asked if it's too late in the year to have a group ride on Grand Avenue. Ruff said he'd like to do it in October and it would be a short 10 minute ride but he would check with the mayor regarding his interest and schedule.

Meurett suggested the billboard by the fire department might be a good spot to highlight bike safety and

sharrows. Mack added this could be displayed again in spring.

Helke will invite the Wausau Wheelers and CWOCC groups.

Ruff would like to hold the ride during the work week during peak travel times to show that it is safe. Follendorf suggested having a morning bike ride on Grand, riding to the fire department, having coffee and donuts and unveiling the billboard.

Helke said a morning ride would be difficult for many workers. Ruff will check with the mayor.

Meurett asked if the CSO staff could join the ride and Ruff will look into that as well.

Future agenda items for consideration

Plath asked if a permanent speed sign could be placed on Northwestern Avenue like the one on Bridge Street.

Winters stated that would be handled by the Parking and Traffic Committee.

Adjourn

Ruff adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday, November 17, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.