

**BLOOMINGTON PLATINUM BIKING TASK FORCE
MEETING SUMMARY MAY 26, 2011**

Meeting summaries are transcribed in an abridged manner.

Attendance:

Task Force Members: Chad Roeder and Jim Rosenbarger

Others in attendance: Scott Robinson (staff), Ray Hess, Clair Murphy, Ron Brown, and James Calabro (IDS).

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

Note: no recording for this meeting.

II. Task Force Reports and Announcements

None

III. Reports from Staff

Mr. Robinson said 106 people registered for Bike to Work Day. Staff also tabled at the Bloomingfoods celebration and at the Monroe County Public Library. Approximately forty additional surveys were completed at these outreach events. He also reminded everyone about the Clips of Faith event at Bryan Park on June 3rd. The Buskirk-Chumley Theater is also organizing a Breaking Away showing and bike tour on October 2nd.

IV. Old Business

A. Context Draft Review

Mr. Robinson reviewed the idea behind the outline and organization for the forthcoming report. He wanted to be sure the Task Force is comfortable with the direction staff is taking. Mr. Rosenbarger said it is important to take a “big tent” approach and capture all types of riders. He said that the ratio of pedestrians to bikes on the B-line Trail is ten to one. The report will be important to multiple users and pedestrians too. Mr. Roeder said the report should be fun. Bloomington is a destination and a bicycle friendly community. This should be a selling point that makes Bloomington more attractive to relocate or visit. Bike infrastructure is very important.

V. New Business

A. Vulnerable User Law

Mr. Robinson briefly reviewed the Bloomington Bicycle Club’s resolution about the Vulnerable User Law. He said City staff is researching current laws and the issues. Currently staff agrees Title 15 of the City code is out of date, it conflicts with state law in some instances, and it is expected that it will be updated in the near future. He said it is difficult to know the exact timeline or process, but more details will be known by the time the report is finalized. Mr. Rosenbarger likes the resolution and would like to see this move forward sooner rather than later. He asked staff about the status of the state’s legislation. Mr. Hess explained the state did not pass a three foot passing law, but the sponsor of the bill would like local municipalities to pass resolutions/laws to bolster grassroots support so it can be reintroduced at the state.

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B. Top Priorities for the Five E's

Mr. Robinson explained the draft framework of priorities for each E. He said there are well over 150 ideas and we need to prioritize them and make it achievable. Including all ideas will be overwhelming and some will have more benefits than others. This draft framework captures the top priorities. Task Force members will get a detailed homework assignment on the framework. Mr. Roeder said to include all ideas and acknowledge them. Even the esoteric ideas can be important beyond the 2016 timeframe. He said it is important to work at the local level where it can affect change at the state level. Making bike trailers publically available can demonstrate the utility of cycling. Trailers for rent or for low cost, or even trailer hitches can make a difference. He also suggested the IU Office of Service Learning as a resource to consider for understanding local economic impacts of attaining a platinum designation. A "car-less" and not a "car-free" approach is an important case to make said Mr. Rosenbarger. The report will need to explain why we are doing this and provide good resources as to why bicycling is important. For example, he suggested looking at the costs of traffic growth verses a car-less growth rate. Bloomington's leaders and advocates need these types of resources.

VI. Public Comment

Mr. Brown said a bike trailer would help him become less car dependent. He mostly uses his car for grocery shopping. He also suggested targeting teachers to lead school bike clubs for younger children. Mr. Murphy supports local and state laws that protect bicyclists. Most of the rides he does are in the County.

VII. Next Meeting – June 9, 2011

Adjournment (~1:10 PM)