

# Bikeway Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Members Present: Michael Hayes (representing the community at large) presiding, Bernice Cage (representing Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission), Charlie Pace (bicyclist), Brad Westall (representing City of Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks)

Members Absent: Lelia Cady (representing Columbus City Council), Mike Meeks (representing Franklin County Engineer's Office), Steve Studenmund (representing Franklin County Metro Parks), Gordon Renkes (bicyclist), Chuck Waterman (representing Rails to Trails Conservancy)

Others Present: Dale Hooper (City of Columbus Transportation Division) and guests John Gideon of COBAC, Steve Hardwick, Ken Ladell, David Roseman, Carl Shoolman

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting began around 4:05.

## **Minutes of the March Meeting**

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted, with one change. Cage wanted to adjust the wording about the Livingston Avenue problem. She asked that the City *investigate* (rather than ~~correct~~) the problem.

## **Report on the Columbus Bicycle Plan**

City Council passed legislation to create a Bike Plan. Now \$255,000 is available for the consultants (MORPC, Burgess & Niple, Alta) to start work. City staff is finalizing the scope of services (digested scope). The Committee asked when the notice to proceed will be issued. It also inquired about the Stakeholders committee. Hooper stated that plenty of members have been proposed for the Stakeholders Committee. The list will have to be pared down to about 12 people, a workable group.

## **The Governor signs House Bill 389, reshaping Bicycling Laws**

In June the Governor signed a bill to clarify and improve Bicycling Law in Ohio. The bill goes into effect in September. Currently, Ohio has a patchwork of bicycle laws. For example, some local laws prohibit bicycling on the sidewalk, while others require it. The new law requires that all local laws generally conform to state law.

Hooper outlined provisions of the new laws. Law about slow moving traffic has been clarified. Now, judges must consider the capabilities of the vehicle operator and vehicle, when determining if the vehicle was holding up traffic. The laws concerning travel on the right are now clearer. Bicycles are explicitly allowed to leave the right lane to pass, make left turns and enter the appropriate lane (for their direction of travel). Relief has been given to motorists to pass bicycles. Under safe circumstances, motorists may now pass bicyclists, even in No Passing Zones. Bicyclists must signal turns, but not continuously. In most cases, bicyclists no longer receive points on their license, for moving violations on a bicycle. Those who endanger bicyclists may now be required to take education courses on bicycling. Use of bicycle seats has been clarified. Bicyclists may legally stand astride their seat while climbing hills on a bicycle and child seats and trailers are explicitly allowed. The new laws may trigger efforts to license bicycles.

Requirements for lights and reflectors have been rationalized. Front and wheel reflectors, which are almost useless, are no longer required. Flashing rear lights are now explicitly allowed. A Red rear reflector and light are still required. Bicyclists may not be required to ride on sidewalks.

These new laws will have to be discussed in the City's bike plan. Gideon noted that Ohio's versions of Street Smarts (which contain a digest of Ohio's bicycle laws) will have to be updated.

### **Bikeway Development Fund**

The Bikeway Development Fund now contains \$ 80,000 to buy bicycle racks and lockers and post bike route signage. From this fund, \$ 5,000 was removed to fund preparing a Bike Plan. Hooper reported that a low, responsive bidder for the bicycle racks was found. Legislation to purchase 50 inverted U racks is being prepared. The rebid of the bicycle lockers is somewhere in Purchasing or Finance. It is hoped that these will be advertised soon.

Gideon asked where the racks would be installed. Hooper said that is generally determined by citizen requests. Hooper also noted that the Downtown Columbus Circulation Study proposed numerous racks downtown. He recalled that this plan recommended either one rack on each block or one on each corner. Gideon asked when these would be installed. Hooper wasn't sure, since he was the only person to do site studies. He noted that there was currently a backlog of half a dozen requests to install racks. Someone complained that this backlog has been the same for months.

### **The Committee discusses Signed Shared Routes (Bike Routes)**

At the May meeting, the Committee noted problems with bike route signage, so it was added to this month's agenda. Today, Hooper distributed drawings to the Committee, showing the most recent route signage. Interestingly, there were few comments about signage. Discussion focused on maps.

The Committee complained about the lack of information. They wanted to know where are the bikeways, what destinations do these serve and how do these interconnect. Hooper noted that bikeway maps have been on the City's websites for years. The Committee complained that these are hard to find. Hooper explained how to reach both Transportation's and Recreation & Park's websites. He noted that the maps are more accessible. In transportation's website maps used to lie 7 layers down, now these are only 4 layers down. Schoolman stated that he works with computers for a living and he couldn't find the maps. Gideon and Roseman discussed creating a link to the City's maps, from COBAC's website.

Discussion turned to the Metromap (a map of all the bikeways in the Columbus Metropolitan Area). An electronic version has been on the Transportation website for over a year. Unfortunately, it doesn't work. While it looks fine at first, the bikeways fragment when magnified to show detail. Hooper noted that within the last year, there have been myriad requests (specifically for a map of all of Columbus' Bikeways).

Conversation moved to the signed shared routes (bike routes). Shoolman asked about Bikeway 49. Hooper said that this is complete north of Goodale. Posting of signs south to Greenlawn Avenue was started, but interrupted. Someone also asked about Bikeway 44. Hooper noted that this is Bikeway 44/440. The Eastbound portion is posted, but the westbound is only half done. Bikeway 420 is also only half posted. Hooper noted that other work has impeded completion of these routes. The Committee asked why these projects aren't completed. Hooper cited interruptions, by other work.

Mention that Bikeway 44 was to become 440, caused Roseman to ask about the City's bikeway numbering system. Where could a citizen get information about this system? Hooper noted that this was discussed in the appendix of the draft Bike Plan that he wrote for Columbus. However, until recently this was not available to the public.

### **Clintonville Streetscape Project**

Hooper reported on the bike racks installed for the Clintonville Streetscape project. A total of 32 racks are installed in pairs along High Street, between Arcadia and Torrence? These are in the shape of the greek letter pi and are about 3 to 4 feet high. He has never seen this type of rack before, but these seem suitable (supporting the bike without damage). Hooper could not find information about these racks' durability. Both Hooper and Hardwick questioned whether each pair of racks was far enough apart to accommodate the full complement of 4 bicycles. Hooper noted that each rack was mounted on a base plate held in place by 4 bolts. Hardwick was concerned about security, since the bolts could easily be removed with a crescent wrench. Hooper said that problem could be quickly and easily solved by peening the threads on the bolts. Accomplishing this seemingly simple task. was debated. Hooper could do this himself after work, but was concerned about arrest for vandalism.

### **News about Traffic Calming Projects**

The Committee sent a letter to the Public Service Director, expressing concern. The Committee was left out of the process, when the the Strawberry Farms and Harrison West traffic calming projects were developed. Copies of the director's reply were distributed to the Committee. The director assured the Committee of its future consideration.

Gideon asked about the median projects. Hooper reported that plans for the Collins and Third Avenue projects were about to be signed. Legislation to build these comes next.

Gideon also asked about involvement of Dan Burden in the Harrison West median projects. Hooper reported that Dan Burden had been asked to intervene, gratis. However, Dan Burden declined to take on the work at no fee.

### **ODOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan**

Gideon described efforts of ODOT's Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee. It got ODOT to add mention of bicycles to the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

### **Main Street Bridge**

Someone had read an article about the new Main Street Bridge. They asked about bikeways on the bridge. Hooper reported that there was no bikeway. He explained that because of the unusual design, adding a few feet for a bikeway would unbalance it. He also noted that if it becomes a two way street, space for a bikeway may become available.

### **OSU's Olentangy Path**

Hooper was asked if the City was part of OSU's project to reconstruct the path. Hooper had not heard of it.

### **Mayor's Green Team supports Valet Parking**

The Central Ohio Bicycle Advocacy Coalition (COBAC) has reached an agreement with the Mayor's Green Team. COBAC has agreed to investigate providing valet bicycle parking for various events.

COBAC needs a city agency to sponsor them, to apply for federal funds. These funds would be used to support and alternative transportation campaign, including event parking. Gideon asked if the Transportation Division would sponsor COBAC.

**North Columbus Shared Use Path (Bike Path)**

Roseman reported that Columbia Gas is clearing a 75 foot wide strip, east-west across north Columbus. He suggested that the City build a path upon it. Hooper asked him to send a map of the easement.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned about 6:10.

**Future Meetings**

Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup> and January 17<sup>th</sup>. Meetings are usually held at the Department of Recreation and Parks offices at 200 Greenlawn Avenue. Meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month (in the odd months). Contact the Bikeway Coordinator at 645-8079 for confirmation.

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_  
R. Dale Hooper, Bikeway Coordinator

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Acting Executive Secretary  
Transportation Division Administrator