

Newark Bicycle Committee
February 17, 2011, 4:00-5:15 pm
Wilmington Area Planning Council

Minutes

In attendance

Trevor Booz
Heather Dunigan
Mark Deshon
Charlie Emerson
Mike Fortner
Dan LaCombe (part)
Rich LaPointe
Jeff Riegner
Bob Ruddy
George Stanko
Frank Warnock
James Wilson

Not in attendance

Anthony Aglio
Bob Bennett
Jim Grimes
Willett Kempton
Arthur Wicks
Amy Wilburn

Introductions

The meeting convened at 4:00 pm. The agenda of this and subsequent meetings has changed to reflect the priorities the Committee set for itself during the November and December 2010 meetings.

Safety checkpoints (Dan LaCombe)

- DelDOT is committed to two spring checkpoints: one at the same location as last fall on Delaware Avenue, and the other further south on North College Avenue, at the Hollingsworth parking lot. They will be conducted right after spring break, the week of April 11 and/or April 18. It was suggested by several members that wrong-way riding be a strong focus. Volunteers are needed and will have the opportunity to sign up at the March meeting.
- There was further discussion of enforcement issues. George Stanko said that Newark's bicycle enforcement will begin picking up soon, focusing on Delaware Avenue and on North College Avenue at Main Street and Cleveland Avenue. He will refer questions regarding legal and safe riding practices to DelDOT.
- Jeff Riegner suggested a brochure that explains right- and wrong-way riding. Heather Dunigan agreed to produce a draft for review.

- In response to questions, George noted that bicycling on the sidewalk is legal in Newark unless there is a bike lane or sidewalk riding is specifically prohibited (like on East Main Street).
- Mark Deshon suggested reaching out to the English Language Institute before beginning enforcement. George reported that he has done so, and that ELI suggested enforcement may be appropriate. He did say that the police could issue a press release to warn all cyclists that increased enforcement will take place.

Sharrow brochures (Dan LaCombe)

- DeIDOT is meeting with a graphic designer tomorrow to begin developing brochures that explain how sharrows work. The Committee will be asked to review a draft when it is ready.

Downtown bike racks (Mike Fortner)

- Dan reported that DeIDOT staff is determining how to deal with on-street racks, a situation they have not encountered before. He will work with DeIDOT's Deputy Attorney General on an agreement between DeIDOT and the City for installation, maintenance, and operation of the racks.
- Mike will address racks on the sidewalk in parallel with the approval process for on-street racks, and will report back at the March meeting.

Short-term facility recommendations and Newark Transportation Plan adoption (Heather Dunigan)

- Heather will set up a Newark Transportation Plan Advisory Committee meeting in March, then proceed to a public workshop and production of the final Plan report. She asked the Newark Bicycle Committee to identify the most critical facility improvements needed at the March NBC meeting. Jeff will email members to get their thoughts on priorities in advance. Given the previous enforcement discussion, wrong-way riding signs in key areas may be an additional recommendation.

Newark Nite and Community Day (Mike Fortner)

- Newark Nite will be held June 4 from 4:00 to 8:30 pm, with a rain date of June 5. Specifics will be planned later in the spring.

Bike Month and Bike-to-Work Day (Mark Deshon)

- Mark reported on a number of strategies to promote Bike Month and Bike-to-Work Day in Newark, including network with groups like the TMA, producing flyers, coordinating with bicycling groups, and reaching out to UD and City employees.
- Jeff suggested reaching out to other major Newark employers; Heather added that the Downtown Newark Partnership could get the word out to many downtown businesses. She also suggested a central meeting point with refreshments, possibly at Delaware and South College Avenues.

- Jeff said that one of the main points in Newark's Bicycle Friendly Community feedback was having a Mayor's ride. All elected officials should be involved, and the Mayor could ride in a pedicab. Heather also suggested a City resolution.

Newark Bicycle Plan (Jeff Riegner)

- Jeff said that the Newark Bicycle Plan would proceed after the Newark Transportation Plan is adopted. The Plan would be an update of the 2003 draft and would essentially formalize the activities and priorities of the Committee.

Chrysler redevelopment (Bob Bennett): no report

Hall Trail extension (James Wilson)

- Extending the Hall Trail to the west will tie in the Suburban Plaza Shopping Center and Newark Charter School and will provide an important connection in the East Coast Greenway. James presented a map showing two potential options: one along Amtrak right-of-way and one along City streets to Elkton Road.
- Charlie Emerson said that the City has been looking at this extension for some time, but it has not been a priority yet. He cautioned that any option that bridges the Christina River will be difficult and expensive. He suggested that Gravenor Lane could be used to connect neighborhood streets in Devon with Elkton Road. DelDOT is planning a shared-use path along the southeast side of Elkton Road. This could probably be done fairly quickly and inexpensively.
- Rich LaPointe said another option may be considered: Dan has approached the City about using Bradford and Chrysler as an extension of the Hall Trail to Elkton Road. Heather said one reason this route was considered was to keep turns to a minimum.
- James asked whether the extension could be added to the Newark Transportation Plan as a recommended improvement. The Committee concurred and Heather agreed to add it to the Plan. Multiple options could be shown if needed.
- Bob Ruddy added that the Elkton Road/Christina Parkway intersection needs to be addressed as well, as there are not safe crossings at that location.
- Jeff also suggested a shared-use path on the northwest side of Elkton Road between Suburban Plaza and Casho Mill Road.

The meeting adjourned about 5:15 pm.