

Newark Bicycle Committee

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

Minutes

In attendance

Heather Dunigan
Mark Deshon
Mike Fortner
Chris Richard
Jeff Riegner
Bob Ruddy
George Stanko
Frank Warnock

Not in attendance

Anthony Aglio
Bob Bennett
Trevor Booz
Charlie Emerson
Jim Grimes
Willett Kempton
Dan LaCombe
Rich LaPointe
Arthur Wicks
Amy Wilburn
James Wilson

Introductions

The meeting convened at 4:00 pm. Introductions were made for the benefit of Chris Richard, who joined the committee representing the University of Delaware Graduate Student Senate.

Bike Month and Bike-to-Work Day (May 20) (Mark Deshon)

- Mark displayed the Bike-to-Work Day poster, which WILMAPCO will print and Mark will distribute. He also reported that the event is registered with the League of American Bicyclists.
- Mark expressed thanks to the University of Delaware Cycling Club, through whom the space for the event was reserved for free.
- Mark and Mike Fortner will attend a Downtown Newark Partnership meeting on May 4 to promote the event and potentially team with business sponsors.
- City Council will proclaim May 20 Bike-to-Work Day at its May 9 meeting.
- Mark will work with Chris Richard on outreach to the University community.
- DeIDOT will furnish T-shirts.
- Mark has not yet received responses from DuPont Stine Haskell, Dow, or the Transportation Management Association.

- Jeff Riegner suggested that any businesses or organizations that assist in the Bike-to-Work Day effort be recorded so we can send thank you notes after the event.

Safety checkpoints (Dan LaCombe)

- In Dan's absence, Mark reported on the safety checkpoints. Two were held: April 12 from 10 am to noon on Delaware Avenue, and April 20 from noon to 2 pm on North College Avenue. Both were very successful, though the rain on April 12 resulted in less bicycle traffic than usual. Wrong-way riding flyers and bike lights were handed out, as were a few helmets.
- Some attendees estimated that 20 percent of the cyclists observed on North College Avenue during the checkpoint were riding on the wrong side of the road.

Downtown bike racks (Mike Fortner)

- Mike distributed a map of rack locations. He reported that the City and DelDOT are still working on amending their current streetscape agreement to include the bike racks.
- Frank Warnock suggested that the City speak with Starbucks about adjustments to (or replacement of) their bike rack, which does not work well.
- Mike will draft a flyer announcing the upcoming bike racks for distribution at Bike-to-Work Day.

Newark Transportation Plan (Heather Dunigan)

- Heather said that the final workshop for the Newark Transportation Plan will be held May 24 at 7 pm at the Newark Municipal Building. The Plan could go before City Council for adoption as early as June.
- Heather indicated that the next step for adoption of the short-term bicycle recommendations is to get them on the Traffic Committee's agenda. She estimated the cost of the quickest recommendations to implement, wrong-way riding signs and sharrows, as \$700 and \$16,500 respectively. George Stanko said he will recommend that wrong-way riding signs be added to the Elkton Road reconstruction contract.

New business

- The group discussed UD's potential closure of Academy Street to motor vehicles between Lovett Avenue and Courtney Street. Heather reported that between 2000 and 2008, there were one pedestrian crash and no bicycle crashes on that part of Academy Street. (For comparison, the corresponding segment of South College Avenue had 12 pedestrian crashes and 8 bicycle crashes.) The committee agreed not to take an official position on the issue.
- Chris introduced himself as the co-chair of sustainability for the Graduate Student Senate. He will join the Newark Bicycle Committee so the groups can coordinate. Heather suggested his group look at indoor bike parking and bike share, two issues considered by the committee last year.

- Frank distributed Bike Delaware's right turn only lane (RTOL) handout. Bike Delaware met with DeIDOT to discuss potential implementation of RTOL bike treatments on major collectors and minor arterials. DeIDOT supports the idea of a test site.

The meeting adjourned about 5:00 pm.