

**BLOOMINGTON PLATINUM BIKING TASK FORCE
MEETING SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 8, 2011**

Meeting summaries are transcribed in an abridged manner. Audio recordings of the meeting are available in the Planning Department for reference (no recording for 9/8/2011).

Attendance:

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

Others in attendance: Scott Robinson (staff), Vince Caristo (staff), Jacob Schumacher, Buff Brown, Greg Alexander, and Ron Brown

I. Call to order (~12:03 PM)

II. Task Force Reports and Announcements

Ms. Greer mentioned how nice the B-Line Trail is and that it is open. Mrs. Saffell-Clemmer said West 3rd Street is open and the bike lanes are nice. Drivers need to be more sensitive to bicyclists and are probably not used to bicyclists out on the westside of town. The speeds are very fast and make it uncomfortable for riders. The bike lanes are narrow and the storm grates take up a lot of space within the bike lane. She did say riding over the storm grates was smooth and okay overall, but not ideal.

III. Reports from Staff

Mr. Caristo announced that last night was the Bike Light Campaign and about 40 pairs of bike lights were given out at 7th and Jordan. Approximately 10% - 20% of riders had lights. New Bike Maps will be available at today's B-line celebrations including prizes. The bike lights and prizes were made possible from grants from the Bloomington Bicycle Club. Mr. Robinson talked about the adoption process for the forthcoming report. It would be a resolution by the Common Council and could be on track for an October 19th or November 2nd adoption process. He said the November 2nd date would allow for more time and prefers this schedule.

IV. Old Business

A. Draft Report (Chapters 1-3 continued)

Mr. Robinson opened discussion on the current draft report starting with the Prologue and Chapter 1. He reviewed the changes made since the last meeting that includes reordering the targets and action items. Ms. Greer and Mr. Rosenbarger said the definition of interested but concerned is not accurate and thinks the word afraid sends the wrong message and is negative. The chart on page iv should use the exact percentage values and not ranges. There were no other suggestions for the Prologue and all think this section is good. Ms. Greer said charts with months and progress lines would be helpful and a quick visual way to show what is needed and very useful for presentations. Mr. Rosenbarger said to consider using a calendar of events layout. Mr. Caristo asked if there were any charts needed and Ms. Greer said a chart of the benchmarks would be helpful. Mr. Robinson said this was something he was thinking would be a useful tool at the annual bike summit. Mr. Roeder agreed graphic illustrations are useful and very helpful. Mr. Robinson said staff will consider including a chart or more graphics in the final draft of the report.

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Mr. Robinson introduced the concepts in Chapter 3 and their relationship to the targets and actions in Chapter 2 with the idea that they illustrate progress over time, with silver, gold, and platinum thresholds and elements to measure progress. Mr. Rosenbarger said the report is missing the point and it needs to have focus recommendations especially with engineering. He is concerned that for engineering the action items are too general. For example the Walnut Street crossing for the Allen Street Bike Boulevard is critical and is not specifically identified. Mr. Robinson said most action items are not this specific and Mr. Roeder mentioned that many establish the tools that need to be in place such as the website. Some action items can be general and evolve over time while some engineering actions need to be very specific Mr. Rosenbarger continued. Mr. Caristo talked about the consultant contract and said the scope of work will address these concerns. Mr. Rosenbarger explained that this report is building upon the Greenways Plan, but this report is the Task Force's communication tool and it needs to be clear. Mr. Robinson said staff will make changes based on this feedback.

Mr. Roeder asked about the process remaining for the Task Force and Mr. Robinson explained that once the report is issued to the Common Council the Task Force will cease to exist. There is only one public meeting left, but staff can continue to work with the Task Force on the report until it satisfies the Task Force. The one year deadline is somewhat flexible, but technically we only have one year. Mr. Rosenbarger agrees that we need to stick to our deadline and don't have the time if we are going to become platinum by 2016. Mrs. Saffell-Clemmer said the tables in Chapter 3 look good, but need more explanation.

V. New Business

A. BTOP Presentation (City Budget and Transportation)

Buff Brown, a BTOP representative, gave a presentation on roundabouts and several roundabouts the City is planning on constructing in the near future. He provided examples from around the country on their size and design and compared them to the roundabouts planned for Bloomington. He said these investments will cost around \$11.5 million; the City does not have the resources to both become Platinum and build these large roundabouts. He explained that much smaller roundabouts or signalized intersections would be a better and less expensive alternative. This would then allow limited resources to go towards becoming Platinum. Mr. Brown closed in asking the Task Force members to attend the Common Council hearings and express concern over the design and resources being dedicated to these roundabouts. The Council delayed a vote on the 2012 budget over his presentation until more information was provided.

VI. Public Comment

Mr. Alexander said progress is being made even though he may appear he is not appreciative of all these efforts and thanked the Task Force. Mr. Roeder asked Mr. Brown how road design ended up this way and he replied many think the bigger the better.

VII. Next Meeting - September 22, 2011

Adjournment (~1:10 PM)