

REPORT OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 17, 2015 – 10:00 AM
City Conference Room – County-City Building
1515 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481

PRESENT: Marlene Pohl; Trevor Roark; Tori Jennings; Jim Menzel; Liz McDonald

ALSO PRESENT: Kyle Kearns; Bob Fisch; Brian Formella; Nathan Sandwick; Rick Zahn; Cathy Dugan

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1. Call to Order.
 2. Minutes and Actions from October 20, 2015 meeting.
 3. Presentation by Brian Formella on Brilowski Road/Green Circle Trail access.
 4. Persons who wish to address committee for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items.
 5. Discussion on bike crossing/accessibility around I-39 interchange.
 6. Results of presentation to Plan Commission on Abandoned Bike Ordinance.
 7. Flyer for UWSP students and public about bike registration, how to report stolen bikes, where to purchase low-cost bikes, etc.
 8. Bike share preliminary discussion.
 9. Portage County Bicycle Pedestrian Plan prioritization.
 10. Sidewalk snow shoveling awareness effort.
 11. Schedule next meeting.
 12. Adjourn.
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1. Call to Order
2. Report of the October 20, 2015 Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting.
Motion by Liz McDonald to approve minutes; seconded by Marlene Pohl. Motion carries 5-0.
3. Presentation by Brian Formella on Brilowski Road/Green Circle Trail access.
Mr. Formella presented the problem of bike accessibility in the northeast corridor and lack of access to the Green Circle Trail for neighborhoods in the Brilowski Road area. He discussed options to avoid the I-39 corridor which is a barrier to cyclists and pedestrians. Among these options include a bicycle/pedestrian bridge across the Plover River north of the I-39 interchange. This idea has been looked at by city officials and bike advocates for the past 7 years but is complicated by project costs and wetland regulation. Mr. Formella emphasized that the root of the problem is the highway in our urban midst. He suggested that the best solution is a pedestrian overpass at the I-39 interchange. This overpass would create a safe and effective interface with the highway for cyclists and pedestrians.
4. Persons who wish to address committee for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items.

Rick Zahn commented on the lack of sidewalks and pedestrian safety in the Business Park. He stated this problem is long-standing. As one example, the Business Park has daycare centers and parents are

pushing strollers in the roadways due to the absence of sidewalks and pedestrian accommodations. In sum, the area is unsafe for walkers.

Bob Fisch reported that Stevens Point has the opportunity to reapply for the Bike Friendly Community award hosted by the League of American Bicyclists. Stevens Point currently carries the BFC bronze award and a good goal for the City is to strive toward platinum. Wausau is a new recipient of this BFC award and received a bronze designation. Kyle Kearns mentioned that his office will work with BPAC on the application for the higher award (which is due in Feb, 2016).

5. Discussion on bike crossing/accessibility around I-39 interchange.

Discussion on above:

-Trevor Roark pointed out that the I-39 interchange has a concentration of bicycle crashes as marked on Map 2 in the Portage County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (PCBPP). According to data in the PCBPP, demand may not be sufficient to justify a pedestrian/bicycle overpass. The DOT has plans to rebuild this interchange and he wondered how BPAC might best be involved in that discussion. For example, the public should be part of the process and the City might consider hosting a DOT meeting on the subject.

-Marlene Pohl pointed out that the demand map in the PCBPP is misleading since cyclists avoid the interchange because it feels dangerous and is difficult to navigate. Consequently, demand should not be used as an indicator of need since cyclists would cross the interchange if bike accommodations existed.

-Jim Menzel reiterated the dangers of cycling through the interchange.

-Kyle Kearns stated that the Comprehensive Plan recognizes growth opportunities to the east and bike/pedestrian accessibility is being considered.

-Liz McDonald commented on opportunities to promote tourism by having proper bicycle accommodations in that area. Hotel owners should have an interest in bicycle accommodations as well as bike share to attract more business.

-Bob Fisch stated that the DOT project is slated for 2020-2022 and this interchange corridor is important because it links businesses located on either side of I-39

-Brian Formella remarked that the highway is the problem and something more optimal can be done to serve cyclists and pedestrians attempting to travel through that area.

6. Results of presentation to Plan Commission on Abandoned Bike Ordinance.

Discussion on above:

Trevor Roark and Tori Jennings summarized the Plan Commission meeting and presentation by BPAC on an abandoned bike ordinance. Kyle added that the city attorney will be drafting the language for the ordinance. In January it will go through the normal ordinance process, which includes a public hearing.

-Trevor Roark added that education about the ordinance and rules for using public bike racks should be added to the BPAC website in future.

-Tori Jennings added that smartphone apps have been used by other cities as tools for the public to report problems ranging from potholes and missing stop signs, to abandoned bikes.

7. Flyer for UWSP students and public about bike registration, how to report stolen bikes, where to purchase low-cost bikes, etc.

Discussion on above:

Liz McDonald summarized the current bike licensing program for Stevens Point. Currently, license cost \$6 each, are life-long, and this revenue goes into the general fund. Bike licensing has raised \$642 so far this year and \$486 total last year. Kyle Kearns stated that he will explore redirecting funds so they

can be used for bike accommodations including bike racks. Kyle further recommended that UWSP students design a new informational brochure.

-Cathy Dugan stated that she has had two bicycles stolen. Licensing will be an education tool and she suggested that businesses selling bikes could also provide licensing information.

-Tori Jennings asked if the clerk's office, rather than police department, could handle licensing.

-Nathan Sandwick encouraged the committee to include the purpose for licensing in the newly designed pamphlet.

-Liz McDonald suggested that a printable form be available online on the BPAC and/or city website.

8. Bike share preliminary discussion.

Discussion on above:

The committee discussed bike share at a scale appropriate for Stevens Point and the bike share program in Rapids.

-Trevor Roark stated that he would contact River Riders about presenting to BPAC.

-Marlene Pohl encouraged the committee to look at partnerships, for example health care agencies.

-Trevor Roark added that partnering with the Visitors Center would be welcomed.

-Bob Fisch stated that the current movement is away from kiosks towards non-kiosk options.

-Cathy Dugan stated she would oppose bike share if it were a quasi public-private operation. She stated it needs to be affordable.

-Rick Zahn added that BPAC should think about constituencies including out-of-towners, townies, recreation users, and people who have trouble affording a bike.

-Nathan Sandwick said lots of work needs to be done and the community needs to be involved.

Partners might include PC Can, Shifting Gears, and healthcare agencies.

9. Portage County Bicycle Pedestrian Plan prioritization.

Discussion on above:

Given the complexity of the Portage County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan (PCBPP), Tori Jennings recommended that a special session be arranged at a location and time convenient for the public. The special session might take the form of a workshop.

-Rick Zahn said that Rotary might consider partnering as a funding source for facilities/signage.

-Bob Fisch suggested that BPAC could meet with City employees (Planning, Parks, PD, etc.) for input, funding challenges, etc.

-Motion by Marlene Pohl to hold a special session for PCBPP prioritization; seconded by Trevor Roark. Motion carries 5-0.

10. Sidewalk snow shoveling awareness effort.

-Liz McDonald suggested that more awareness about clearing sidewalks during winter could take place on the city and BPAC website.

-Marlene Pohl explained that the 168 transit stops throughout the city are particularly problematic areas and an "adopt a bus stop" program might be considered.

-Cathy Dugan stated that bins of sand were available on some street corners in the past. Liz McDonald responded that the budget for this program was eliminated to save money. She also noted that residents can fill up their bucket with a sand/salt mix for free at the recycling center.

-Kyle Kearns said that the City will write up a piece for the press.

11. Schedule next meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for December 15 at 10:00 AM.

12. Adjournment