

MINUTES

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

July 14, 2010

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Julie Woosley

Staff Present

Tom Norman, Director DBPT

Guests

Dan Thomas, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch

ACTION ITEMS

- May 12, 2010 minutes approved – motion by Nix; seconded by Mikkelson. Passed unanimously.
- Loy made a motion to approve a resolution and letter to be sent to MPOs and RPOs in support of the US DOT Strategic Plan; Nix seconded; the motion 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 May 12, 2010 Minutes

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

Complete Streets Update

Norman reported that the Advisory Group has been meeting monthly to develop Complete Streets Guidelines, but progress is slow. The target date for completion is December 2010. The most recent meeting was in Charlotte, where the group visited locations built to Charlotte's Urban Street Design Guidelines standards. Four regional public involvement meetings will be held in the next few months. Loy commented that the idea of complete streets needs to reach and impact small towns; the concept must be sold to them. Mikkelson observed that visual preference surveys are effective in articulating the concept. Norman reported that the Roadway design Branch has developed typical sections that are supportive to bike/ped transportation.

Discussion of New Bicycle Legislation

Norman distributed and reviewed a compilation of relevant actions from the current legislative session. He noted that the "Mobility Fund" provides new resources for projects of statewide or regional significance. The "DOT Powers and Duties" changes reflect the transition to a multi-modal department. The "Pedestrian Safety Improvements" authorizes NCDOT to accept funds from a municipality for a locally requested pedestrian safety improvement for which the municipality is willing to provide 100% of the funding. The bicycle safety legislation was referred to the Committee on Transportation but will not be addressed in this session. There was a lot of focus on this legislation by cyclists who contacted the sponsor asking that a requirement of a three foot offset when passing be added to the legislation. The sponsor is considering this addition.

Board of Transportation Funding Policy Q & A

Board member Szlosberg was unable to be present and will be invited to the next meeting to discuss.

US DOT Strategic Plan

Chairperson Cockburn inserted this item. She distributed a draft of a letter and resolution she prepared to send to North Carolina MPOs and RPOs encouraging them to incorporate the stated goals into their planning work, to support US DOT's efforts to reach their goals and to adopt a resolution to this effect. There comment period is still open. After brief discussion, it was agreed that the resolution should address all non-motorized transportation, not just bicycling. Loy made a motion to approve the resolution and letter, as modified and to provide a link to the report and summary when the information is transmitted to the MPOs and RPOs. Nix seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Cockburn will distribute and will send a copy to Deputy Secretary Westmoreland.

Project / Program Updates

Staff provided updates on the following projects:

- The Orange County bicycle map was distributed.
- Norman reported on a project to improve bicycle connectivity between Chapel Hill and Raleigh that was initiated as a result of a request by the DWM Foundation http://www.dwmadvisorsllc.com/dwm_foundation/index.htm. Private funds from NC foundations may be available to build some portions. Norman showed a map that identifies the existing improvements and recommendations for closing the gaps. Mikkelsen brought up the idea of "branding" the effort, similar to the Carolina Thread Trail.
- DBPT's Planning Grant Initiative received a 2010 FHWA Planning Excellence Awards - Honorable Mention in the "Livability/Sustainability" category and top honors from the 2010 NC Chapter of APA planning awards.

Working with MPOS and RPOs

Dan Thomas of the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) was invited to share some insights on how to work with MPOs and RPOs to help them make their priorities for bicycle and pedestrian needs known to the Department. This discussion was initiated as a follow up to Secretary Conti's suggestion to bring MPOs and RPOs to the table concerning an increase in NCDOT funds for non-motorized transportation projects.

Thomas noted that the primary mechanisms for communicating with these groups are through their list serves and through their professional organizations, which meet quarterly. He further explained that individual TPB staff members are assigned to work

with each MPO/RPO. The Committee discussed various strategies for their involvement with these groups. Thomas reported that the 2020 Statewide Transportation Plan will be updated soon and that the Committee might seek a role as a stakeholder. Cockburn suggested that the Committee could create a list of projects types that a community might develop. Thomas added that TPB could help to develop problem statements and recommended solutions.

Committee Activity Reports

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

Hanna Cockburn

- Greensboro held a Ride of Silence and a Bike From Work Day
- Was featured in a bike safety video produced by the City of Greensboro

Greg Loy

- Distributed Outer Banks Bicycle Maps to bicycle shops and rental locations
- Interaction with Jeff Farley on proposed "Colington Greenway"
- Contacted NCDOT County Maintenance and Municipalities about clearing/sweeping NC 12 shoulders
- Contacted NCDOT County Maintenance and Division about damages to multi-use trail related to signal work
- Worked on SRTS infrastructure Project
- Held second stakeholders meeting for Kill Devil Hills Pedestrian Plan

Dan Mikkelson

- Attended joint MPO TAC/TCC meeting with Secretary Conti in attendance. A presentation on rumble strips was made.
- Participating on Carolina Thread trail grant committee.
- Two retired engineers on the Salisbury Planning Board have questioned some expenditures recommended in the Council-adopted bicycle plan.

Claudia Nix

- Asheville had a successful Strive not to Drive event with the largest number of participants ever
- The Blue Ridge Bike Club's Fletcher Flyer Century had 800 participants
- Have been working with the city of Asheville planners and engineers on the new Hospital Drive which will be connecting Biltmore Avenue and McDowell to have good bike and pedestrian facilities.
- BRBC is having a great novice riding program to encourage new riders. Started rides in June and been having 20 to 30 participants each weekend.
- We have developed a successful bike corral valet bike parking program for the festivals in Asheville. They have been increasing in participation with the last "After 5" downtown festival, parking 130 bicycles from 5- 9:30 PM. We have been asked to hold a bike corral at the Bele Chere Festival which is the city's largest festival.

- Asheville is using stimulus money to resurface city roads and putting in bike facilities. One climbing lane on Kimberly and bike lanes on Coxe Avenue have been completed.
- Our Healthy Buncombe Coalition won another Eat Smart Move More Community Grant. This is for another Middle School program at Erwin. We will be hosting a SRTS workshop and training about 10 LCI . We are also hoping to develop a trail through the woods to the school from one of the large neighborhoods.

Dennis Rash

- Observed bicycle facilities on recent trip to Spain
- Downturn in economy has impacted the Mecklenburg County parks and recreation staff with the greenway program having been completely decimated.
- Being contacted by people who want to find out how to be more effective advocates.
- Received request from a triathlon promoter who wants more Share the Road signs along the roads they use for their events. They are willing to provide funds.

Jennifer Smith

- Greenville held Ride of Silence and a Commute to Work event during Bike Month.
- Greenville's Bike/Ped Commission is getting underway
- Greenville master planning initiative is awaiting funding
- Wilmington is very actively promoting cycling through family rides, classes, a bicycle scavenger hunt, etc.

Julie Woosley

- (not in attendance)

Other Business

The next meeting will be on September 8, 2010

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.