

MINUTES

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

November 10, 2010

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Tom Norman, Director DBPT

Guests

**Mike Nix, League of American Bicyclists Board Member
Andy Bailey, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch
Sarah O'Brien, ITRE Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager**

ACTION ITEMS

- September 8, 2010 minutes approved – motion by Loy; Woosley seconded. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSSIONS, REPORTS and PLANNING SESSION

Welcome

Vice-Chair Nix called the meeting to order and welcomed the Committee members and staff. Chairperson Cockburn joined the meeting in progress.

Approval of September 8, 2010 Minutes

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

Complete Streets Status Report

Norman introduced Andy Bailey, Transportation Planning Branch Senior Engineer for the Triad Group, who is a member of the Complete Streets sub-group addressing Level of Service (LOS) guidelines. Chairperson Cockburn also serves on the LOS sub-group. It was noted that the LOS tool developed to assess highway capacity is difficult to apply to the complete streets multi-modal approach, so the sub-group developed a Quality of Service assessment tool to better addresses the needs of all modal users.

Bailey passed out a handout on Complete Streets, which was presented to the Board of Transportation at their November, 2010 meeting.

During the ensuing presentation and discussion, Bailey explained that the purpose of the Complete Streets guidelines is to provide a framework and design parameters that will assure the development of a connected network of facilities to accommodate all modes. He also explained why the current methods of measuring Vehicles Per Day (VDP) or counting bicyclists or pedestrians per hour, as is done in some places, doesn't work in North Carolina due to the lack of a sufficiently connected system of facilities. Bailey and the Committee members discussed the importance of good local land use plans, defining sufficient right of way during the long range planning process, and local protection of the reserved corridors from encroachment as being integral to the implementation of Complete Streets.

League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Ranking

Mike Nix, League of American Bicyclists (LAB) Board Member and co-owner of Liberty Bicycles in Asheville, NC, joined the group to discuss the recent LAB ranking of the bicycle friendliness of the states. Nix explained that the Bicycle Friendly city and state initiative is a LAB staff function and that the Board is not involved in the process.

However, Nix had contacted the staff to discuss the reasons for the low ranking in specific areas and he reported the feedback to the group. Of particular concern was the low ranking in planning in light of the on-going success of the Planning Grant Initiative, which is unique to North Carolina. This program has awarded approximately \$2.4 million to support the development of over 100 bicycle and pedestrian plans. It has garnered several state and national awards, most notably an Honorable Mention from the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Association and American Planning Association 2010 Transportation Planning Excellence Awards. Also overlooked in the ranking was the development and delivery of a curriculum to teach law enforcement officers about the laws applicable to bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists; methods for enforcing these laws; and community programs that can be implemented to improve safety. Other discrepancies were also discussed. Nix will report back to the LAB staff on these issues.

Nix reported that the lack of a viable statewide bicycle advocacy group negatively impacted North Carolina's ranking. He noted that Georgia and Texas use some of the funds generated by the specialized bicycle license plates to support a paid staff member of their advocacy groups and he suggested that NC may wish to do the same to assist the struggling NC group. Norman provided a handout showing that approximately \$24,000 was collected in FY 2009-2010 and detailed the expenditures for helmets, Bicycle Safety month promotions and statewide education initiatives. A portion of the funds may also be used to update the Basics of Bicycling curriculum, a comprehensive bicycle safety education program developed in the 1990's. Committee members commented on the importance of continuing to provide helmets to support local safety initiatives. Cockburn suggested that since the current funds are so limited, perhaps the creation of a separate specialty plate promoting bicycle advocacy should be considered.

Regional "Listening" Sessions per SPOT Version 2.0 Prioritization

The NCDOT Strategic Planning Office for Transportation is hosting regional "listening" sessions to collect feedback on the format they propose to use to determine project funding priorities. Cockburn described their process to the Committee and noted that the meetings are open to all. She encouraged Committee members to attend the meetings in their areas. Norman distributed copies of the bicycle project Prioritization Version 2.0 ranking criteria.

Mobility Fund

Norman provided a handout on the Mobility Fund Benefit Measures and reviewed the elements, observing the difficulty of applying highway project-oriented criteria to support other modal needs.

Project / Program Updates – Regional Bicycle Safety Summits

Sarah O'Brien, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager at ITRE is coordinating a series of bicycle and pedestrian safety summits in five locations across the state. The summits are an initiative of Deputy Secretary Jim Westmoreland and will be held early in 2010 in Asheville, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Durham and Greenville. The summits will be jointly hosted by Bicycle Committee and Board of Transportation members. O'Brien provided a handout explaining the purpose and format of the summit. The goal is to identify the most pressing safety concerns of bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists as they "share the road" and to identify initiatives that can be developed to improve conditions for all. Approximately 30 people will be invited to attend each summit, representing a broad mix of transportation professionals, law enforcement personnel, school representatives, bicycle advocates and club members, child safety advocates, bike shop owners, and others. O'Brien asked the Committee members to provide suggestions for attendees from their respective areas. More information will be provided via email correspondence as locations are secured and invitee lists are refined.

Committee Activity Reports

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

Hanna Cockburn

- Staffed a Safe Kids evening rodeo in Greensboro with 48 participants
- Hosted a Walk to School event with 75 participants
- Eden received a grant to review all their local policies related to health
- Mt. Gilead received a grant to build a trail linking downtown and the out-lying community center
- A new Trek bike shop opened on the recently-completed Greensboro rail-trail

Greg Loy

- Attended pre-bid meetings and bid opening for the SRTS infrastructure project for a multi-use trail to be built in Kill Devil Hills
- Walked and bicycled several sections of wide paved shoulder and multi-use trails for maintenance assessment
- Worked with consultant for development of Pedestrian Plan

Dan Mikkelson

- Term on Committee has expired and he has decided not ask to be reappointed, feeling that given his long tenure, it may be time to bring in some "new blood." He would like to continue to be involved with Committee and DBPT initiatives.
- ARRA project is under construction as of November 8

Claudia Nix

- In September the Asheville Bike/Ped Task Force performed the second bike & ped count at 42 sites. The site near Pritchard Park had 425 peds and 40 bikes last year and this year, on the other side of the park at College and Haywood, we counted 800 peds and 57 bikes.

- Held final Traffic Skills Class for the year in September. This class included a gentleman from Asheville Buncombe Christian Ministry who received training for a green trade job and a refurbished used bike. After passing he was given the bike, the helmet he used and front and rear lights for his bike. This year we taught three classes with a total of 19 individuals who all passed.
- Liberty Bicycles along with “Cycling Spoken Here” supported a rainy Cycle NC. The event started in Asheville. The route followed the Point Lookout Trail which brought rave reviews.
- In October we held a League Certified Instructor Training with 13 individuals taking the class and passing. Seven individuals were from Asheville which now gives us 10 instructors.
- We just finished a PE bike skills program at Erwin Middle for half of their 6th graders for a total of 231 students. A surprising number of students were unable to ride bikes but we were able to teach some of them to balance and a couple actually learned to ride.
- To help Black Mountain complete the SRTS education portion of their grant we hosted a bicycle rodeo through the afterschool program. We had 114 children from pre-school to 12 years old go through the bike skills session. During Fire prevention week we held a rodeo at the Enka / Candler Fire Department with 60 kids from pre-school to 15 years old go through this program. This gives us a total of 720 children in Buncombe County who have participated in bicycle education this year.
- We hosted an Alliance for Biking and Walking “Winning Successful Campaigns Training with 22 individuals from 7 states.
- I attended the Brevard Ecustas Trail ribbon cutting connecting to Pisgah Nat’l Forest.
- The Pedal Link Project ended as a successful campaign raising almost \$30,000.00. This was accomplished through the cycling community alone. The only non-bicycle organization was RiverLink, who helped us complete the campaign by donating our final \$2,600.00 to cover a shortfall. The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club ended up being the lead agency for the campaign because they received their 501c3 designation. The city signed the purchase agreement and we are waiting for the closing around December 15th. Then we will celebrate.

Dennis Rash

- Term on Committee has expired and he decided not to request another term, due to other commitments
- Provided update on the Share the Road sign request from citizens
- Brawley School Road (Lake Norman area) neighbors organizing family rides
- Mecklenburg Park and Recreation Department has lost all but one staff personnel

Jennifer Smith

- Fourth grade Basics of Bicycling program is ongoing and is being taught in nine elementary schools, reaching 1000 children
- Greenville is developing bike/ped master plan, which is underway. Over 500 people took the on-line survey. The plan will be completed spring 2011.

- Funding for a project to reduce obesity was secured through health care reform
- The Wilmington TAC adopted a resolution of the Skyway Bridge
- Attended a meeting on the Croatan Regional Bicycle Plan
- Received Notice to Proceed for the Pitt County SRTS non-infrastructure project
- Received FedEx grant of \$25,000 to undertake a SRTS project

Julie Woosley
(will send)

Other Business

Committee members and staff thanked Dennis Rash and Dan Mikkelson for their long service to the Committee, their communities, and to the state. Norman observed that they can take pride in the many projects and initiatives that were accomplished during their tenures and in the positive changes for bicycling and bicyclists of which they were a part. All agreed that their knowledge, ideas and good senses of humor will be greatly missed.

The next meeting will be on January 13, 2011

Adjourn

Loy moved to adjourn; Woosley seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.