

# City of Lawrence

## Lawrence – Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee

### October 22, 2013 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Burger, Chad Foster, David Hamby, Rhonda Houser, Lisa Hallberg  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Ediger, Jay Bialek, Justin Eddings, Chris Rogge  
STAFF PRESENT: Jessica Mortinger, Todd Girdler, David Cronin, Chuck Soules  
PUBLIC PRESENT: Bob Schumm, Chris Tilden, Mike Meyers, Erin Paden, Germaine Halegoua

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- 1. Call Meeting to Order and Assurance of Quorum:** The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. A quorum was present and introductions were made.
- 2. Approval of the Approval of the September 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 17th meeting was moved by Mr. Foster seconded by Mr. Hamby and passed unanimously.
- 3. Discussion Item: Presentation by Lawrence City Commissioner Bob Schumm**

Commissioner Schumm wanted to take the opportunity to address the BAC about some ongoing work and plans to improve bicycling opportunities in Lawrence. Our existing bicycle infrastructure network provides a variety of options for recreation but is missing links for transportation. Primarily this is because there is no defined funding with a priorities list in an attempt to strategically implement additional facilities to fill the gaps. As a result, Commission Schumm has been working on a proposal to commit 10% of the existing 5 million dollars of collected roadway maintenance funding or a new ½ mil of property tax revenue if dedicated for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The City Commission has in the past week amended the scope of work on the 6<sup>th</sup> & Iowa Geometric Improvements Project to include a Shared Use Path on the North side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street over the bridge. Mr. Burger indicated the BAC has not commented on that project and that previously the BAC has not recommended improvements on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and instead advised public works to develop parallel routes. Ms. Hallberg indicated that the plans for improved crossings, signals, markings and sidewalk gap fill would be the best possible situation to improving the environment for active transportation. Mr. Foster asked if the bike plan would provide a list of prioritized projects for the funding, with the BAC's input. Mr. Hamby asked about the implications of the state law requiring bicyclists to use designated facilities when they exist. Commissioner Schumm indicated that he also recently met with KDOT staff and Keith Browning to investigate the feasibility of the Shared Use Paths under the North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street bridges. Ms. Mortinger noted that this was a BAC supported project. Mr. Cronin announced that as part of this planned pathway to connect Hobbs to Constant Park the City was exploring a conversation with the railway to begin the discussion about the crossings that the Mike Myers alignment shows. Commissioner Schumm indicated that both of these specific projects were key to completing a ring of shared use paths around Lawrence. Mr. Foster thanked Commissioner Schumm for attending and indicated the BAC would look forward to the support for dedicated funding and bicycle infrastructure. Mr. Burger asked if the dedicated funding would then be the only funding used towards bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Mr. Soules indicated that roadway projects with bicycle and pedestrian improvements would still be built as part of the roadway project's budget. The ability to build more infrastructure will depend if the funding is a new source or a percent of the existing sources. Mr.

Soules indicated that the funding will have to address a set of comprehensive priorities from all the existing plans in the community. Commissioner Schumm said he could envision the need for a super committee to prioritize and identify projects out of the existing and future plans for bicycle infrastructure. Mr. Girdler encouraged members, staff and attendees to keep working on completing the missing links to create a network.

#### **4. Discussion Item: Safety Analysis**

Ms. Mortinger shared with BAC members a revised draft letter to invite other parties to participate in a safety discussion and additional safety analysis with the BAC and MPO staff. Mr. Bialek was unable to attend the meeting and had since the last meeting emailed BAC members. He didn't receive a response and is still seeking additional clarification about what the BAC would like the Lawrence Police Department to present. Mr. Foster asked if the study Mr. Huber had mentioned at the previous meeting had been sent to the members. Ms. Mortinger indicated she would follow up with him. Ms. Mortinger had sent out the draft letter via email and made the edits she received from members. Ms. Houser asked to add, KU BAC, and the small cities to the recipients of the letter. A motion was made to have staff send the revised letter by Mr. Burger, seconded by Ms. Houser and passed unanimously.

#### **5. Discussion Item: Review of the League of American Bicyclists-Bicycle Friendly Community Application Feedback**

Ms. Mortinger provided copies of the League feedback and asked BAC members to discuss and prioritize some of the recommendations for implementation. Mr. Girdler noted the MPO's staff limitations for working on some of the recommendations. If items are prioritized that are not consolidated planning grant eligible then MPO staff will not be available for that task and coordination with other staff or community organizations should be encouraged by the BAC to participate. A good example of this is the current work for safety analysis. That work will provide data useful in the next update of the transportation plan and should be MPO related and fundable. Work that is more advocacy like the creation of safe cycling information and programs will likely not be MPO fundable.

Mr. Burger asked City staff about the impacts on economic development of rescinding a bicycle friendly community status. Mr. Soules indicated that he was in attendance to encourage the BAC to consider the benefits that being able to use the bicycle friendly community status as a supporting factor when the City applies for grants. He indicated that City staff is not supportive of the proposed BFC rescission. A good example of this is the local commitment to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure when working with KDOT to design and build the K-10/Bob Billings Parkway Interchange. Additional costs were associated with the additional bike/ped infrastructure designs and the City used BFC as leverage and contributed local funding to build a multimodal facility. It is not desirable to give back the rating, as the city does a plethora of projects to build a bicycle network. Mr. Burger indicated that the designation should go beyond plans, paperwork and signage and into the culture of the community's attitudes and friendliness towards cyclists. Ms. Hallberg said that while she agreed that a bronze level bicycle friendly community is an oxymoron, it doesn't help the cycling cause to rescind the designation. Mr. Foster said the designation is a false sense of a bicycle friendly community. Ms. Hallberg said the efforts should remain positive and work towards an increasingly friendly community, with the recommendations provided. Mr. Burger said the discussion around the designation has raised awareness and brought high level government staff and elected officials to the committee. Commissioner Schumm noted that he thought the plans to work towards a dedicated funding source to support projects would help justify the cyclists place in the network. Mr. Soules indicated that the type of support the committee might be looking for should be worked on through awareness and other community efforts for education and

encouragement. Mr. Burger said while he didn't want to negatively impact economic progress there is a lack of traction with enforcement, not that the desired outcome is number of cyclists ticketed, but rather a change in the overall attitude towards cyclists. Currently on the legal jury's he has observed, shocking decisions against the cyclists have been made. Mr. Soules indicated that education and encouragement for bicycling is similar to the education and encouragement around recycling that has taken years to build and implement. Mr. Foster recognized the increased need for funding for additional programming efforts. Mr. Soules and Mr. Girdler suggested Safe Routes To Schools planning and funding programs as a means to increase the education and awareness around transportation trips by bike and foot. Mr. Girdler indicated that the school district should be pursuing SRTS planning monies. Mr. Myers indicated he has met with USD 497 staff and not gotten a commitment. Mr. Burger indicated the BAC members should use their appointments to raise awareness of education and encouragement (2 of the 5 E's). Commissioner Schumm indicated that the discussion around funding bicycle & pedestrian infrastructure should raise the topic to new height and draw support with the promise of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements. Mr. Burger said that he wouldn't support a general tax increase. Ms. Houser said that she appreciated the discussion raised by this topic about bicycling, but thinks it is in the best option of the BAC to not ask to rescind the BFC status. The BAC members agreed to a special work meeting of the BAC on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7pm to review the League's feedback, priorities programs and set a work plan. Ms. Mortinger indicated she would set up the meeting.

#### **6. Discussion: Multimodal Studies/Bike Plan**

This project includes three parts - Commuter Park & Ride Study, Fixed Route Transit and Pedestrian Accessibility Study, and Countywide Bikeway System Plan. Ms. Mortinger shared news that the MPO staff and the consultant team have completed the public participation stage with the online survey and final open house. Several memos and other materials about the issues discussed in this project have been produced and put online for the public to review. Steering Committee meeting notes have also been posted online. The draft final report for this study will be available in November for public review and comment. The consultant work on this study will end on December 31, 2013 or sooner. Steering Committee members and related committees will have a few weeks to review the draft plan and provide comments.

#### **7. Other Business/ Updates**

Ms. Mortinger noted that many positions on the BAC are up for reappointment at the end of 2013. MPO staff will notify the local governments who are responsible for the appointments.

#### **8. Public Comments:** There was none.

#### **9. Adjournment of Meeting:**

The meeting ended at 6:20 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>.