

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on Monday, August 29, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Maple Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Ruff, Gisselman, Peckham, Plath, Schmidt.

Others Present: Ben Graham, Andrew Lynch, Brad Lenz.

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

Ruff called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. Everyone present introduced themselves and shared a story about bicycling this summer.

Approve minutes of June 27, 2016 meeting

Peckham moved to approve the minutes. Plath seconded. Motion to approve minutes carried 5-0.

Discuss HEAL Coalition Walk Audit Recommendations

Ruff shared recommendations presented last month from the HEAL Coalition. He said the recommendation for the Scott Street and 1st Street intersection was to align the ramps and crosswalk perpendicular to each other to make crossing safer. He said that intersection is currently under construction.

Peckham asked about the recommendation for a mirror on the River Edge Trail behind 210 River Drive. Discussion followed on where to forward this recommendation. Committee suggested taking it to the Park and Recreation committee.

Ruff said another major concern was the crossing of Washington Street, behind the library, which the committee has talked about before. He said Main Street was looking at doing a crosswalk mural at this location next year. Schmidt said the cars do not stop or even slow down there. Peckham asked about signalized devices for the crossing. The committee discussed various warning devices, such as the overhead signal on Grand Avenue by the police station, and the flashing stop on 28th Avenue. Schmidt asked how many people cross Washington Ave. Lynch said he has data from the new counters. Ruff said he would check with Field about the crosswalk painting. Discussion followed on the existing signs and other difficulties with the crossing. Peckham looked up flashing signs for pedestrians. Ruff said we should discuss this again with more background info and possibly make a recommendation. He said this was a major area of concern in the walk audits.

Discussion and possible recommendation for placement of decorative bicycle racks.

Lenz said the Chatterbox was still deciding which racks to go with – in-street and/or on the sidewalk. Plath said there are no racks on the 300 block of 3rd Street. Peckham said it would be good to add some on that block. Discussion followed on the cycle stall rack formerly on the 400 Block. Peckham said we should discuss this again in the spring. Lenz said the Parks Department is still determining their needs for the student designed racks.

Discuss reconstruction of 1st Avenue from Stewart Avenue to Thomas Street .

Lenz handed out the preliminary cross-sections for 1st Avenue. He said this street is in the MPO bike/ped plan, and is recommended for a road diet and full bike lanes. He said that is one of the options being proposed in the plans. He said the street is essentially divided in halves at West Street, where it becomes

narrow along the river. He said that Ayres will present these plans to CISM at their next meeting, but thought this committee should also see them. He said that all of the sections except letter “c” include a bike lane. He said north of West Street, either the parking, the bike lane, or a travel lane would have to go. Peckham asked if the traffic counts would warrant a road diet. Lynch said road diets can be done on streets less than 20,000. He said in this case, it’s a one-way but is well under that. Gisselman mentioned trucks from 3M in addition to cars. He also said some council members will want to retain parking. Peckham said he didn’t think two travel lanes would fit with everything else and it would be a better looking street with bike lanes and parking. Discussion followed. Peckham motioned to recommend the single-travel lane options (letters “e” and “f”). Plath seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Discuss citywide street and sidewalk areas of concern.

Peckham suggested looking at refinishing the decorative bike racks that have accumulated a little rust.

Gisselman asked about how this season has been for accidents. Graham said that he could look at the statistics.

Peckham asked if the city or county could push Schofield about allowing bikes to ride on Grand Ave.

Field asked about the sharrows on 3rd Street. Lenz said he’d check with engineering/DPW.

Lynch said that paint is rarely put back on streets when they’re repaved. He thought it should be discussed to include as part of projects.

Plath mentioned when streets are chip-sealed, the gravel is loose on the edges where no cars drive.

Future items for consideration.

Ruff summarized the items previously discussed: Grand Avenue, sharrows on 3rd Street, 1st Avenue report from CISM, bicycle crashes/report from CSO’s, HEAL recommendations for Washington Street, and repainting reconstructed streets.

Adjourn

Ruff adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.