

Newark Bicycle Committee
May 20, 2010, 4:00-5:00 pm
Wilmington Area Planning Council

Minutes

In attendance

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

Not in attendance

Rachel Anderson
Bob Bennett
Howard Brown
Alan Coffey
Charlie Emerson
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 meeting opened with two announcements. Heather Dunigan announced that Newark was named a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community, and Dan LaCombe said that Delaware was named a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly State.

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

Newark Nite preparations:

- Setup between 3:00 and 4:00 pm, even from 4:00 to 9:00 pm.
- Mike Fortner will bring an issues board and map.
- Heather cannot attend, but will ensure that NBC brochures are available.
- Jeff Riegner will bring a job-fair type display for materials.
- Dan will bring pop-up tents and a number of giveaways from DelDOT's bicycle program (reflectors, lights, etc.).

Frank Warnock provided a report on the committee's field trip to view the Pottstown bike sharing program on May 12.

- The program has been in place for about a year and a half and has been very successful, with thousands of shares to date. Key elements of the program include:
 - Presence in a bike shop, facilitating borrower orientation and bike maintenance
 - Single-speed "bombproof" cruisers, most manufactured by Fuji, with baskets containing advertising; only basic maintenance has been needed
 - Sponsorship by Preservation Pottstown, a 501(c)(3) roughly analogous to the Downtown Newark Partnership
 - Exchange of a tangible item (in this case a drivers license) has resulted in no thefts or damage and only one late return in 18 months; however, it limits operation to one location
 - Custom bike racks throughout downtown provide another sponsor advertising opportunity
- Heather suggested that Newark eventually move to a subscription basis using a credit card so that more than one location can be in service. The Trabant University Center bookstore, which will close when the new Barnes & Noble opens, could be a potential site.
- Frank will find out more about the program's initial and annual operating budgets.
- Dan will look into how the State (DelDOT and DNREC) participates in current bike shares at Delaware state parks.

Education group (Cindy Genau, Arthur Wicks, Rich Willy) and **Enforcement group** (Jim Grimes and George Stanko)

- Rich Willy said that the Review ran its own article focusing on bicycle enforcement. He sent bicycle and pedestrian crash data to the paper and will work on a followup in the fall. He emphasized a need for sharrows on Main Street due to the prevalence of wrong-way riding on Delaware Avenue. There was also a general discussion of signs discouraging wrong-way riding.
- Cindy Genau suggested that Bank of America be approached to fund grants to Bike Delaware, some of which could be applied to Newark.
- Dan said that DelDOT is working on a "ride with traffic, walk against traffic" campaign.
- UDPD is reaching out to new resident assistants for bike safety orientation during their regular later summer/early fall orientation session.

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

- Mike Fortner reported that the Traffic Committee endorsed the State's Complete Streets policy, although they expressed concern about maintenance costs and responsibilities. He suggested that Council introduce a resolution when NBC presents the Bicycle Friendly Community award and feedback, probably at a June meeting.

- An official LAB Bicycle Friendly Community event can be held at some date after the Council presentation. Locations for BFC signs and the number of additional signs needed (and their cost) need to be determined. The existing “Welcome to Newark” signs may be good locations.

Parking group (Heather Dunigan and Frank Warnock)

- Heather and Dan will provide an update on downtown progress at the next meeting.

New business

- No new business was brought before the committee.

Review of action items

- The infrastructure group will provide the Traffic Committee with recommendations on bicycle facility retrofits and on updating bicycle pavement markings.
- Jeff Riegner and Mike Fortner will schedule presentation of the Bicycle Friendly Community award to City Council.
- Heather Dunigan and Dan LaCombe will provide an update on new Main Street bike racks.
- Steve Hegedus will continue to work with Drew Knab on indoor parking policies at the University of Delaware.
- The education group will continue to research available videos and brochures for the English Language Institute and potentially other audiences.
- Cindy Genau will look into potential Bank of America grants.
- UDPD will reach out to new resident assistants for bike safety orientation during their regular later summer/early fall orientation session.
- The encouragement group will develop goals for outreach and bike sharing.
- Frank Warnock will determine financial details of the Pottstown bike sharing program for potential application in Newark.
- Dan LaCombe will look into how the State (DeIDOT and DNREC) participates in current bike shares at Delaware state parks.
- The Committee will present a booth 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 DeIDOT.
- The Newark Police Department will look for opportunities to increase bicycle enforcement at the suggestion of the English Language Institute.

The meeting adjourned about 5:30 pm.