

MINUTES

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

May 12, 2010

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Dennis Rash

Staff Present

**Tom Norman, Director DBPT
Bob Mosher, Planning Program Manager, DBPT**

Guests

Blair Israel, Centralina Council of Governments

ACTION ITEMS

- March 10, 2010 minutes approved – motion by Loy; seconded by Smith. Passed unanimously.
- Motion to “Endorse Lake Norman Regional Bicycle Plan” made by Cockburn, seconded by Loy; passed unanimously.

DISCUSSIONS, REPORTS and PLANNING SESSION

Welcome

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

Approval of March 10, 2010 Minutes

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

Discussion with Secretary Conti

Cockburn reported on a meeting on May 6, 2010 that she, Deputy Secretary Jim Westmoreland and Tom Norman had with Secretary Conti to discuss the prioritization formula for funding transportation projects and the need to provide more funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects. Cockburn, representing the Bicycle Committee’s goals, discussed committing 1% of the available funds annually over the next ten years to bike/ped improvements. Secretary Conti indicated that one way to increase the buy-in for increasing the bike/ped allocation is to get the MPOs and RPOs to make their needs and desires known and to add their voices to the Committee’s recommendations.

Cockburn also reported that she and Dan Mikkelson attended the recent SPOT Regional Prioritization Summit for MPOs and RPOs in Greensboro where groups of municipal and regional government representatives were invited to make recommendations on the DOT spending formula. Their group recommended a much higher priority for transit and non-motorized transportation than is currently programmed.

The Committee discussed various strategies to secure more funds. Cockburn noted that DOT is preparing to update the Strategic Plan. She suggested that the bike/ped long-range plan might be updated in conjunction with this effort. Loy suggested using the Committee goals as a way to create buy-in for the MPOs and RPOs. Nix suggested making a presentation to the Board of Transportation. After additional discussion, Cockburn suggested that the Committee should be prepared to discuss the way forward at the next meeting and that a BOT member and Transportation Planning Branch staff person be invited to join the discussion.

USDOT Strategic Plan 2010-2015: Transportation for a New Generation

The USDOT Strategic Plan is currently in draft form and is open for public comment. The summary statement asserts that, "DOT will use this Strategic Plan to develop and implement policies and programs that will transform our transportation infrastructure into a truly multimodal system that provides travelers and businesses with safe, convenient, affordable, and environmentally sustainable transportation choices." The plan also focuses on sustainability; livability; and, safety, particularly for children and older adults. The Committee discussed ways to use the plan's higher priority for these goals to inform and educate advocates and state and local decision makers. Cockburn suggested sending a letter of support to Secretary Conti. This could also be an opportunity to work with the MPOs and RPOs to jointly support the plan. It was decided that Cockburn would prepare a letter and resolution to send to the MPOs/RPOs. Mikkelson suggested creating an information packet that would include the resolution for them to adopt.

Bicycle Legislation

Norman reported that the proposed House Bill 1686 Bicycle Safety Changes legislation made it out of Committee on May 11 and is now eligible to be introduced. An on-line poll by NBC 17 indicated a 75% favorable rating for the current language. Committee members discussed the language, noting that the law could be difficult to enforce and doesn't necessarily clarify the current requirements. It was suggested that language be added to require motorists to allow 3' of clearance when passing a cyclist, as is legislated in some other states. The Committee also suggested that the last sentence of the proposed legislation should be deleted. It states that, "Persons riding two abreast shall move into a single file formation as quickly as is practicable when being overtaken from the rear by a faster moving vehicle." Norman will follow up with the NCDOT legislative liaison with these suggestions.

Safe Kids Trailer Update

Norman reported that there are some administrative difficulties in developing a special contract with the Safe Kids Coalition to provide approximately \$12,000 to purchase a trailer and equipment to support statewide bicycle safety programs. He will continue to pursue the appropriate fiscal procedures to fund this project.

Regional Bicycle Planning

Bob Mosher introduced Blair Israel of the Centralina Council of Governments who reported on the completed Lake Norman Regional Bicycle Plan. Israel distributed a prototype map and made a Power Point presentation on the process and outcome of the plan. He asked that NCDOT adopt the plan. The Committee discussed how they might provide support for the plan. Cockburn moved that, "the Committee endorses the Lake Norman Regional Bicycle Plan." The motion passed unanimously.

Mosher also provided an overview and progress update on the Croatan Regional Bicycle Plan. DBPT is partnering with the Eastern Carolina RPO and the Croatan National Forest District Ranger to develop the plan.

Project / Program Updates

Staff provided updates on the following projects:

- The BOT approved the funds for the 12 new planning grant communities, as recommended by the Awards Committee. Over 100 municipal plans have been funded since the program was launched in 2004.
- Norman provided an update on funding for the Statewide TIP projects which has been decreased significantly.

Committee Activity Reports

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

Hanna Cockburn

- Involved in organizing the Triad Commute Challenge
- Planning and participating in the Bike to Work Week in the Greensboro Area
- Greensboro will hold a Ride of Silence and a Bike From Work Day
- Taught a bicycle commuting class
- Attended the SPOT Prioritization Workshop in Greensboro

Greg Loy

- Rode on the newly-completed Ocracoke bike path
- Did a local inventory of bicycle parking facilities
- Responded to citizen request to improve Collington Road for bicycling
- Reviewed and commented on the new Share the Road poster created by DBPT

Dan Mikkelson

- Share the Road signs have been installed in the Banner Elk area as requested by a local cyclist at a previous Committee meeting
- Contacted Division 11 Engineer
- Attended the SPOT Prioritization Workshop in Greensboro
- Attended Carolina Thread Trail Council meeting
- Salisbury opened bids for a greenway trail; had 10 bids

Claudia Nix

- Presented elementary school program
- Working on a charter school program
- Involved in Strive not to Drive event; there will be a tube-cutting event on the uphill bike lane
- Taught traffic training skills class with 11 people in attendance
- Attended Healthy Living Summit

- Working to develop an “Eat Smart, Move More” program
- Interviewed for radio program
- Attended a Trails Committee meeting
- Made presentation to City Council Planning and Development Committee on Complete Streets
- Attended a Greenways Commission meeting

Dennis Rash

(Not in attendance)

Jennifer Smith

- Wilmington opened the Ann Street Bicycle Boulevard, the first such facility in NC
- Greenville Mayor Patricia Dunn proclaimed May as Bicycle Safety Month in Greenville. Greenville has a Ride of Silence and a Ride to Work events scheduled.
- Two members of the Greenville Bicycle Task Force recently completed LAB training to become Traffic Skills instructors. They have conducted one instructional class locally.
- Greenville held its annual Criterium Cycling Races in March. Safe Communities assisted in sponsoring a Kid’s Ride.
- Farmville Chief of Police, Donnie Greene’s son, Timothy (4th grade) participated in the bicycle safety program at Sam Bundy Elementary School and received a helmet. Several days later he fell off his bike while racing with a friend. He received only cuts and bruises and his head was “saved by the helmet.”
- Have distributed 1000 helmets in past year.

Julie Woosley

- Raleigh City Council adopted bike lanes on Hillsborough Street (to be incorporated where possible)
- Bike lane completed off Wake Forest Road; only the third one in Raleigh
- Raleigh was awarded funding to produce a bike plan
- Planning and participating in Smart Commute Challenge
- Planning for Bike to Work Week
- Reviewed Crabtree Valley transportation plan
- Reviewed Union Station plan to replace old rail station with multi-modal center
- Working on bicycle rental program for Raleigh

Other Business

The next meeting will be on July 14, 2010

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.