



CITY OF CONCORD

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MINUTES

Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

February 6, 2017 5:30 PM
2nd floor Conference Room
City Hall, 41 Green Street, Concord, NH

Members Present:

Craig Tufts (Co-Chair)
Greg Bakos
Robert Baker
Dick Lemieux
David Sky

Members Not Present:

Tim Farmer
Heather Shank, Assistant City Planner
Ursula Maldonado (Co-Chair)
Sheila Zakre
Karen Paddleford
Jeffrey Warner (staff representative)

Guests:

Pam Tarbell (Kimball Jenkins Bike)

Committee – review / accept minutes

The January minutes were not available for review.

The Big Bicycle Project at Kimball Jenkins

Guest Pam Tarbell from Kimball Jenkins joined us to talk about the Big Bicycle Project they are working on this summer. Pam explained that they are trying to coordinate a number of bicycle related activities through this summer. Ideas include bicycle related sculptures, an antique bicycle show, bike related movies at Red River Theatres, a kid's bike parade put on by the Concord contemporary club, and Bike safety classes on the Heights with Leslie Thompson (of BWA-NH) and support from Arnie of Arnie's. Subcommittee members suggested that Pam attend a CNHBC meeting to share ideas and contacts, and also suggested that the upcoming "bikes of march" film festival might be a venue to advertise the Big Bike Project. The idea of a cyclovia or open streets event was also discussed. The idea of having bicycle related sculptures and artwork installed around the City was supported by the committee, and the Committee offered assistance in siting artwork. One idea was to create some artwork that could serve as a permanent bike rack installation. Pam liked the idea of a sculpture on the pond in White's Park that looks like the bike is riding on the water. It was noted that the plaza outside of City Hall is scheduled to be spruced up and would include a new bike rack. That would be one possible area for a permanent bike art bike rack.

Pedestrian Master Plan Update

Craig reported that there were minor changes to the draft Pedestrian Master plan since the last time it was seen by the subcommittee. Changes included the removal of the CIP reference to Loudon Rd, changing the language on how a 3 lane configuration is recommended for Loudon Rd, the removal of the Mountain Rd roundabout (because it is nearly under construction and TPAC did not want the report to appear outdated), the addition of a sidewalk cross-section diagram describing the need for a “clear zone”, and the addition of some snow removal pictures. The plan was “conditionally adopted” by TPAC pending these changes. The plan is scheduled to be presented to the Planning Board on February 15. The Planning Board would likely vote on whether to officially adopt the plan at a later meeting.

Traffic Signals

Craig reported that he has not yet spoken with Chip at General Services about potentially using a marker to mark where bicycles should stop to request a green light. An image of the MUTCD (AASHTO?) stencil was shown to the committee. Committee members made note of a recent email from Jeff Warner describing locations where we have recoded the “sweet spot” for detecting bikes. There was discussion that perhaps there should be signage or some other way to ensure that people knew what the symbols mean.

Demonstration Bike Lane Project

Robert and Craig are scheduled to meet with Jeff Warner and Heather Shank the next day to discuss this item. Robert shared marked up aerials of two potential areas for a Demonstration Bike Lane Project that he and Jeff had previously worked on. One option was a two-way cycle track on West Street. The cycle track would avoid the intersections at Broadway and S State to keep it simple. The committee felt this demonstration project could be a good one, but were primarily concerned with how it did not begin and end at major streets.

The other option was a protected or buffered bike lane along Broadway from near Rollins Park to the area of Pillsbury or Allison Street. A demonstration project was favored in this area over the West Street location. There was concern that one of the alternative layouts could be problematic because cars would likely park along the curb instead of parking along a line outside the bike lane. It also raised concern and discussion on having a 5' bike lane next to parking, which presents a potential door-zone hazard. The other scenario required the removal of some parking, and the committee recognized the potential implications with regard to that. There was no formal decision on which of the Broadway alternatives was preferred, but that Robert, Craig, and the City should continue working on it. It was agreed that it could be great to have this demonstration project in conjunction with National Night Out. One idea was to have remote parking at the Pillsbury Street parking lot and have people bike from there to National Night Out. It was noted that in past years, there was a free shuttle stop at this parking lot to National Night out, signifying that there may be support for such an idea from the property owners.

CNHBC Update:

David reported on some CNHBC projects.

Bikes of March: David reported that CNHBC is planning its Bikes of March event for March 22. They are reviewing videos and looking for speakers, and looking for how to promote the event. David noted there is a planning meeting at his house on Thursday. Ideas shared by TPAC included a potential presentation on the MRGT and/or trails in general, a presentation by Zagster or some other bike-share company, a presentation or

promotion for the planned demonstration bike lane project, and a presentation by Kimball Jenkins.

Bikes for the Homeless Resource Center: David reported that CNHBC has donated 14 bikes for two location for the Homeless Resource Center. They are also providing them with tools and accessories, and have reached out to the public for donated equipment. Tim Farmer at S&W Sports is providing other equipment at cost.

Other Business: Bike Share:

Greg noted that both Manchester and Portsmouth are planning bikeshare systems for this upcoming summer, using Zagster. Manchester's program is being put on by Bike Manchester and is being funded privately through sponsors. Greg was not sure if they have met their fundraising goal yet. Greg believed that Portsmouth was publicly funding their bikeshare program. David noted that he contacted a few bike share companies to see if they would be suitable for Concord. Zagster followed up with the City of Concord via emails to Engineering, but the City has not yet responded. Some committee members felt TPAC should actively pursue a bikeshare program, while others felt it would be best to see how Manchester and Portsmouth work out and learn from them.