

Newark Bicycle Committee
April 15, 2010, 4:00-5:00 pm
Wilmington Area Planning Council

Minutes

In attendance

Bob Bennett
Trevor Booz
Heather Dunigan
Charlie Emerson
Mike Fortner
Cindy Genau
Dan LaCombe (for Anthony Aglio)
Jeff Riegner
Lt. George Stanko
Frank Warnock
Rich Willy

Guests

Councilman David Athey
Lexi Ambrogi
Pierce Conlon
Maria Wilburn

Not in attendance

Rachel Anderson
Howard Brown
Alan Coffey
Jim Grimes
Steve Hegedus
Jerry Kauffman
Willett Kempton
Kate Kitchener
Drew Knab
Rich LaPointe
Patrick McCloskey
Sally Miller
Linda Russell
Arthur Wicks
Amy Wilburn
James Wilson

Introductions

The meeting convened at 4:00 pm. The attendees introduced themselves. Heather Dunigan said that the League of American Bicyclists should respond to the Committee's Bicycle Friendly Community application within about two weeks.

Infrastructure group (Anthony Aglio, Charlie Emerson, Rich LaPointe, and Jeff Riegner)

- Jeff Riegner reported that the infrastructure group is working on city-wide street recommendations.
- Mike Fortner is on the April Traffic Committee agenda to discuss potential city endorsement of the state's Complete Streets policy.
- Heather reported that the Newark Transportation Plan effort is now underway. A workshop will be held in mid-May. Rich Willy asked whether bike boxes will be included in the plan. Heather responded that they could be considered, but are not an approved device in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

- Rich asked who should be contacted if there are complaints about bicycling in Newark. Charlie Emerson directed him to the Department of Public Works at 366-7040. They will address the issue or refer it to DeIDOT if appropriate. Frank Warnock added that an online form is also available.

Parking group (Heather Dunigan and Frank Warnock)

- Heather reminded the group that DeIDOT is buying 50 black powder-coated “inverted U” racks for distribution to municipalities, including 15 for Newark. She reported that a small group met to identify potential locations on Main Street. These locations will be presented to the Traffic Committee and the Downtown Newark Partnership, with city staff ultimately making the decision where and how they will be installed.
- Heather added a report from Steve Hegedus that UD should soon be ordering racks to be installed in parking garages.

Education group (Cindy Genau, Arthur Wicks, Rich Willy)

- Cindy Genau gave videos and brochures to Patrick McCloskey for campus outreach.
- Rich said the Review has so far been unresponsive regarding a bicycling article, though he and Arthur Wicks are still working on it.
- Cindy will look into materials for UD teaching assistant orientation and will contact Jim Grimes.
- Cindy and Anthony Aglio are participating in statewide bicycle education initiatives.

Encouragement group (Rachel Anderson, Mike Fortner, and Frank Warnock)

- Frank announced the Painting Newark Green event on Monday, April 19. Many environmental groups will participate, and the Newark Bicycle Committee and Bike Delaware will be represented.
- Heather distributed Committee brochures as a draft for member review. She will bring copies to the Painting Newark Green event.
- Mike noted that a Newark Nite spot has been reserved at the Newark Shopping Center. Frank and Cindy will work on publicity, and Dan LaCombe will look into DeIDOT giveaways. Frank encouraged everyone to ride to the event.
- Dan added that no state money will be available for a safety checkpoint until the fall. George Stanko suggested that one be held the week after Labor Day.
- Heather distributed a flyer for Elderberry Bike Rides.
- Rich said that graduate students are enthusiastic about the idea of bike sharing in Newark.

Enforcement group (Jim Grimes and George Stanko):

- George said that due to current staffing, enforcement efforts will be planned this summer and active in the fall.
- Rich suggested that city code information regarding bicyclists be distributed to students.
- Maria Wilburn said that wrong-way riding on Delaware Avenue is common because the alternatives are not desirable. Dan suggested that wrong-way riding signs be installed; Jeff added that they are now available in the MUTCD.
- George said that it would be good to update pavement markings on Delaware Avenue as well. Frank said that is especially important between Chapel Street and Library Avenue. Maria suggested it would be better to stripe the bike lane through intersections. Trevor Booz asked whether the street is wide enough to accommodate a two-way cycle track; Jeff and Heather said that at 30 feet it may be too narrow.

New business

- Jeff said that given this discussion, the Committee may want to take on a westbound bike route through downtown Newark as its next big project. Options may include one or more of the following:
 - Shared-lane markings (sharrows) on Main Street (especially in the short term)
 - Bike lane on Cleveland Avenue
 - Two-way cycle track on Delaware Avenue
 - New path north of Main Street, near the railroad
 - Replacement of on-street parking on one side of Main Street with a bike lane (in the long term, if more off-street parking is provided)
- Trevor noted that there are conflicts between northbound North College Avenue right turns and pedestrians crossing Cleveland Avenue. George said that signal timing is constrained at this intersection. Heather added that this issue will be considered by the Newark Transportation Plan.
- Frank said that there needs to a policy for pavement markings to be replaced when the pavement is patched.

Review of action items

- The infrastructure group will provide the Traffic Committee with recommendations on bicycle facility retrofits and on updating bicycle pavement markings.
- Mike Fortner will address potential endorsement of the state's Complete Streets policy with the Traffic Committee.
- Steve Hegedus will continue to work with Drew Knab on indoor parking policies at the University of Delaware.

- The education group will look into participation in the annual August teaching assistant orientation session.
- Rich Willy and Arthur Wicks will work to have a bicycle article published in the Review.
- The education group will continue to research available videos and brochures for the English Language Institute and potentially other audiences.
- The encouragement group will develop goals for outreach and bike sharing.
- Mike Fortner will continue to coordinate the Committee's participation at Newark Nite.
- Steve Hegedus will connect Students for the Environment with Arthur Wicks to discuss bicycle repair co-ops.
- The enforcement group will provide the committee suggestions on how they can assist the police with enforcement.
- The enforcement group will continue to research opportunities for organizing and funding bicycle safety checkpoints. Dan LaCombe will determine whether checkpoint funding is available from DelDOT.
- The Newark Police Department will look for opportunities to increase bicycle enforcement at the suggestion of the English Language Institute.

The meeting adjourned about 5:00 pm.