

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

May 14, 2008

Conference Call

Members Present

Jennifer Smith, Chair
Hanna Cockburn
Greg Loy
Dan Mikkelson
Dennis Rash

Members Absent

Claudia Nix
Pete Schubert

Staff Present

Tom Norman

Guest

Victor Barbour, NCDOT Transformation Initiative Work Stream Leader
Mary Meletiou, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, ITRE

ACTION ITEMS

- March 12, 2008 minutes approved, as corrected – motion by Loy; seconded by Smith.
- Adoption of Ride of Silence Resolution – motion by Mikkelson; seconded by Rash.
- Adoption of Committee Goals for 2008 – motion by Rash; seconded by Cockburn.

DISCUSSIONS, REPORTS and PLANNING SESSION

Welcome

Chair Jennifer Smith welcomed the Committee and staff.

Approval of March 12, 2008 Minutes

Loy proposed an amendment to the minutes. The minutes were adopted unanimously, as amended with a motion by Loy and a second by Smith.

Ride of Silence Resolution

Minor modifications to Mikkelson's draft resolution were discussed and incorporated into the resolution (attached). Mikkelson moved to adopt the resolution as modified; Rash seconded. Loy

recommended that the Committee be more proactive in 2009 in encouraging communities to sponsor a Ride of Silence. Norman will check on the possibility of a press release from the NCDOT Communications Office.

Discussion of NCDOT Transformation

Norman introduced Victor Barbour who is a member of the NCDOT Transformation Team, leading the Transportation Planning workstream. Barbour presented an overview of his team's efforts. His group recognizes that as the state continues to grow, there needs to be more of a focus on multi-modal planning. He also stated that transportation planning needs to complement land use planning. However, he noted that plans must match available funds.

The Committee asked Barbour how they could have input into the process. Barbour stated that the team has a member from the Rail Division who will represent all non-highway modes. Barbour also stated that he is planning a long meeting with Norman to better understand the business unit's planning efforts and needs. Norman and Committee members described the DBPT Planning Grant Initiative to Barbour, noting that it provides a good model for other initiatives.

The Committee decided to send a letter from the Chair to Barbour, thanking him for his presentation and highlighting the key points of concern. (The letter is attached).

The Committee also discussed their April 30, 2008 meeting with the Board of Transportation Members. The presentation by Victor Barbour was a direct result of that meeting. The Committee promoted better coordination and communication with local communities to more efficiently leverage local resources and more effectively identify and meet local needs, to develop strong working relationships between NCDOT staff and local stakeholders, and more effectively promote multi-modal transportation in all communities.

Discussion of April 30, 2008 Meeting with Board of Transportation Members

The discussion of the meeting was incorporated into the NCDOT Transformation discussion (see above).

Discussion of Committee Goals for 2008

Discussion of the 2008 Goals took place at the March 2008 meeting. The 2008 revised Bicycle Committee Goals are shown below. Rash made a motion to adopt the goals, as amended; Cockburn seconded.

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

Project/Program Updates

Attitude Survey – the bid opening for the execution of the attitude survey was conducted at the meeting. Ten vendors bid on the project. The Purchasing Unit and DBPT will review the proposals with the help of Doug Cox, NCDOT Survey Specialist and Mary Meletiou, project manager to select the vendor. The survey will get underway as soon as possible.

Committee Activity Updates

Committee members provided an overview of local activities and initiatives in which they have been involved since the last meeting. A summary, as reported by Committee members via email, follows.

Jennifer Smith

- Greenville City Council has passed a motion to develop a Bicycle Friendly Task Force. This will include representatives from each district as well others with an interest in increasing bicycle access in our community.
- Greenville Mayor Pat Dunn signed a proclamation recognizing May as Bicycle Safety Month.
- Greenville and the Eastern Carolina Velo Club hosted a Criterium in March.
- The Cape Fear Cyclists are sponsoring the 2008 North Carolina Blueberry Festival Criterium Friday, June 20, 2008. The races are a part of the NC Blueberry Festival in Burgaw.

Hanna Cockburn

No items submitted

Greg Loy

- Worked with Town Engineer/Public Services on a Multi Use Trail construction project to ensure compliance with plans and minimum ASHTO standards
- Attended Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group Meeting and reported activities of the Subcommittee on School Site Selection
- Participated in a newspaper interview about bicycle improvements and plans in and around the Outer Banks

Dan Mikkelson

- Completed first review of Salisbury Draft Comprehensive Bicycle Plan
- Attended the “Out like a Lion” bicycle races at City Park
- Attended April 30 meeting with BOT members
- Drafted Ride of Silence Resolution

Claudia Nix

- Attended regular committee meetings with the MPO, healthy buncombe and Blue Ridge Bicycle Club.
- Met with Alan Thornburg, BOT member, to discuss concerns about inclusion and delivery of bicycle facilities in TIP highway and bridge projects
- Met with the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club to help in their effort to become more effective advocates
- Attended the scheduled MPO meetings, Healthy Buncombe and Bike/Pedestrian meetings.
- We had a very successful “Strive Not to Drive” event. We had over 30 participants in our Mayor’s Ride. Everyone signed a pledge to work toward improving bike facilities in Asheville. Our last event of the week was awarding the Golden Spoke, Golden Sneaker & Golden Wheel (for using transit) Awards at the Downtown After 5 Concert which is put on by the Downtown Association.
- UNC-A just purchased 6 commuting bicycles that students can borrow for errands and getting around Asheville
- Met with the Principal of Black Mtn. Elementary School to help set up their walk to school day this May before school lets out.
- 50 children participated in the rodeo for the Earth Day Celebration in Biltmore Village, sponsored by the Healthy Buncombe Committee.
- Working on getting our local bicycle suitability map reprinted. The BRBC has agreed to pay about half the cost of this printing.
- We are finishing a successful “commuter club lunch sessions” where we talk about how to commute to work by bicycle, how to purchase a bike, and answer what other questions.
- Attended the County Commissioner’s meeting at which the findings of the Greenways plan were discussed. The Commissioners agreed to accept the plan and hire two positions - a coordinator and fund raiser.
- Taught a session of Erwin Middle School’s Driver Education class where we talked about the rules as they apply to bicyclists and pedestrians, about the responsibility of the auto driver to be looking out for bicyclists and pedestrians and the impact of speed.
- The local SORBA, BRBC club officers & WNC Bicycle Dealers Assoc. officers met to determine how they would work together on trail maps.

Dennis Rash

- No items submitted

Pete Schubert

- No items submitted

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00. The next meeting will be on July 16, 2008.

Bicycle Committee 2007 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 more funds and staff capacity
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

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