



Lawrence Bicycle Advisory Committee

March 16, 2010 at 6 PM
Public Works Conference Room
Ground Floor, Lawrence City Hall
6 E. Sth Street, Lawrence, KS

AGENDA

1. **Call Meeting to Order, Introductions, and Assurance of Quorum**
2. **Approval of the February 16, 2010 Meeting Minutes**
3. **Discussion Item: Bicycle Safety Month:** The BAC will discuss what activities or events should be promoted in May. Jay Bialek has been in communications with KU about producing a Public Service Announcement and will give an update.
4. **Discussion/Action Item: Bicycle Rideability Map:** BAC members will review the final draft copy of the map and discuss different funding options for having the map printed.
5. **Action Item: 7th Street Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge Support Letter:** Michael Almon sent a letter to the City Commission requesting that a sub-committee be formed to discuss the bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Iowa Street that would connect 7th Street with Centennial Park. He is requesting that the BAC support this idea. If appropriate, the BAC will determine any action it will take.
6. **Action Item: BAC Meeting Time and Location:** Last year the Committee voted to move the meeting time to 6pm and hold the meetings at Fire Station #5, but Fire Station #5 will not allow a standing monthly reservation and the room has been booked by another group during recent BAC meeting times. Also, the members who requested a later meeting time are no longer on the Committee. The BAC will vote to determine a meeting time and location for 2010.
7. **Other Business**
8. **Adjournment of Meeting**

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City of Lawrence
Lawrence – Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee
February 16, 2010 minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jay Bialek, Neil Taylor, Becky McClure, Gary Calton, Tyler Longpine
MEMBERS ABSENT: Eric Struckhoff-Chair
STAFF PRESENT: Bart Rudolph, Todd Girdler, Shoeb Uddin
PUBLIC PRESENT: Michael Almon, Carol Shankel, Susan Twombly, Madeline Finch

1. Call Meeting to Order and Assurance of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm and introductions were made. Mr. Longpine introduced himself as the newest appointee from Douglas County. Mr. Rudolph stated that since there are currently six appointed members, a quorum is assured.

2. Approval of the January 19, 2010 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 19, 2010 was made by Ms. McClure and seconded by Mr. Bialek. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Action Item: 6th Street Shared Use Path Signing:

Mr. Rudolph reminded the Committee that the BAC originally discussed this item in 2008. It was the Committee's decision that pavement markings, similar to those found in crosswalks, would be more effective than additional signage at alerting drivers about the shared-use path and is warranted due to the unexpected activity of bicyclists traveling in both directions on a shared-use path. The BAC's recommendation was taken to the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) in February 2009. They agreed and recommended a trial installation of pavement markings at the crossings along 6th Street between Folks and K-10 and that the BAC report back after 6 months. That recommendation was approved by the City Commission on March 10th and the pavement markings were installed in September 2009.

Mr. Rudolph stated that it was time to evaluate the effectiveness of the markings, meet with the resident who originally proposed the additional signage, and provide additional recommendations to the TSC if appropriate. He introduced Carol Shankel, who originally made the request in September 2008 and again in October 2009, to the committee and invited her to share her concerns.

Ms. Shankel distributed pictures of the crossings showing how the pavement markings have not lasted and disappeared in some places. She felt that the markings alone and their current conditions were not sufficient and more should be done. She shows one picture of a "sharrow" and encouraged the City to install more sharrow markings to indicate to motorists that cyclists are sharing the road. She recommended that they be larger than the ones installed on Naismith Drive. Another picture showed a stop bar prior to the crosswalk markings in another area of town and suggested that stop bars be placed in advance of the crosswalk markings recently installed. Another picture was of a sign along the K-10 path indicating that motorists should watch for cyclists and mentioned that since there is already a

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precedent for this type of signage in Lawrence it would be acceptable to place these signs below the stop signs at the access points where the shared use path crosses. The final picture confirmed that one of the stop signs was located after the crosswalk markings, making it unclear that the motorist should stop before the crosswalk. She recommended that the BAC considers all of her suggestions and encouraged the City to avoid creating similar situations in future developments.

The BAC discussed Ms. Shankel's suggestions along with some other alternatives. One alternative was to place stop signs along the shared use path to help reduce any potential conflicts, but the BAC felt this would discourage cyclists from using the path where they are legally required to ride. The BAC was also concerned with adding to many additional signs for both the motorists and cyclists and didn't want them to become more distracted than they already were. The Committee suggested adding some type of markings on the shared use path at each crossing cautioning the cyclist of the potential conflict and suggested that staff research best practices and other cities that may have installed similar markings. The Committee also felt that the crosswalk markings would still be the most effective treatment, but a stronger, more durable solution would be needed to prevent the paint from disappearing. Mr. Rudolph also noted that the current work underway to develop a Complete Streets policy would address this issue in future developments.

In the end, the Committee made the following recommendations and will present them at the TSC meeting in April.

1. The crosswalk style markings installed in September 2009 are worn and in some places nonexistent. A more durable and longer lasting treatment should be installed.
2. A stop bar should be installed in advance of the crosswalk markings for motorists exiting the parking lots.
3. Stop signs should be moved if necessary, so that they are placed in advance of the crosswalk markings.
4. A sign should be placed below the stop sign to warn motorists to watch for cyclists.
5. Markings should be placed on the shared use path cautioning cyclists of the potential conflict. (Research of best practices should indicate exact language for markings)

A motion to approve and forward the recommendations as stated above to the Traffic Safety Commission was made by Mr. Longpine, seconded by Mr. Taylor and passed unanimously.

4. Action Item: 2010 Elections:

Mr. Rudolph mentioned that the bylaws state that elections for Chair and Vice Chair should be held at the first regularly scheduled meeting of each year, but since members were still being appointed to represent the expanded membership, elections were postponed. Now that Douglas County has appointed its additional member, Mr. Rudolph suggested holding elections at this meeting.

Mr. Calton volunteered to run for Vice Chair and the Committee agreed to nominate Mr. Struckhoff for an additional term as Chair.

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A motion to elect Gary Calton as Vice Chair and Eric Struckhoff as Chair was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Bialek and passed unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action Item: 2010 Work Plan:

Mr. Rudolph distributed a list of possible work plan ideas for 2010 at the January meeting and asked that the Committee take time to review the list and add items that they would like to accomplish in 2010. The Committee agreed with the list and noted their appreciation for staff developing the plan.

The committee agreed to place the following items on its 2010 work plan.

- Develop a county-wide Bikeway System Map
- Participate in Bicycle Safety Month in May
- Conduct a downtown bicycle parking study
- Update the Lawrence-Douglas County Bicycle Plan
- Work to establish a Complete Streets policy
- Conduct the 2nd annual bicycle and pedestrian count in September

A motion to approve the 2010 work plan items as stated above was made by Mr. Bialek, seconded by Ms. McClure and passed unanimously.

6. Discussion Item: Bicycle Safety Month:

Mr. Rudolph reported that the City received an e-mail from Dylan Medlock stating that the family of Rachel Leek has asked the volunteer organizers and the City not to install a Ghost Bike as a memorial for their daughter. Mr. Medlock originally contacted the City in October 2009 requesting a memorial for his friend Rachel Leek who was killed in a biking accident in the 1000 block of Tennessee. In November 2009, the BAC discussed the possibility of expanding this idea to a larger citywide installation of Ghost Bikes during Bicycle Safety Month. Given the recent developments and request from the Leek family, Mr. Rudolph asked if the Committee still wanted to proceed with the Bicycle Safety Month event and what other activities or events should be promoted in May.

The Committee felt that they should honor the wishes of the Leek family and table the discussion for a larger community-wide Ghost Bike installation for at least a year. Not knowing how the families of the victims would feel about such an installation caused some concern for the Committee and it was decided that it would be left out of the Bicycle Safety Month planning activities for this year. The Committee is still interested in creating a single memorial to honor all of the cyclists who lost their lives on the road or a more general statue that celebrates cycling in Lawrence that helps spread the message to Share the Road.

Mr. Rudolph also inquired about the bicycle rodeo and helmet fair and asked if the Fire Department was involved in that again this year. Mr. Taylor replied that KU Athletics had taken over the event last year due to budget constraints and he would see what the plans are for 2010. Ms. McClure also suggested seeing if Lawrence Memorial Hospital had any similar events planned.

Mr. Rudolph asked if the Committee would be interested in working with Free State High School again this year to produce Public Service Announcements aimed at bicycle safety. He also mentioned that the City's community television channel would soon be able to play video and such announcements could be shown there. The

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Committee suggested contacting KU about producing a video. Mr. Bialek volunteered to contact KU on the Committee's behalf.

The Committee also suggested contacting the Lawrence Bicycle Club for any events they may have planned. It was also suggested that members of the BAC attend events like area art shows, farmer's market, sports expos, bicycle races, and marathons to pass out the Bicycle Rideability Maps if they are finalized and printed.

7. Discussion/Action Item: Bicycle Rideability Map:

This item was deferred. Mr. Rudolph stated that the BAC would be asked to approve the final version of the map and related safety information at the next BAC meeting.

8. Discussion Item: Kasold Reconstruction - Clinton Pkwy to 31st Street:

Mr. Uddin shared information regarding the 5 - 6 mile Kasold reconstruction project between 31st Street and Clinton Parkway. He noted that there is currently a gap between the shared use paths along the curve between Kasold and 31st Street which will be fixed with this project. He noted that he would send the plans to Mr. Rudolph for distribution to the Committee if anyone wanted more information.

9. Other Business

Mr. Rudolph asked if the meeting times and location were still acceptable with the Committee. Last year the Committee voted to move the meeting time to 6pm and hold the meetings at Fire Station #5, but Fire Station #5 will not allow a standing monthly reservation and the room has been booked by another group during recent BAC meeting times. Also, the members who requested a later meeting time are no longer on the Committee. After some discussion, the Committee decided to table the item until the next meeting and requested that Mr. Rudolph add it as an official agenda item.

Mr. Almon mentioned that he had sent a letter to the City Commission requesting that a sub-committee be formed to discuss the bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Iowa Street that would connect 7th Street with Centennial Park. He asked what the next steps would be or if there was anything the BAC could do to further support this idea. Mr. Rudolph mentioned that the BAC could send a letter of support if desired. Since this is an advisory board to the City Commission, the Committee could only recommend items to the City Commission to consider. The Committee asked that this item be placed on the next BAC agenda as an official agenda item.

Mr. Almon called attention to an e-mail he sent Mr. Rudolph, Mr. Uddin, and Mr. Struckhoff regarding the establishment of a Comprehensive Bicycle Facilities Maintenance Program. Mr. Almon noted that after the recent snow storms several bike lanes around town were not cleared of snow and ice and remain a sheet of sand today. He also noted the potentially fatal hazards potholes could create. He recommended that the City adopt a Comprehensive Bicycle Facilities Maintenance Program that has yearly line-item in the City budget, parallel to various maintenance programs for auto pavement repair, auto parking lots, street sweeping, and snow plowing. Mr. Uddin stated that he would talk with the maintenance division to fully understand their policy regarding bicycle facilities and will get back in touch with Mr. Almon.

10. Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.