

**BLOOMINGTON PLATINUM BIKING TASK FORCE
MEETING SUMMARY MARCH 24, 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: Chris Tietz, Kerry Greer, Wendy Saffell-Clemmer, Chad Roeder, Jim Rosenbarger, and Dave Rollo

Others in attendance: Scott Robinson (staff), Vince Caristo (staff), Jacob Schumacher, Ron Brown, Clair Murphy, and Jake Knight (staff intern).

I. Call to order (~12:05 PM)

II. Task Force Reports and Announcements

None

III. Reports from Staff

Mr. Robinson gave an overview of the Mayor's press conference and announcement on a bicycle and pedestrian funding initiative. He explained the general scope of work involved with five initiatives announced: Greenways Implementation Plan, Allen Street Bicycle Boulevard, Black Lumber Spur Trail Construction, Installation of Bicycle Facilities as recommended by the Greenways Plan, and Implementation of the College Mall Pedestrian Accessibility Study. Mr. Teitz asked if any federal funding could be freed up to use on these initiatives if other projects were delayed. Mr. Robinson said most projects utilize several funding sources so many scenarios are possible. Ms. Greer said there is a public meeting on March 28th for the Allen Street Bicycle Boulevard. Mr. Rosenbarger likes the idea to make it safe to cross Walnut Street first. Discussion ensued about the Allen Street Bike Boulevard. Mr. Rollo would like the Task Force to discuss the design issues in more detail at a future meeting. Ms. Greer talked about access to and from the B-line Trail around Allen Street, Patterson Drive, and the bridge over Patterson Drive.

Mr. Caristo announced plans to hold a Bike Summit on April 28th, 2011 at the Bloomington Convention Center. He said the event will be fun and staff is still working on the details. This event will help increase public involvement and build upon the Task Force's efforts thus far. Mr. Tietz said this is the same night for the Bicycle Indiana Board meeting and he will see if they could hold their meeting here in Bloomington.

IV. Old Business

A. Preliminary Recommendations on the Five E's (continued)

Mr. Robinson said the Task Force left off last time discussing enforcement. He also showed some concepts on scoring matrixes (as suggested) to help with prioritizing their ideas. Mr. Tietz suggested priorities for a local vulnerable road user law and increased education/training for police. He said bicyclists should be ticketed for stupid things and not doing so will not change attitudes and behavior. Mr. Rollo asked staff to research the potential for a local vulnerable user law. Ms. Greer thinks the laws should require adults to wear helmets. She reviewed a report on bike safety. The report concluded that nothing bicyclists do (wear

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helmets, change behavior) will change the probability to reduce serious crashes with automobiles. Changing automobile drivers' behaviors is key and not necessarily bicyclists. Mr. Tietz agreed that changes in laws will define expectations and together with enforcement will change behavior. Mr. Rosenbarger noted the safety in numbers concept is important as by Mia Birk's presentation. Ms. Greer questions the role of enforcement activities in conjunction with the safety in numbers concept and thinks together there is a big potential to improve safety. Mr. Rollo likes the potential of signs and other low cost pavement markings to improve education and enforcement. Bike riders do have the right to use the road (responsibly). Mr. Roeder also agrees that increased signage could benefit police in their enforcement activities. Mrs. Saffel-Clemmer said the next application needs to reflect some of the changes happening now like 25mph speed limits and texting while driving prohibition.

Mr. Rosenbarger said good information is useful like crash reports. There is counterintuitive information out there and realistically the police would have to enforce at targeted locations – not the whole city. Ms. Greer asked how the police can become more engaged into these issues and mentions the anti-drug campaign as an example. Mrs. Saffel-Clemmer said providing quick and easy near-miss reports to the police would be useful and Mr. Rosenbarger said this type of data can target dangerous intersections. Mr. Tietz referenced a league report that states only ten percent of bicycle crashes with injuries are actually reported because many do not involve a motor vehicle or are not on a roadway. Ms. Greer mentioned her conversations with an emergency room doctor indicate there are many serious bicycle related accidents and helmets are not properly fitted. Mr. Roeder said the police need to increase bike patrols especially since the segways are not working out. Mr. Robinson reminded everyone the next meeting will cover Encouragement and Evaluation and Planning. He also would like thoughts on the scoring matrix concepts discussed today and their potential to prioritize ideas. Mr. Roder announced he purchased the Bike Bloomington.com domain to help with an increased web presence and to aid in local networking efforts.

B. Public Involvement and CATS Coverage

Under Staff Reports

V. New Business

A. Preliminary Recommendations on the Five E's

None

VI. Public Comment

Mr. Brown said the Black Lumber spur does have good connectivity to the east, but will need a refuge island at Walnut Street. He said there is a new path that connects Country View Apartments to Countryside Lane and should be included on the City's maps.

VII. Next Meeting – April 10, 2011

Adjournment (~1:05 PM)