

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

May 13, 2009

**Members Present**

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

**Staff Present**

Tom Norman

**Guest**

Mary Meletiou, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, ITRE

**ACTION ITEMS**

- April 8, 2009 minutes approved as amended – motion by Cockburn; seconded by Nix. 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 April 8, 2009 Minutes**

Cockburn moved to approve the minutes; Nix seconded. The minutes were adopted unanimously, as amended.

**SPOT Strategic Investment Prioritization**

Norman provided an overview of the new of the responsibilities of the SPOT office. They are creating an on-line form that local agencies will utilize to submit candidate TIP projects. The process is currently geared toward highway projects, for which the SPOT office can gather data. The process is being rolled out for review by the MPOs and RPOs. The Committee discussed ways in which bicycle project priorities can be recognized.

**New NC Bicycle Legislation**

Two bills have been put forward in the Legislature: HB 1451, A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF BICYCLES; and, SB 955; A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO REQUIRE BICYCLES TO HAVE VISIBLE LIGHTS ON THE FRONT AND REAR OF THE BICYCLE WHEN OPERATED AT NIGHT ON A STREET OR HIGHWAY. The Committee postponed discussion until the next meeting. In the interim, they will contact their constituents to learn what concerns they may have. The Committee will discuss the concerns and identify possible modifications to the bills and will invite representatives of the cycling community to the September meeting to discuss final recommendations.

### **Discussion with Secretary Gene Conti**

The Committee members introduced themselves to Secretary Conti and described their backgrounds and concerns for better accommodation of bicycle needs by the NCDOT. Their major concerns included communication with NCDOT and within NCDOT; tourism and bicycling; land use and transportation; the recognition of and continued funding for the planning grants; advocacy; safety; funding; green issues; and, lastly, the Committee wanted to know how they could help the Secretary and NCDOT staff. Secretary Conti responded that he is striving to keep the lines of communication open. He noted that NC is a big state, that NCDOT has many responsibilities, and that the bike/ped issues have sometimes dropped through the cracks. He stated that it is a new day and that he will be listening and hearing the needs. Secretary Conti spoke about the substantial amount of recovery funding that has been allocated to bicycle and pedestrian projects across the state and sees great benefits from these expenditures. Mikkelson commented that he recognizes that the upper management understands the value of addressing bike/ped needs but he is concerned about the existing highway-centric momentum in the Department. Further discussion followed with Rash asking what the Committee can do. Secretary Conti invited the group to keep providing feedback from communities. He stated that it's all about choice and that while some individuals are in love with their vehicles, it is not the majority. He thanked the Committee for their work and said he would like to attend a future meeting when his time would not be so constrained.

### **Project / Program Updates**

Staff provided updates on the following projects:

- Norman noted that tourism is up in North Carolina and briefly discussed how bicycling can enhance tourism events.
- Norman provided an update on the regional high-speed rail project that includes a trail. The impact study will include trail considerations for the 55-mile corridor. DENR provided \$400,000 for the study; DBPT will produce the construction drawings. The corridor will connect to the trails being developed along the Neuse River, with the potential to ultimately have a trail from Richmond to New Bern. Norman observed that there is greater interest in developing regional multi-use trails in the state.
- Norman reported on the status of the Stimulus Enhancement Projects that DBPT has undertaken.
- Norman reported that the 2009 Planning grants were approved by the Board of Transportation at their May meeting. Twelve communities were awarded funding. Approximately \$1.6 million has been awarded to a total of 92 communities since 2004.

### **Committee Activity Reports**

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

**Jennifer Smith**

- Distributed bike month posters.
- Sent out Ride of Silence press release.

### **Hanna Cockburn**

- Worked behind the scenes to help preserve the Wilcox Bridge over the Yadkin River as a bicycle/pedestrian facility as part of the project to replace the bridges across the Yadkin River on I-85 and US-29. Bridge will be improved with pedestrian railings and resurfaced before being transferred to Davidson County along with a small area of land on either end of the bridge.
- Participated in the first Mayor's Ride in Biscoe, NC to celebrate Bike to Work Week. We had about a dozen people who were lead by Mayor Jimmy Blake around town for about 40 minutes.
- Participated in a variety of bike to work week activities – volunteered for morning rest stops and rode to work three days that week!
- Participated in the ride of silence in Greensboro, along with more than 250 other people.
- Volunteered to assist in traffic skills training for a team of riders from the Baptist Children's Home who are planning to ride across NC in 2010 to raise funds for the Home.
- Working with Cycle NC to identify route and rest stop locations for their fall ride. Overnights in Thomasville and Sanford.

### **Greg Loy**

- Distributed Posters for Bicycle Safety Month
- Presented Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners Bicycle Safety Month Resolution which was adopted.
- Worked with contractors to repair damaged vibra-line on NC 12
- Communicated with Jim Snyder and Jack McCombs about potential OBX Bike Gala

### **Dan Mikkelson**

- Attended Carolina Thread Trail Inter-jurisdictional Meeting with the Cabarrus County Steering Committee. Agreed to serve on the implementation grant award committee.
- Steering Committee reviewed final draft of Salisbury's Comprehensive Bicycle Plan.
- Submitted Newsome Road bike lanes for CMAQ funding (\$1 Million project identified by Comp. Bike Plan).
- Agreed to serve on SRTS infrastructure grant committee.

### **Claudia Nix**

- Made report to the city council on activities of the Healthy Buncombe Coalition activities for the past two years, which have brought in \$90,000.00 through Eat Smart Move More Community Grants which have helped to make policy and environmental changes. Asked for their support with our two main goals (1) for Asheville to develop a Complete Streets Intuitive and (2) for Asheville to receive a designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community.
- Organized and put on five children's bicycle training clinics and taught 140 children bicycle skills through the clinics with 40 volunteers. Three were for schools: Evergreen Charter 6<sup>th</sup> graders, Black Mtn & Vance Elementary Schools. Two were community events: the YMCA healthy kid's day and Earth Day festival.
- Attended numerous meetings to organize the Strive Not to Drive events, Mayor's Ride, Buncombe Co. Greenways Commission.

- Had a very positive meeting with head of Asheville Engineering Dept, Cathy Ball to discuss their processes, projects, goals and the possibility of Asheville developing a Complete Streets Intuitive.
- We had a very successful Press Conference & Mayor's Ride on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. We had the Asheville Mayor, Terry Bellamy and Montreat's Mayor Letta Jean Smith riding along with a number of other dignitaries and super hero The Air Avenger.

## **Dennis Rash**

## **Julie Woosley**

- SmartCommute Challenge was held April 15 – May 30 in Wake, Durham, and Orange Counties. The Challenge asks commuters to get to work any way other than driving alone, including riding the bus, carpooling or vanpooling, walking or biking, or teleworking. More than 12,200 people took the Challenge; still waiting for final biking numbers.
- Bike to Work Week was May 11-15, 2009. A variety of events were held during the week in the Triangle area. More info about the events can be found at <http://www.gotriangle.org/BTWW/> .
  - Bike to Work Week Kickoff Event, May 8 in the Marbles Kids Museum courtyard, 3-7 pm. Events included a kids bike rodeo, kids bicycle helmet giveaway, adult group ride, informational booths, and free food and beverages.
  - Bike to Work Week after-work get together, Wed, May 13; and group breakfast, Friday, May 15, Durham.
  - Bike to Work Week after-work get together, Wed, May 13; and group breakfast, Friday, May 15, RTP.
  - Apex Bicycle Maintenance Clinic, May 9.
  - Community Leaders and public group 2-mile bicycle ride, 8:30 - 9:30am, Friday, May 15, downtown Raleigh.
  - Bike to Work Week wrap-up event, May 15, 4:30 – 6:30 pm, in the courtyard of Sitti Restaurant in downtown Raleigh.
  - Wake Forest - Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – Bicycle Safety Fair, Kids' Rodeo and Bicycle Ride, 10am – 3pm.
- Planning is beginning for Bike to Work Week 2010.

## **Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

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

## **2008 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

07/29/09