

**REPORT OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL SESSION**

August 30, 2016 - 10:00 AM

Conference Room, County-City Building
1515 Strongs Avenue - Stevens Point WI 54481

PRESENT: Tori Jennings, Trevor Roark, Bill Fehrenbach, Scott Cole, Michael O'Meara

ABSENT: Scott Cole

STAFF PRESENT: Associate Planner Kyle Kearns

ALSO PRESENT: Alderperson Cathy Dugan

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1. Call to Order.
2. Persons who wish to address committee for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda item.*

Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:

3. Plan Stevens Point Bike Count.
4. Plan UWSP Student Orientation bike ride and information booth.
5. Schedule next meeting.
6. Adjourn.

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1. Call to order.

Meeting was called to order by Tori Jennings.

2. Persons who wish to address committee for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda item.*

Kyle Kearns gave an update on Rails to Trails, which is currently in a "holding pattern." Canadian National (CN) removed the tracks two years ago. The State of Wisconsin has right of first refusal and they can offer it to the city. The City is waiting for CN to make decision, whose time frame is unknown.

Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:

3. Plan Stevens Point Bike Count.

Bill Fehrenbach gave an overview of the bike/pedestrian count procedure and asked if we could dispense with the directional tallies for the purpose of making it easier for the volunteers to accurately record numbers of people.

Michael O'Meara stated that directional tallies in intersections are necessary for grant purposes. He added that gender data and helmet use was probably not necessary.

Committee members Jennings and Roark countered that directional data was not necessary for grants and gave the example of the TAP grant.

Bill Fehrenbach stated that looking back at the previous data, only Michael O'Meara and Bob Fisch accurately recorded all data required on the form provided by Portage County.

Tori Jennings said that the question appears to be between producing something more accurate or producing lots of mistakes, and advanced the idea that producing accurate numbers requires simplifying the process.

Scott Cole stated that what we need is a count of bikes and pedestrians.

Trevor Roark stated that he has never seen anything about travel directions. He leans towards simplifying.

Kyle Kearns said that focusing on infractions is not beneficial. He thought directional travel is useful. This helps identify the way people are moving around and why. Infrastructure decisions should be based on knowledge of where people are riding.

Cathy Dugan stated that in her district she knows where the major east/west corridors are.

Bill Fehrenbach emphasized that the information we need—and capable of collecting and analyzing—requires us to keep it simple.

Scott Cole suggested that if we get too detailed about what we are looking for, we will lose some of the counts. He gave the example of Hilltop and the difficulty of knowing where bikers are heading.

Cathy Dugan spoke about Green Avenue and the need for sidewalks on Green Avenue. She has been contacted by constituents about safety concerns related to speeding traffic and access to Washington Elementary.

Tori Jennings returned the discussion to bike/pedestrian counts.

Motion by Bill Fehrenbach to simply count by category (bike, pedestrian, other gross count at intersections. No second, motion failed.

Kyle Kearns asked if there is a better way to collect directional data. The committee discussed ways to tally information on the current graphic that is simpler but still captures essential information.

Motion by Trevor Roark to use graphic and include directional, bike, pedestrian, other, and count. Second by Michael O’Meara. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Kyle Kearns showed the committee the maps he created for the volunteers. The committee agreed that the maps looked good and will work well. The committee thanked him for his work.

Bill Fehrenbach asked the committee to reconsider the underpass as a data site.

Motion by Bill Fehrenbach that we restore the underpass data collection site and eliminate the Patch and Hoover location added on 08/09/2016. Second by Trevor Roark. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Bill Fehrenbach explained that volunteer recruitment is going slowly. He asked everyone to recruit and enter names in the online form he created for the bike/pedestrian count.

Bill Fehrenbach suggested a launch site for the counts and asked where this should be. The committee agreed that the Mid-State Technical College parking lot would be a good location for Wednesday and Saturday.

4. Plan UWSP Student Orientation bike ride and information booth.

Tori Jennings reviewed the information that has been handed out and the flyers created by Trevor Roark. Bill Fehrenbach, Trevor Roark, and Sgt Piotrowski will be at the table in the DUC from 10:00 to 2:00 on September 7 to hand out licensing information, license bikes, provide safety information and general bicycling information. Tori Jennings volunteered to create the banner and Kyle Kearns will print.

Tori Jennings discussed orientation rides. She suggested that the rides on the 21st and 28th be moved to 5:00PM. Scott Cole volunteered for the trail ride on the 21st and Bill Fehrenbach volunteered for the road ride on the 28th. Trevor Roark volunteered for the ride on the 14th. The rides will begin at the UWSP Debot cafeteria.

5. Schedule next meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for October 11, 9:00 AM

6. Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 11:06.