

**MINUTES**

**NORTH CAROLINA BICYCLE COMMITTEE  
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**January 13, 2010**

**Members Present**

**Jennifer Smith, Chair  
Hanna Cockburn  
Greg Loy  
Dan Mikkelson  
Claudia Nix  
Dennis Rash  
Julie Woosley**

**Staff Present**

**Tom Norman, Director DBPT**

**Guests Present**

**Doug Owen, Citizen Activist**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- November 12, 2010 minutes approved – motion by Loy; seconded by Nix. Passed unanimously.
- Motion “to award the North Carolina Safe Kids Coalition in the Department of Insurance, Injury Prevention Division, an amount not to exceed \$13,000 to implement their bicycle and pedestrian safety trailer program.” Motion by Cockburn, seconded by Loy. Passed unanimously.

## **DISCUSSIONS, REPORTS and PLANNING SESSION**

### **Welcome**

Committee Chair Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed the Committee members and staff.

### **Approval of November 12, 2010 Minutes**

Loy moved to approve the minutes; Nix seconded. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

### **Safe Kids Bicycle Safety Trailer Proposal**

Smith provided follow-up information based on the questions raised by the Committee at the last meeting. She provided a handout addressing these concerns, noting that the Safe Kids Coalition has a broad range of partners and has the capacity to deliver the program state-wide. Cockburn made a motion “to award the North Carolina Safe Kids Coalition in the Department of Insurance, Injury Prevention Division, an amount not to exceed \$13,000 to implement their bicycle and pedestrian safety trailer program.” The motion was seconded by Loy. Discussion followed regarding the process conditions for making the funds available. The Committee suggested the following items be included in the agreement: NCDOT DBPT graphics should be included on the trailer; the issue of liability should be addressed, assuring that NCDOT bears no responsibility for the trailer; and, that the waiver developed for the participants at the Safe Kids events where the trailer is used includes language excluding NCDOT and its affiliates from any liability should an injury occur. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Election of New Officers**

Norman conducted the election of new officers, as stipulated in the Committee by-laws. Smith nominated Cockburn for Chair; Nix seconded. She was elected unanimously. Rash nominated Nix for Vice-Chair; Loy seconded. She was elected unanimously. Smith expressed her enjoyment of her service as Chair over the past two years. As stipulated in the by-laws, she conducted the remainder of the meeting. Cockburn will assume the responsibilities of Chair at the close of the meeting.

## Revised Committee Goals

Smith provided a hand-out of the discussion of goals from the previous meeting.

Recommended changes that were discussed are shown in italics as follows:

Goal 1: Improve bicycle planning and encourage multi-modal planning across the state

1. Expand and evaluate the Planning Grant Program – *Mikkelson recommended removing this objective. Loy observed that three tools are needed: the existing planning template, a template for small communities, and an assessment tool for improving small areas.*
2. Develop a process to meet the planning needs of small communities – *this becomes Objective 1 and is re-worded to say: “Develop a process to support small area plans and to assess known problem areas.”*
3. Support planning resources development by advocating for additional future funds – *Rash recommending deleting this goal in light of the current economic conditions in both the public and private sectors. A new #3 should be substitutes stating, “Support regional planning efforts.”*
4. Mainstream bicycle planning through coordination and integration into all transportation planning processes – *add “and integration with MPOs and RPOs.*
5. *Champion the implementation of the NCDOT Complete Streets Policy throughout the state.*

Due to the length of the discussion, it was decided that Cockburn will prepare draft goals and objectives based on the discussions at the November 2009 and January 2010 meetings and circulate those to the Committee for comment. The goals will be sent to Deputy Secretary Jim Westmoreland once adopted. The goals will be added to the Committee brochure, replacing the milestones currently shown.

## Share the Road Messages / Awareness Survey

Cockburn read a list of message ideas developed last year. Smith noted that there is a need to target the entire cycling community, including recreational cyclists and families. Mikkelson observed that pack riders are a frequent complaint of motorists, but that did not show up as a top concern in the survey. He added that the message needs to focus on the higher level findings, offering as an example the finding that while motorists don't know the laws, they are willing to share the road. He also noted that the general public is most concerned about cyclists not being predictable. Cockburn stated that from the cyclist's perspective, aggressive driving and passing too closely are the most important concerns. Mikkelson added that bicyclists riding the wrong way was also ranked high in the survey. Nix observed that people don't know what it means to be predictable.

Cockburn brought up bike month and Smith asked whether or not the DBPT graphic designer could produce another poster as she did last year. Rash suggested the theme of “Be Safe, Be Predictable” that targets both motorists and cyclists with a series of images showing safe and predictable behavior. The statement, “Get the Picture?” would be added at the bottom of the poster. The images could convey the following safe and predictable behaviors:

- Ride on the right
- Look before you move
- Obey traffic signals
- Be courteous to other road users
- Be aware / be focused
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### **Overview of the lake Norman Regional Bike Plan**

Norman provided an overview of the project, noting that it is an implementation plan that will be used by local and regional governments to take advantage of opportunities to build out the system, including TIP projects, stimulus funds, CMAQ funds, developer requirements, resurfacing projects, etc.

### **Complete Streets Update**

Norman reported that the Complete Streets Advisory Committee will review proposals from consulting firms wishing to provide support services for the development of the Complete Streets guidelines and will develop a short list of consultants to interview, by the end of January.

### **Candidate TIP Projects List**

Norman reported receiving more than 600 requests from 35-37 organizations for bicycle and pedestrian transportation improvements, totaling \$300-\$400 million. DBPT is tasked with evaluating and prioritizing these requests. DBPT contacted the MPOs and RPOs, asking them to submit their top five bicycle projects and top five pedestrian projects in rank order. Norman described the selection process, noting that equitable distribution and cost-benefit were important factors that were considered. The initial list was narrowed down to 159 projects to be accomplished over a five year period; thirty-two projects per year. Current funding allocations will have to be increased to meet this schedule.

### **Project / Program Updates**

Staff provided updates on the following projects:

- A General Assembly member forwarded a request, with his support, from a local developer to undertake bicycle **improvements along roadways from Chapel Hill to RTP**. The developer is willing to fund the improvements.

- Norman inspected the new section of the **Concord greenway system**.

### **Committee Activity Reports**

The Bicycle Committee members send in their activities via email for inclusion in the minutes.

#### **Jennifer Smith**

- On December 4, 2009 Greenville dedicated the first phase of the South Tar River Greenway. The trail eventually will connect the Town Common with Green Springs Park.
- Greenville City Council has approved the formation of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission. They are now recruiting for nominees to be considered for an appointment.
- The RFP has been sent by the Greenville Urban MPO to develop a Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan.
- J. Smith is making injury prevention outreach visits to emergency departments at regional hospitals in the East. She is including bicycle safety materials and posters in packets for the staff.

#### **Hanna Cockburn**

- A new bicycle club has formed in Burlington
- Phase II of the Bicentennial Greenway in Greensboro is underway
- A Get Healthy Guilford alternative transportation forum will be held in march

#### **Greg Loy**

- SRTS – Attended design meetings for new facility along W. 1<sup>st</sup> St in Kill Devil Hills
- Notified responsible parties about a highway drainage grate at the terminus of a bicycle facility in Kitty Hawk
- Compiled preliminary stakeholders group for pedestrian plan
- Distributed bicycle safety posters

#### **Dan Mikkelson**

- Seeking ARRA funding for a Grants Creek Greenway, phase 2

#### **Claudia Nix**

- Attended the Alliance for Biking & Walking training on Winning Campaigns in Richmond, Va.
- On the Transit Master Plan steering committee and we have been meeting to help determine how to implement the master plan.

- Attended the Buncombe County Greenway Commission meetings; working on identifying property owners who will give easements to continue the greenway.
- Attended a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to discuss concerns about lowering the Fee in LEU charges.
- Participated in bike lane cleanup
- An exciting project is happening in
- Asheville Care Partners will be doing a Community Health Assessment; and several of the organizations I am involved in will be involved.
- Meeting with new city council members and emailing older ones about developing a Complete Streets Policy for Asheville. I have also been talking with planners in our MPO to get a feeling from them about pushing for a policy for the whole MPO.
- Asheville on Bikes had a family ride in downtown Asheville called the “Bright Light Biker” to promote safe night time riding. We had around 30 participants.
- Hosted a Polar Bear trail cleanup after so many trails were cluttered with downed trees from the snow, sleet and wind storms.
- Met with a college student intern from the UNC-A Health Education program who will help implement the Driver’s Education program in the Asheville and Buncombe County high schools as an intern project.
- Writing articles on bicycle and pedestrian safety and how to drive around them for the Buncombe County Ezine, through Healthy Buncombe.

#### **Dennis Rash**

- Continued work with Parks and Recreation staff on Mallard Creek Greenway
- Worked with Charlotte City Council on ways to connect parks not on greenway system

#### **Julie Woosley**

- Was elected chair of the Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
- Raleigh has funded a bicycle and pedestrian coordinator position

### **High Country Bicycle Needs Presentation**

Doug Owen, a bicycle shop owner and former racing coach from the Beech Mountain area came to make a presentation to the Committee on the perceived bicycle needs of the High Country Area. His goal is to protect cyclists and make cycling safer. He specifically wanted to know how to get Share the Road signs installed along certain segments of roadways to foster more cooperation between motorists and bicyclists. Norman explained the process, guiding him to coordinate with the county and RPO planners.

### **March Meeting**

Due to some schedule conflicts, an alternate meeting date was discussed; however the regular meeting date worked best for the most Committee members. The next meeting will be on March 10, 2010

### **Other Business**

The Committee and staff discussed the pros and cons of a roadway design that would offset the center stripe to one side to give cyclists more space on the uphill side of a road. It was observed that this treatment can create other problems. No action was taken.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.