

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

**August 27, 2008**

Raleigh, North Carolina

**Members Present**

Jennifer Smith, Chair

Hanna Cockburn

Greg Loy

Dan Mikkelson

Dennis Rash

Claudia Nix

Pete Schubert

**Staff Present**

Tom Norman

**Guest**

Don Voelker, Director, NCDOT Strategic Planning Office

Doug Cox, Market Research manager, NCDOT Productivity Services Unit

Members of the NC Active Transportation Alliance

Mary Meletiou, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, ITRE

**ACTION ITEMS**

- July 16, 2008 minutes approved – motion by Mikkelson; seconded by Loy

**DISCUSSIONS, REPORTS and PLANNING SESSION**

**Welcome**

Committee Chair Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed the Committee members and guests. The agenda was modified to accommodate the schedules of the various guests.

Approval of July 16, 2008 Minutes

Mikkelson moved to approve the minutes: Loy seconded. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

**NCDOT Strategic Planning**

Norman introduced Don Voelker, Director of the NCDOT Strategic Planning Office. Voelker provided an overview of this newly created unit of NCDOT. He explained how the unit evolved, its mission and its focus. One primary function of the Office will be to evaluate projects and prioritize funding.

## **New SC Bicycle Legislation**

Rash provided an overview of the new legislation, focusing on the section that requires the driver of a motor vehicle to “at all times maintain a safe operating distance between the motor vehicle and a bicycle.” The current NC statute requires a minimum two foot passing distance for all vehicles. The Committee discussed the merits of the new SC legislation and acknowledged the instrumental role that bicycle advocates played in its passage. Rash charged the Committee members to begin talking with NC bicycle advocacy groups about this issue.

## **Project / Program Updates**

Norman and Meletiou provided updates on various bicycle mapping projects.

- Meletiou showed the 4-minute opening video for the Law Enforcement Training Curriculum. Training of local agency trainers will begin in October.
- Norman provided the following project and program updates:
  - Meetings on the Wake County section of Neuse River Greenway have been taking place, with a broad cross-section of stakeholders. This \$26 million project will be completed by 2012 and will be paid for with bond issue funds. There will be spur greenway trails to Wake Forest and Knightdale. The section to Clayton is being developed by DBPT and funded through a special federal allocation.
  - The estimate for the Chatham County section of the ATT came in under bid. Construction is scheduled to begin on September 8<sup>th</sup>. This segment closes the gap between Wake and Durham Counties.
  - The construction drawings for the Ocracoke shared-use path have been completed. DBPT is working closely with the National Park Service, which has agreed to maintain the trail once the project is complete. Division 2 will bid the project and oversee construction.
  - With the resignation of the SRTS Coordinator, Sarah O'Brien of ITRE has once again been asked to serve as Interim Coordinator. All initiatives currently underway will be continued.
  - The STR License Plate Funds continue to grow and are currently being used to purchase helmets for use in local safety initiatives.
  - The Regional Bicycle Planning Initiative is underway. Two projects concepts are under currently consideration.

## **Attitude Survey Update**

Doug Cox, Market Research manager for the NCDOT Productivity Services Unit, provided an overview of the survey methodology, highlighting the statistical reliability of the survey findings. Meletiou discussed some of the findings (attached) that are potentially relevant to a Committee discussion of next steps in developing an awareness campaign. Copies of the tabulated data were provided to the Committee for their further review and study. The Committee will send requests for additional analysis to Meletiou who will coordinate with Cox to run the cross-tabulations.

## **Presentation by the NC Active Transportation Alliance**

Representatives from the NC Active Transportation Alliance attended the meeting to introduce the organization to the Committee and to discuss mutual goals and ways in which the two groups might work together.

## **Committee Activity Reports**

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

### **Jennifer Smith**

- Greenville City Council has approved the formation of a Bicycle Friendly Task Force to guide Greenville to become bicycle friendly with positive cultural change toward bicycling, and to implement a strong bikeway infrastructure

### **Hanna Cockburn**

- High Point is adding bike racks to their fleet of buses. Should arrive next month and be installed by December
- Randolph County is exploring starting a safe kids coalition, which would have a bike and pedestrian work group
- Randolph County has also applied for a fit communities grant to fund a county-wide bike rodeo program. Funds would be used to purchase the program trailer, equipment and trailer
- Greensboro is undertaking their second annual bike safety month
- BTWW was a big success, with more than 8 thousand responses to our bike commute survey that rewarded participants with a free T-shirt

### **Greg Loy**

- Worked toward Multi-use trail extension in Kill Devil Hills along Bay Drive.
- Observed bicycle safety measures and improvements in and around Portland, OR.

### **Dan Mikkelson**

- Participated in the Rowan County Bike map photo shoot
- Hosted bike plan information booth at downtown bike races

### **Claudia Nix**

- Attended regular monthly MPO meetings, Blue Ridge Bicycle Club officer's meetings, Bike/Pedestrian Task Force meetings, Healthy Buncombe Executive Council and the State Trail's meeting.
- Worked with the committee on Old Hwy 70 trail, which is being called Point Lookout Trail. NC DOT has worked very hard on making a fine trail and Tom Norman worked hard finding money to fund completely. The local DOT folks have found money to make trail markers along the way and to tie into the local anchors in Black Mt. and Old Fort. We will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM and a bike ride from Black Mountain to the ceremony.
- Held two more Bike Corrals for our downtown after 5 concerts and one all day for the Lexington Arts and Fun Festival. The participation has increased each time. The LAFF had 100 bikes in the corral.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm. Loy so moved; Schubert seconded.

## **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

1. Engage advocacy groups and local and regional government agencies
2. Foster working relationship with Division Engineers, MPOs and RPOs
3. Develop presentation materials and seek opportunities to present at conferences and workshops
4. Develop interface with health community and economic development community
5. 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