

**MINUTES**

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

**September 9, 2009**

**Members Present**

**Jennifer Smith, Chair**

**Greg Loy**

**Dan Mikkelson**

**Claudia Nix**

**Dennis Rash**

**Julie Woosley**

**Members Absent**

**Hanna Cockburn**

**Staff Present**

**Tom Norman**

**Guests Present**

**Jim Westmoreland, Deputy Secretary for Transit**

**Don Voelker, Director, SPOT**

**Alpesh Patel, SPOT**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- July 1, 2009 minutes approved – motion by Mikkelson; seconded by Nix. Passed unanimously.

## **DISCUSSIONS, REPORTS and PLANNING SESSION**

### **Welcome**

Committee Chair Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed the Committee members, staff and guests.

### **SPOT Prioritization Process**

Jim Westmoreland explained the tool being used to prioritize TIP projects, noting that it will hopefully reflect the priorities of the community. It is an attempt to find a way to more systematically prioritize projects. The five year work program will be more than the TIP; it will show the full extent of resources and how they are used. The SPOT process is still evolving.

Don Voelker provided additional information. He stated that every dollar that will be spent will be visible in the five year work plan. The first five year program reflects a committed list of projects. NCDOT will deliver 90 to 95% of these projects. The existing 36-month let list was expanded to the five year program. The new process focuses on years six through ten. Voelker went on to explain that this is a data-driven, systematic and multi-modal process. He provided a hand-out showing a list of overall topics. This reflects a needs-based model (quantitative) and a qualitative process that the MPOs, RPOs, etc can use to rank their projects.

In closing, Westmoreland noted that NCDOT will continue to work in local areas, encouraging them to express needs; will conduct outreach with local division engineers; and, will work with Board of transportation members.

### **Approval of July 1, 2009 Minutes**

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

### **Discussion of 2010 Bicycle Legislation**

Committee members reported on their activities to get feedback from their constituents.

### **Rumble Strips**

Nix opened the discussion by reporting on an Asheville-area person who was injured when trying to get out of the way of a truck. He hit the guard rail after crossing the

rumble strips. Norman provided an overview of the current NCDOT thinking toward providing rumble strips. Many cyclists have contacted their Division Engineers, especially in Division 14, regarding this issue. Mikkelson recommended that the Committee continue to monitor the issue, noting that the Committee members should discuss with their Division Engineers.

### **Campaign on Sharing the Road**

Nix observed that the Committee needs to follow-up on the findings of the Share the Road survey. Committee members noted that various blogs related to bicycling included many very negative comments about getting cyclists off the road. The Committee discussed several approaches and revisited the issue of education vs. legislation as first prong of campaign. Several next steps were identified. The new share the road posters were distributed.

### **Complete Streets Policy**

Norman reported that the policy was adopted by the Board of Transportation, with support from upper management. A task force will be formed to develop guidelines over the next year. It will include external partners who will be on teams that develop guidelines for several workstreams – planning, design, and overarching issues. Findings will be integrated into internal NCDOT manuals and guidelines.

### **Project / Program Updates**

Staff provided updates on the following projects:

- 2010 Call for Planning Grant was announced on September 4
- The Chatham County portion of the ATT will be completed in November
- The Wake County section of the Neuse River Greenway is pushing forward
- The on-road / off-road project in Ocracoke was let in July

### **Committee Activity Reports**

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

#### **Jennifer Smith**

- Working with Safe kids Coalition on bicycle projects
- Greenville was approved for a Safe Routes to School non-infrastructure project

#### **Hanna Cockburn**

### **Greg Loy**

- There were two bicycle crashes in the last two weeks on the Outer banks; neither was a fatality
- Developed SRTS proposal for Town of Kill Devil Hills
- Distributed Outer Banks bicycle maps
- Currituck County is developing a trail from Corolla Light to Whalehead

### **Dan Mikkelson**

- MPO completed a CTP update; recently completed bicycle plan was presented to group
- Manned information booth at Salisbury Criterium
- Served on grant review committee for Carolina Thread trail; two communities have completed master plans
- Submitted PS&E package plus environmental documents for Grants Creek Greenway project

### **Claudia Nix**

- Attended the Bicycle Haywood County Bike Committee and helped them make connections with the Region 14 DOT District Engineer and the MPO.
- Assisted committee of the French Broad MPO to update the Priority Needs List for projects to be entered into the SPOT list.
- As a member of the Buncombe County Greenway Commission we finished interviewing all the groups who applied to develop the 11 mile Greenway Plan along the Hwy 70 and Swannanoa Valley which will connect the Wilma Dykeman Greenway to the Point Lookout Greenway. We chose Equinox/McGill to do the plan and they officially began work on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force is participating in the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting project Sept 8-12<sup>th</sup>. We have about 50 sites where the counts will be taken. The students from Western NC University will be helping us to tally and evaluate the findings before we send them on to the National Traffic Engineers and Alta Planning Group. This information will help Asheville with baseline data for our facilities and usage and help the group develop data to be used in planning on a national basis.
- We have been trying to deal with the local incident of an Asheville Firefighter shooting a bicycling father with a child on the back of his bike. I've been interviewed by the Asheville Citizen Times, and the WLOS-TV several times about it. A small group of cyclists held a protest in front of the fire department because they were upset about how it was handled. They commented that they were not protesting the fire department. I commented that I felt it was more an issue of someone with a control problem rather than a motorist vs. bicyclist issue. We had two other road rage incidents within weeks of each other which has the whole community on edge.
- We have made arrangements to show the Illinois League of Bicyclists video on sharing the road on the Buncombe County access channel. Several individuals in our group have written letters to the editor in an effort to counter the very

negative letters which have appeared about cyclists after the shooting incident. These are just as disconcerting as the incident.

- We held another bike corral (vale parking for bikes) for the After 5 concert and the Lexington Arts Festival.
- I team taught a Traffic Skills 101 class for 8 people this last month and have been involved in a new ride program through the Blue Ridge Bike Club called the “Guided Rides”. These are short easy rides of 8-15 miles in length, we spend time giving information on appropriate riding skills, riding techniques and etiquette in an effort to give folks some confidence and learn where to ride. The rides have been held weekly since July and are averaging about 15 people each time.

#### **Dennis Rash**

- Is preparing stimulus project for submission
- Working with cycling groups in the Lake Norman area; 800 people participated in a ride around the lake

#### **Julie Woosley**

- Became member of the new City Council-appointed Raleigh Bicycle Committee
- The Town of Cary will host a Ride of Silence in honor of long-time cycling advocate, Bruce Rosar, who was tragically killed in a bicycle crash recently
- CAMPO is updating their web site and will include information of Bicycle Committee activities

#### **Other Business**

The next meeting will be on November 12.

#### **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