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## January Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2015

Attending were Mike Fortner (City of Newark Planning), James Wilson (Bike Delaware), Jason Winterling (City of Newark Public Works and Water Resources), Joe Spadafino (City of Newark Parks and Recreation), Karl Hassler (resident), Tom Price (Newark Bike Project), Karen Rosenberg (resident), Linda Smith (UD HealthyU Employee Wellness), Jonathan Kirch (American Heart Association/American Stroke Association), Christine Schultz (resident), Bob Bennett (resident), Mike Baez (UD Police Department), Dennis Aniunas (Newark Police) and Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO).

Special guest(s): B.J. DeCoursey (IPA/UD), Kirsten Jones (IPA/UD), Martin Wollaston (IPA/UD), Marcia Scott (IPA/UD) and Evan Horgan (IPA/UD).

Jeff Riegner (resident), Paul Moser (UD civil engineering student) and Mark Deshon (chair) sent regrets.

- ***Delaware Ave. Cycle Track Video and Assessment***

B.J. DeCoursey introduced Kirsten Jones, a University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration student, who is developing the Delaware Cycle Track pre-engineering assessment at the request of the City of Newark as part of IPA's Healthy Communities initiative.

Kirsten gave examples of cycle tracks in other locations within limited right-of-ways. Her assessment of Delaware Avenue was divided into four sections: (1) South Main Street to Orchard Road, (2) Orchard Road to Academy Street, (3) Academy Street to South Chapel Street, and (4) South Chapel Street to Library Avenue. The committee was extremely impressed with the video analysis, which was filmed using a helmet-mounted camera. The presentation also discussed best practices for cycle tracks and benefits of left side versus right.

The group discussed options for connecting to South Main Street. Kirsten's presentation suggested an extension of the Delaware Avenue Cycle Track to South Main. Alternatives discussed by the group included using the pathway along the Trabant garage or using Orchard/Amstel. The options of a cycle track or bicycle boulevard along the Orchard/Amstel connection were discussed. While this

connection is very low traffic, the high volume of pedestrians at the Orchard Rd./Amstel Ave. intersection make driving through it a challenge.

Kirsten's presentation also presented alternatives for the Delaware Ave./Chapel St. intersection. She proposed bypassing the intersection using Haines Street and a fire lane. The group expressed concerns that this would require a crosswalk very close to a signalized intersection. The committee noted that traffic volumes at the Delaware Ave./Chapel St. intersection are low enough that the left turn lane might not be needed; this would free up space for the cycle track.

The analysis also suggested extending the proposed cycle track to Library Avenue. The committee concurred with this recommendation but noted that the extension might be best done when the College Square connector road is implemented.

- ***Newark Bike Project donation report out***

Tom Price updated the group on recent Newark Bike Project activities. NBP recently donated bikes to Downes Elementary and West Park Place Elementary schools. Eight or nine bikes were given to each school. Using grants from Kohls and A.I. DuPont, they were also able to donate helmets.

- ***Upcoming Bike Month events***

- Bike to Work Day (Mike Fortner) – Bike to Work Day will be May 15. Mike will send an invitation to Governor Markell to be guest speaker.
- Mayor's Ride (Joe Spadafino) – The Mayor's Ride will be May 16. The event will feature an approximately 5-mile family-friendly bicycle ride, possibly with options of a longer ride. In addition, they hope to include a bicycle rodeo, safety checkpoint, and an after-event gathering at the Green Turtle.
- Bike Summit (James Wilson) – Bike Delaware is currently working on lining up speakers for the 2015 Summit. It would be interested in featuring the IPA cycle track video at the event.

- ***Enforcement, Evaluation, and Planning***

The committee reviewed and discussed feedback from the League of American Bicyclists on *Enforcement and Evaluation and Planning*. Currently, the Delaware vulnerable-user and 3-foot-minimum-passing laws apply in Newark. Newark and Delaware have no harassment laws specific to cyclists; however, more generalized harassment laws do exist and cover cyclists.

Newark Police do have a number of cycling initiatives on which they are working. A bicycle theft–reduction program is being developed using San Francisco's as the model. They are also looking at the possibility of a bicycle-registration program.

Regarding evaluation of low-stress bicycle routes, DelDOT and Bike Delaware are currently completing an analysis that will include Newark. The suggested manual counts that capture gender would require volunteers; WILMAPCO does routinely

include bicycle counts as part of intersection traffic counts, and automatic trail counters are located on the Hall and Pomeroy trails.

- **Old or new business**

The City of Newark has submitted a Bicycle Friendly Employer application to the League of American Bicyclists.

The City of Newark has ordered bike racks for the Unicity buses using Healthy Communities grant funds.

UD Bike Sharing is looking at having painted bikes for the initial program and is continuing to look for sponsors for a more extensive pilot program. Newark Bike Project will maintain the bicycles.

White Clay Bicycle Club will hold a Beginner Bicycling Class on May 27, 6–8:30 p.m. at WILMAPCO.

The next meeting of the Newark Bicycle Committee will be on Thursday, February 19, 2015, at 4 p.m. at WILMAPCO.