

# Newark Bicycle Committee

July 21, 2011, 4:00-5:00 pm  
Wilmington Area Planning Council

## Minutes

### In attendance

Bob Bennett  
Heather Dunigan  
Mark Deshon  
Mike Fortner  
Dan LaCombe  
Jamie Magee  
Jeff Riegner  
Bob Ruddy

### Not in attendance

Anthony Aglio  
Charlie Emerson  
Jim Grimes  
Karl Hassler  
Willett Kempton  
Rich LaPointe  
Ann Marie McKeever  
Chris Richard  
George Stanko  
Frank Warnock  
Arthur Wicks  
Amy Wilburn  
James Wilson

### Introductions

The meeting convened at 4:00 pm.

### Newark Transportation Plan (Heather Dunigan)

- The Plan was discussed with the Traffic Committee on July 18. The Committee was in agreement with all of the Newark Bicycle Committee's short-term recommendations and forwarded them to City Council for adoption. These recommendations may move forward more quickly than the entire Plan.
- Heather reported that DelDOT is willing to fund some easily implemented signing and pavement marking improvements. Although their sharrows policy is still under review, cases like Main Street will likely be determined as appropriate for sharrows.

### Downtown bike racks (Mike Fortner)

- Mike reported that eight in-street racks were installed. Bumper blocks are under consideration to minimize the possibility of the racks being struck by parking vehicles. The City is working on a press release.
- Businesses are interested in sidewalk racks. Mike is working on priority locations from the list assembled by the Committee. The racks will be installed this summer.

- Heather noted that the Starbucks landlord at Main and Haines Street removed the bike rack in front of the store. Mike will look into whether it needs to be replaced.

#### **Community Day** (Mike Fortner)

- Community Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 18 from 11 am to 4 pm.
- Heather will draft a “dot board” to discuss what would convince attendees to bike (or bike more) in Newark.
- Dan LaCombe will provide DelDOT giveaways.
- Jeff Riegner will look into the feasibility of printing Newark-only versions of the new state bike maps as handouts.
- Heather will develop a Newark Transportation Plan marketing piece outlining the Committee’s recommended short-term improvements. She will also print and bring Committee and wrong-way riding brochures.
- Mark Deshon will research prices for a Committee banner.

#### **Checkpoints** (Dan LaCombe)

- Dan reported that two checkpoints will be held in the fall, likely in mid-September. He will coordinate with the Newark and UD Police Departments on dates and will notify the committee.

#### **Sharrow brochure** (Dan LaCombe)

- Dan said that the brochure is awaiting DelDOT approval.

#### **1743 redevelopment** (Bob Bennett)

- Bob will reconnect with his UD contact to ensure good bicycle access is provided as the Chrysler site is redeveloped. Mark added that UD Wellness also wants to promote good bicycle and pedestrian access. Heather suggested that a path be provided through the site to connect the initial Bloom development directly with the train station.

#### **Pomeroy Trail** (Charlie Emerson)

- Charlie reported that the Pomeroy Trail bids came in well under the engineer’s estimate, which may provide an opportunity to fund a spur to Paper Mill Road. State Parks is also looking for design money to extend the trail further into White Clay Creek State Park.
- Heather suggested that the Hall Trail be counted before the Pomeroy Trail is open so good before/after data are available.

#### **University of Delaware outreach** (Ann Marie McKeever)

- Ann Marie said that she and Mark met with Linda Smith of UD’s Wellness program. They support outreach to University employees. The next step may be for the Committee to put on a program in spring 2012.

- Mark suggested a survey of employees to determine why people don't commute by bike. It may include a map of where people live to ascertain the feasibility of biking to downtown Newark.
- Other ideas include a UD biking map to complement the current walking map, as well as a bike sharing program.

### **New Business**

- Heather reported that the General Assembly included a one-time \$5 million allocation in the Bond Bill for bicycle and pedestrian facilities and greenways.
- Jeff asked whether there was interest among the Committee in studying an off-road connection between Newark and Wilmington; there was.
- Heather said that the New Castle County Greenway Plan shows some options to do that, and it may be reasonable to ask DelDOT and/or DNREC to study it in more detail.
- Bob Ruddy suggested that the idea be discussed with the Wilmington Bicycle Advisory Committee to see if they would also support it.

The meeting adjourned about 5:15 pm.