



## **Lawrence/Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes  
June 17, 2008**



**Fire Station #5  
1911 Stewart, Lawrence, KS**

**Members Present:** Eric Struckhoff-Chair, Stephanie Bishop, Becky McClure, Mark Desetti, Neil Taylor, Michael Hajdu  
**Members Absent:** Jay Bialek  
**Staff Present:** Todd Girdler, Shoeb Uddin  
**Public Present:** Eddie Davalos- Park Hill Neighborhood Association

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 5:44 pm.
2. **Introductions, Assurance of Quorum:** Quorum was assured.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Approval of the Minutes from the April 15, 2008 meeting was deferred until the next meeting.
4. **Staff Introductions and Report:**
  - ◆ Eric Struckhoff introduced Todd Girdler to the group. Todd informed the group that he has experience doing bikeway system planning in both Yuma, AZ and Topeka, KS.
  - ◆ Todd Girdler discussed the issue of the bike route change to Massachusetts Street between South Park and Indian Avenue. He informed the group that he has been unable to find any documentation that this recommended change was ever acted on by the MPO or the City Commission. The MPO Technical Advisory Committee recently discussed this issue and agreed with the BAC to move this bike route. Todd suggested that this item be placed on an upcoming MPO agenda for action and that this lead to the revision of the Bicycle Facilities Map and the Public Works Department removing the signs from this stretch of Vermont and Kentucky and placement of signs along Massachusetts.
  - ◆ Todd Girdler and Shoeb Uddin informed the group that there is a repaving project planned for part of this section of Massachusetts and at that time some restriping may occur to better accommodate bicyclists with a wider curb lane.
  - ◆ The BAC members made comments that they have seen more cycling activity in the last two months since gas prices have increased.
  - ◆
5. **Discussion Item: Louisiana Street Corridor**

Eddie Davalos of the Park Hill Neighborhood Association discussed the issues for pedestrians and the neighborhood related to traffic on Louisiana Street and the pedestrian refuge islands in the road. He noted that it is difficult for people in the area to walk from their homes to Checkers Market or from there to other nearby stores because of the lack of sidewalks and the traffic on Louisiana Street. Eddie informed the group that the city has grown-up around this neighborhood and now the traffic on the perimeter streets like 23<sup>rd</sup> and the major streets through the area like Louisiana make it more difficult to walk. The neighborhood wants traffic calming devices in the streets, but they do realize this can cause issues for cyclists using these roads especially when motorists are impatient. The group noted that bicyclists are concerned about aggressive drivers that want to pass cyclists on Louisiana and then approach the pedestrian refuge islands and have to either quickly get back behind the bike or accelerate to pass it and possibly cut off the cyclists as they approach the pedestrian island. Some motorists also ride the tail of cyclists going through the pedestrian islands and then quickly pass them as soon as they clear the island. All of this driving behavior makes this road less comfortable for cyclists. After approximately 37 minutes of discussion the BAC decided that the pedestrian issues in the area need to be addressed now and the options for how to better accommodate bicyclists travel in the area need to be explored more thoroughly later. The BAC suggested

that the staff explore different types of traffic calming devices that could be used to help walking and cycling movements in the neighborhood. Todd Girdler noted that all of this sounds like the streets that were designed to be collectors in this area are now being asked to handle minor arterial traffic with higher speeds and that there are roadway system issues here that need to be addressed. The BAC members agreed that finding solutions to the pedestrian mobility issues in the neighborhood are paramount. Eddie Davalos informed the group that a new pedestrian refuge island was planned between Checkers and Pet World but never built. BAC members asked if bike lanes could be added to Louisiana when it is rebuilt. Mark Desetti made a motion for the BAC to support the construction of a new pedestrian refuge island in Louisiana Street near the Dakota Street Intersection as recommended by the Park Hill Neighborhood Association. This motion was seconded by Erick Struckhoff and approved unanimously. The BAC and staff then discussed the process for this action and decided that the BAC recommendation would go back to the Traffic Safety Commission and from there to the City Commission for consideration. The BAC members also discussed the need for signs to tell motorists not to overtake bicyclists when approaching a pedestrian island. BAC members informed staff that they would find some examples of these signs and send them to staff. BAC members also informed staff that they could review the Louisiana Street Traffic Calming Study and look at the Mulberry/Folks Intersection for some examples of interesting traffic calming devices. Todd Girdler informed the BAC that he would look at those items.

**6. Discussion Item: Bike Safety PSA video**

Eric Struckhoff informed the group that the Public Service Announcement video that was done last year by teachers and students at Lawrence Free State High School was lost and that he was in the process of getting another copy. He is also working with Lisa Patterson at City Hall to place this PSA on the public cable channel. The BAC members suggested that this group of students and their teacher be invited to attend upcoming BAC meetings to discuss the updating of this video and being a part of preparations for the 2009 Bike Month activities.

**7. Discussion Item: Downtown Bicycle Parking**

Eric Struckhoff informed the BAC that this issue had been raised again by a citizen who called Todd Girdler to express her concerns about bicycle parking near Wheatfields Bakery and other spots near the 9<sup>th</sup> Street/Vermont Intersection. BAC members informed Todd that Davonna Moore had prepared some photos and discussed plans for providing more bicycle parking in this area. Todd told the BAC that he would look for those photos and other information in the files left by Davonna. Stephanie Bishop noted that some additional bicycle parking could also be used near the Farmers Market location on New Hampshire. Mark Desetti asked the staff if bicycle parking was required for new developments and noted that some developments seem to have parking while others do not. Shoeb Uddin answered that it was a requirement in the Development Code. A brief discussion of how planners and engineers in Lawrence and other parts of Kansas are starting to change and look at more than just automobile issues in their plans and designs followed. The BAC members agreed that the issue of Bike Parking needs to be studied more and should be placed on the agenda for the July meeting. Eric Struckhoff and Todd Girdler informed the BAC that they would put this item on the July agenda.

**8. Other Business**

Stephanie Bishop gave staff some information about the Kansas City Bike Escort program and asked that this issue be put back on the agenda for discussion next month as the BAC explores the possibility of creating a similar program in Lawrence. Eric Struckhoff asked Todd Girdler to put this item on the July agenda.

Eric Struckhoff noted that the Bicycle Friendly City application to the League of American Bicyclists needs to be completed soon and submitted in mid-August. He will be starting the application soon and be discussing this item next month. Todd Girdler noted he would put that item on the July agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm**

