

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the  
NORTH CAROLINA BICYCLE COMMITTEE  
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

April 08, 2009

**Members Present**

Jennifer Smith, Chair  
Hanna Cockburn, Vice-Chair  
Greg Loy  
Claudia Nix  
Dennis Rash  
Julie Woosley

**Members Absent**

Dan Mikkelson

**Staff Present**

Tom Norman

**Guest**

Jim Westmoreland, NCDOT Deputy Secretary for Transit  
Mary Meletiou, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, ITRE

**ACTION ITEMS**

- February 11, 2009 minutes approved as corrected – motioned by Rash; seconded by Cockburn. Passed unanimously.
- Election of Officers – Loy nominated Jennifer Smith for a second term as Chair; Nix seconded. Smith nominated Cockburn for a second term as Vice-Chair; Nix seconded. Both were unanimously elected.
- Motion to accept the two poster designs developed by DBPT to promote sharing the road – motioned by Loy; seconded by Rash.
- 2009 Ride of Silence Resolution – Loy moved that the Committee endorse a Ride of Silence Resolution for 2009; Cockburn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion that the Committee approve and send the letter supporting Greensboro as the location for the Bicycle Hall of Fame – Loy moved; Rash seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSIONS, REPORTS and PLANNING SESSION**

**Welcome**

Committee Chair Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed Jim Westmoreland, Deputy Secretary for Transit; Julie Woosley, the new Bicycle Committee member representing Divisions 5 and 6; the other Committee members; and, staff.

## **Approval of February 11, 2009 Minutes**

Rash moved to approve the minutes; Cockburn seconded. The minutes were adopted unanimously, as modified by the addition of Cockburn's activity report.

## **Discussion with Deputy Secretary for Transit Jim Westmoreland**

The Committee members introduced themselves to the new Deputy Secretary, providing a brief overview of their professional and personal endeavors to promote bicycle planning, safety and the development of bicycle facilities in their regions. Deputy Secretary Westmoreland provided an overview of his career and his long-time involvement with improving conditions for bicycling and walking. He was most recently the Assistant City Manager for Greensboro and prior to that the Transportation Director for the City. In addition, he was a Category 3 bicycle racer and still bikes regularly.

Deputy Secretary Westmoreland spoke at length about his vision for elevating the way in which NCDOT accommodates bicycling and walking as transportation modes and the need to change the mind set from just expanding highway capacity to meeting the needs of all modes. He stated that policy, programming and resource usage can make a big difference in the build-out of connected systems for bicycle and pedestrian transportation. He noted that the focus has changed in recent years from bicycling being a transportation mode that was undervalued to something that is important. He believes in taking a creative approach to funding opportunities and feels that the benefits of the expenditures are worthwhile. He also noted that there needs to be greater cyclist adherence to the laws and that cyclists are often perceived as scoff-laws, which is detrimental to the image as a transportation mode.

Deputy Secretary Westmoreland thanked the Committee members for the service they provide and stated his interest in working together to improve conditions.

## **Committee Appointments**

Norman reported that Hanna Cockburn, Greg Loy and Claudia Nix had been reappointed to the Committee and that Julie Woosley had been appointed to fill the vacant seat representing Divisions 5 and 6.

## **Election of Officers**

Loy nominated Jennifer Smith for a second term as Chair; Nix seconded. Smith nominated Cockburn for a second term as Vice-Chair; Nix seconded. Both were unanimously elected.

## **Recognizing May as Bike Month**

The Committee discussed the two Share the Road poster concepts developed by Madeline Howell, the DBPT graphic designer and unanimously accepted both for use in their awareness campaign through a motion made by Loy and seconded by Rash. Distribution of the posters was discussed.

The Committee also discussed the annual Ride of Silence event that takes place in cities across the country to remember the cyclists that have been killed while riding. Loy moved that the Committee endorse a Ride of Silence Resolution for 2009; Cockburn seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Staff will work with the NCDOT Communications Office to develop and distribute the resolution. May 20<sup>th</sup> is the date for the rides.

Cockburn provided an update on her efforts to develop a bicycle safety video competition through YouTube.

## **Resolution of Support for Greensboro to Be the Site for the Bicycle Hall of Fame**

Cockburn reported that Davis, California and Greensboro, NC are finalists for the location of the Bicycle Hall of Fame. She asked the Committee to provide a letter of support for the City of Greensboro and provided a draft letter for consideration. Loy made a motion that the Committee approve and send the letter along with a Committee brochure; Rash seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Project / Program Updates**

Staff provided updates on the following projects:

- Norman reported on the development of the master plan for the Johnston County section of the Mountains to Sea Trail East. DBPT completed the preliminary engineering study. DENR has interest in creating a linear park along the trail.
- Norman reported on the work of the Complete Streets Task Force. The draft policy is 80% complete. The goal is to enact the policy; the challenge will be to develop the guidelines.

## **Committee Activity Reports**

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

### **Jennifer Smith**

- The City of Greenville decided to withdraw the Bicycle Planning Grant Proposal they submitted. They will be working with the MPO to update the Bicycle Master Plan.
- The Eastern Carolina Velo Club sponsored the 5th annual Criterium Races on March 28th and 29th. Safe Communities assisted in sponsoring a Kid's Ride in which about 40 children and youth participated.
- There has been a recent bicycle fatality involving an ECU bus. Law enforcement reports 44 bicycle related crashes in the past year.

### **Hanna Cockburn**

- Working on the YouTube contest for Safe Routes to School messages.
- Working on a 12 county greenway plan with the state trails program (PTCOG project).
- Is nominating the NCDOT planning program for an APA award.
- Distributed bike education materials at the Hoops to Hearts event on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Working with Baptist Children's Home Cycling Team to arrange education and training.
- Working with NC law enforcement officers to help plan their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual bike ride from Charlotte to Washington, DC.
- Distributed bike/ped material at the Division 9 Health Fair.
- Involved in Greensboro Bike to Work Week events.
- Promoting the selection of Greensboro as location for the Bicycle Hall of Fame.

### **Greg Loy**

- Communicated with local proponents of the Hatteras Island Bicycle Project.

- Involved in discussions on the Kitty Hawk Bay Bike Path.
- Participated in NCDOT Project management Workshop; reviewed manual.
- Discussed economic impact of bicycle events during a local economy visioning workshop.

### **Dan Mikkelson**

(No activities submitted)

### **Dennis Rash**

- Attended Lake Norman Regional Bike Plan meetings.
- Continued involvement with issue of bike lanes on NC 73
- Charlotte continuing Park Master Plans.

### **Claudia Nix**

- Working with Healthy Buncombe to initiate a children's bicycle education program and will be holding 5 bicycle rodeos this spring. We have purchased all our equipment including 20 bikes and helmets for the program and trained 20 volunteers with another 20 lined up to assist.
- Blue Ridge Bicycle Club has created a committee to step up their advocacy efforts. They have committed to working with Healthy Buncombe's children's bicycle training program and are helping with hosting the Mayor's Bike Ride to showcase the bike facilities in the city to public officials. They have committed \$2,000.00 to help match the planning process for the greenway to connect the Point Lookout Trail to the Asheville Wilma Dykeman Trail system to connect depot to depot to depot. The local MPO has committed to this process and we are hoping to begin selection for consultants so they can be chosen and begin work by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Attended a meeting in Hendersonville to assist a group working on turning an old RR into a greenway that would connect Hendersonville to Brevard.
- Attended several meetings with the Woodfin community, which is building up momentum on developing a greenway through their community.
- Attended the National Bike Summit with over 500 attendees. The twelve participants from NC met with our legislators. USDOT Transportation Secretary Roy LaHood spoke with us and mentioned he supports bicycling needs. A bill on Complete Streets was introduced which we were asking legislators to back.
- Taught a bicycle class for new riders who are participating in a Tri program at the YWCA.

### **Julie Woosley**

- Organizing Smart Commute Challenge for Triangle area.
- Involved in Bike to Work Week events in the Raleigh area.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. Rash moved; Loy seconded.

***Committee goals are attached to every set of minutes and are listed below.***

## **2009 Bicycle Committee Goals**

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

1. Expand and evaluate the Planning Grant Program
2. Develop a process to meet the planning needs of small communities
3. Support planning resources development by advocating for additional future funds
4. Mainstream bicycle planning through coordination and integration into all transportation planning processes

**Goal 2:** Improve Committee communication with constituents, Board of Transportation and DOT management

1. Engage advocacy groups and local and regional government agencies
2. Foster working relationship with Division Engineers, MPOs and RPOs
3. Advocate with Board of Transportation members and members of the NCDOT Transformation team
4. Develop presentation materials and seek opportunities to present at conferences and workshops
5. Develop interface with health community and economic development community; support and interface with Healthy Environment Community Initiative

**Goal 3:** Initiate a comprehensive bicycle/motor vehicle (“Share the Road”) awareness and education campaign

1. Conduct attitude survey
2. Develop a multi-year business plan and secure funding
3. Engage partners and resources to implement plan
4. Measure effectiveness