

## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Time and Date: The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Maple Room of Wausau City Hall.

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

Others Present: Ben Graham, Andrew Lynch, Ken Haines, Brad Sippel, Nick O'Brien, 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.

### **Approve minutes of August 29, 2016 meeting**

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

### **CSO bike and pedestrian report for downtown Wausau**

Ruff said reports from Lt. Graham were included in the packet. Graham said he spoke with the Community Service Officers about the downtown area this summer. He said compliance in downtown was satisfactory compared to previous years. He said some of the issues of non-compliance had to do with awareness of the laws. Signs were not always visible and people did not know the rules regarding longboards. He said issues with pedestrians were rare.

Peckham asked about feedback from the business community. Field said skateboarding and bicycling continue to be an issue with some business owners, but it seems to have improved with the sidewalk stencils. Haines agreed that things were better overall.

### **2016 Crash History for Vehicle vs. Bicycle and Vehicle vs. Pedestrian**

Graham said the report is through September 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Historical data is included back to 2012. He said the average bicycle crash rate is 15 per year, and 9 per year for pedestrians. So far this year, there have been 8 bicycle crashes and 6 pedestrian crashes. This on pace to be a below-average to average year for crashes. He said there were no reports of serious injury or death this year. Graham showed a map of the location of the crashes and provided other details of the crashes. Discussion followed on how accidents are reported and how statistics are compiled.

Ruff said it was interesting that only one crash occurred on a roadway, which seems to confirm that the safest place for bikes to ride is in the street. Discussion followed.

### **Discussion and possible recommendation for crosswalk improvements on Washington Street**

Ruff said this crosswalk behind the Library was identified by the HEAL Coalition, and discussed at this committee last month. He said some different options were discussed, other than the current crosswalk and signs. He said cars do not stop for pedestrians waiting to cross, and there are a significant number of people using the River Edge Trail.

Plath asked if a solar-powered flashing sign would be possible. Ruff said that we should make a formal recommendation from this committee.

Haines said the whole intersection is perilous. He said cyclists used sidewalks and there are blind corners

and pinch points. Plath said the current construction adds to the problems. Haines said the sidewalk on Washington should be widened to accommodate bikes and pedestrians, and the driveways in and out of the parking lot behind the Library should be narrowed. Lynch said that counts recently taken show around 250 people per weekday use the River Edge trail behind 210 River Drive, and on the weekends around 400 people per day.

Ruff said we've discussed a flashing beacon. Lenz said the signs that are out there now are dated, and new ones, especially if they flash, would be more visible. Sippel said it would be better if they flashed automatically instead of being activated by a push-button. Haines noted the railroad tracks near the crosswalk and asked if cars know where they are supposed to stop. Gissleman asked if the crosswalk should be moved because of everything going on at the intersection. Discussion followed.

Peckham motioned to communicate with City Engineering the Bike/Ped Committee's concern over safety of the crossing, and request their expertise on recommended improvements. Plath seconded. Motioned carried, 7-0.

#### **Discussion and possible recommendation for bicycles on Grand Avenue south of Lake View Drive.**

Ruff said that this location is technically in the city of Schofield, but he has heard frustration from Wausau residents that they cannot ride on the same street once they hit the city line. Peckham said there has been sentiment for a discussion with Schofield on changing their law to allow bicycles on Grand Avenue. He wondered if that discussion might start with the MPO bike/ped committee. Peckham motioned to request the MPO bike/ped committee discuss with the city of Schofield the possibility of allowing bicycles on Grand Avenue south of Lake View Drive. Plath seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

#### **Discussion of ongoing bicycle and pedestrian projects.**

Lenz said the current Stewart Avenue project is behind schedule and will be pushing into November. He said a celebration ride may be too late in the year for some people to participate. Haines complained that bricks were piled up on the sidewalks on Scott Street making them impassable.

Gisselman said the recommendations from the committee for the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue reconstruction, Thomas to Stewart, went through the CISM committee.

Lenz said the branch manager of the credit union who was interested in a bike rack is no longer there so contact will need to be made with the new manager. Field said the temporary racks at DPW are too large to use at the Chatterbox. She will be in touch with the business owner and the City to discuss options.

Plath noticed the decorative racks on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street had already been picked up. Discussion followed on the seasonality of the racks.

Field asked about the sharrows on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Lenz said that Public Works is still aware of the request but did not know exactly when they would be installed.

Lenz said that for the pavement marking policy, we may want to look at best practices from other communities. Lynch suggested the pavement marking be tied closer to reconstruction projects. Peckham wondered about having guidelines for different types of streets. Lenz said that there are design guidelines available through NACTO. The committee questioned the current city policies for pavement markings.

**Discuss citywide street and sidewalk areas of concern.**

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Haines said that on the west side of the river, Eastbay is parking cars on the River Edge trail. There is also construction on Stewart Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The area is dangerous for bikes. Peckham said he was made aware of the parking issue and it appears Eastbay is in violation of their easement agreement. Peckham said he can follow up with the Parks Department and let them know this committee may discuss it again next month.

Plath said the “bike route ends” sign at 28<sup>th</sup> and Sherman should be taken down.

Sippel said there are a number of cars who don’t stop at the stop sign on McIndoe at 5<sup>th</sup> Street. He has almost been hit coming south on 5th a number of times. He also said people cross over the bike lane on 5<sup>th</sup> when turning right, and there are no signs telling people to yield to bikes. Gisselman said it’s different than a regular intersection so cars may be confused.

Follendorf asked why a lot of intersections on the southeast side do not have sidewalk ramps. Lynch said that they were built a long time ago and would need to become ADA compliant when reconstructed. Follendorf said that sidewalks are being reconstructed around the city and the ones that need ramps should be considered.

Haines said there is a manhole cover on the Bridge Street sidewalk near Pick N Save that sticks up an inch above the sidewalk. He said there is a lady in a wheelchair he sees that needs to navigate around it, so it should be fixed.

**Future items for consideration.**

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Peckham said he has heard concerns about people bicycling without lights, and we may want to talk about ways to increase the use of bicycle lights.

Haines asked if there is a schedule for connecting the River Edge trail on the west side. Ruff suggested speaking with the Parks Department.

**Adjourn**

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Ruff adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

**The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday, October 24, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.**