

**BLOOMINGTON PLATINUM BIKING TASK FORCE
MEETING SUMMARY AUGUST 11, 2011**

Meeting summaries are transcribed in an abridged manner. Audio recordings of the meeting are available in the Planning Department for reference.

Attendance:

Task Force Members: Kerry Greer, Jim Rosenbarger, and Wendy Saffell-Clemmer (via-conference call)

Others in attendance: Scott Robinson (staff), Vince Caristo (staff), Greg Alexander, Sarah Ryterband, Jacob Schumacher, Ron Brown, and Claire Murphy

I. Call to order (~12:00 PM)

II. Task Force Reports and Announcements

Ms. Saffell-Clemmer enjoys the new B-Line trail west of Rogers St.. Mr. Rosenbarger suggested members make themselves aware of the city budget process.

III. Reports from Staff

Mr. Caristo announced a Traffic Skills 101 course in September.

IV. Old Business

A. Draft Report

Mr. Robinson opened discussion on the Chapter 2 draft. Discussion ensued on the semantics and presentation of the ‘village’ concept. Ms. Saffell-Clemmer said she had no preference for the term that is used. Mr. Rosenbarger suggested providing examples, such as the College Mall area or key connectors. He said maybe the term ‘activity center’ would help. Ms. Greer said she likes the ‘7 or 10 minute’ neighborhood concept. Ms. Saffell-Clemmer suggested using the sidebars and also a map to describe the concept. Mr. Rosenbarger suggested adapting the village graphic in the BPTGSP.

Mr. Rosenbarger and Ms. Saffell-Clemmer said some of the graphs overstated Bloomington’s progress, and asked staff to make them reflect the progress we need to make. Ms. Greer suggested showing the US average bicycle share of commuters, as well as bronze to platinum averages. Ms. Saffell-Clemmer suggested a target line for the average Platinum cities. Ms. Greer and Mr. Rosenbarger said the obesity-BFC graph was too complicated. Ms. Saffell-Clemmer said the correlation was important and suggested either showing a linear curve or just highlighting the statistic in a sidebar.

Mr. Robinson directed the discussion to the length and formatting of Chapter 2. Mr. Rosenbarger said shortening the report would make the text more interesting. He suggested combining sections and removing duplicate explanations from graphs and sidebars. Ms. Saffell-Clemmer said the sidebars are critical because people will primarily read those rather than the text – other members agreed. Ms. Greer said every document benefits from a really good editor and making the text as efficient as possible. Mr. Rosenbarger gave a specific example in Chapter 2, pg. 5. He suggested using highlights to spotlight key information and enable quick reading. Ms. Greer said stronger and more specific language should be used

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(‘should’ rather than ‘consider’) – Mr. Rosenbarger agreed. Mr. Rosenbarger wondered whether we should highlight the League of American Bicyclist’s recommendations early in the chapter when the Task Force’s are described later in the chapter. Mr. Robinson said it is included as a reference point. Mr. Rosenbarger stated, and Ms. Greer concurred, that he would like to use strong language in the recommendations and receive kickback now rather than after the report is presented. That way, he said, we can adjust and even remove certain things – for example, the city diversion court. Ms. Greer and Mr Rosenbarger reiterated the need for specificity and precision. Mr. Robinson said staff can review the recommendations in this light. Mr. Rosenbarger said partner agencies should be consulted. Ms. Saffell-Clemmer said she really liked the chapter but also agreed with all of Ms. Greer’s comments and thinks we should make the report succinct and actionable. Ms. Greer mentioned the format of the targets and actions. She suggested for each E giving a summary of the key goals/targets followed by the actions to get there.

V. New Business

A. Public Meeting and Report Presentation (Planning and Scheduling Discussion)

Mr. Robinson opened a discussion on next steps for public meetings and presenting the report. He said there are three task force meetings remaining, and that October 5th has been the goal to present the recommendations to City Council. He suggested having the draft report ready by August 25th, followed by a press release and opening for public comment, open workshops at the September 8th, and city council work sessions preceding the October 5th meeting.

Mr. Robinson asked the Task Force to think about how they might like to participate in presenting the report. Ms. Greer and Ms. Saffell-Clemmer said they would help. Mr. Rosenbarger more people reads wider involvement.

Mr. Rosenbarger said he thinks the remaining time should be spent on revising the text and building coalitions for the action items than on gathering more public input. Ms. Saffell-Clemmer and Ms. Greer agreed. Ms. Greer emphasized contacting community partners not involved with the city.

VI. Public Comment

Greg Alexander said a bicycle bridge across SR-37 is needed for Bloomington to become a Platinum city because the W 3rd St area is a key trip generating location.

Sarah Ryterband asked if the report would include a succinct 5-year plan for implementation with strong directives and intermediate targets. This would be primarily what the public would react to. Mr. Rosenbarger agreed that we need a ‘TIP’-like document that outlines projects and outlays over time.

Ms. Greer said we must collect more data and make policy decisions based on that data in order to become Platinum.

VII. Next Meeting - August 25, 2011

Adjournment (~1:00 PM)