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July Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2014

Attending were Mark Deshon (chair), Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO), 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), Karen Rosenberg (resident), Frank Warnock (Delaware Bikes), Angela Connolly (Newark Bike Project), and Paul Moser (UD civil engineering student).

Christine Schultz (resident), Jeff Riegner (resident), Linda Smith (UD HealthyU Employee Wellness) and Anthony Aglio (DelDOT), each sent their regrets.

- *Correction and redaction to minutes from June meeting*

Correction: changed "Mike Riegner" to "Jeff Riegner" in the attendees list
Redaction to paragraph 1 on page 3: Jeff said that because DelDOT has a strong focus on bicycle-friendliness right now, they are very receptive to implementing bicycle infrastructure. "The committee should request DelDOT's participation in as wide a range of projects as reasonable."

- *Update on June discussion about cycle-track project for the city*

Since the last meeting, Mark Deshon had initiated a draft of a letter from the City Manager and Mayor to DelDOT regarding a cycle-track project. Wilson, Jeff Riegner, Karl Hassler, and Heather Dunigan contributed subsequently by providing input for improvement.

Karl asked if the committee could see the final draft of the letter. Unfortunately, Mark forgot to bring a copy of the draft of the letter. (Note: We'll wait to distribute this draft to all on the committee until the City Council takes action on it.)

Mark met with Mayor Polly Sierer and City Manager Carol Houck on Tuesday, July 15, to discuss why we want them to urge DelDOT to work with the City to initiate a cycle-track project on Delaware Avenue (see June meeting minutes). He shared with them the relevant pages of the Newark Bike Plan as well as a publication from People for Bikes and

the Alliance for Biking and Walking titled *Protected Bike Lanes Mean Business*, which lays out solid reasons why the cycle-track idea is a good one for Newark and contains photos showing various examples of implementation.

The meeting went well; both Sierer and Houck were enthusiastic. They mentioned that they had been in preliminary discussions with UD about some signalization at the crossing at The Green and wondered if we shouldn't contact facilities director Alan Brangman and get his support for a cycle-track project, which for UD should be a big safety issue for its students. Mark suggested that though these two projects may be separate both in scope and timing, they probably should be planned with the other in mind. Sierer and Houck agreed.

Procedurally, they also recommended that this cycle-track project be introduced at the next meeting of the city's Traffic Committee on August 19. Mark agreed to participate in that meeting, and Houck said she'd get it on the committee's agenda. City Council will then have to OK going forward with the plan to communicate our corporate desires for the project with DeIDOT. We anticipate that the Traffic Committee will give its support, and we plan to present to City Council on August 25 or September 9 at the latest.

Mark indicated that he has a call in to Alan Brangman but has not had his call returned yet. Karen Rosenberg asked if there have been accidents in the Delaware Avenue bike lane, and Heather said that there had been. When asked about the timing of the signalization project at The Green, Heather said she thought it would be in summer 2015 and added that street-wide signalization on Delaware Avenue would have to be changed at that point. With regard to a cycle track, Heather said that the road just barely has enough width to support a two-way solution for bicyclists. She said that if we can involve UD in support of this cycle-track project, it might be able to help us with easements that might make the end product a better one.

- *Update on infrastructure improvements since our last meeting*

New sharrows are in place, and old ones have been repaired. Mike Fortner indicated that curbing, including ADA-compliant ramps, are ongoing now for crosswalks at Barksdale and Casho Mill Roads and that the plan is for Barksdale Road to be rehabbed this summer between Apple Road and the Maryland state line. Jason Winterling said that the City is developing the next phase for placement of new sharrows that will reference the Newark Bike Plan.

Frank suggested that there needed to be improvements westbound on Apple Road at the Barksdale intersection, where "right hooks" (cars preparing to turn right cutting in front of straight-moving bicyclists) are likely and have occurred. He proposed a bike "pocket lane" leading to that three-way intersection, as there is on Barksdale approaching that intersection from the west.

- *Report on any feedback from the League of American Bicyclists*

Heather said she had not yet heard anything from the League and is still expecting feedback by the end of the summer.

- *Report on follow-up with Bike to Work Day attendees*

No action has been taken to date. Mark is still planning to communicate with registered attendees.

- *Planning for Community Day*

Community Day in Newark is set for Sunday, September 21. Mark opened discussion on what we needed to do to prepare the NBC booth. The following ideas were offered:

- Use NBC banner (Heather currently has it).
- Update NBC brochure to include “Like us on Facebook.”
- Make the booth as interactive as possible.
- Showcase the Newark Bike Plan and other related materials.
- Feature two poster-size graphics—Plan map and cycle track photo (large with kids).

Mike will complete the application. Mark and Heather suggested that it would be great if NBC could be next to or very near WILMAPCO or other related booths. Mike said he’d try to make that happen. Mark will contact Anthony Aglio about bringing the DelDOT tent and giveaways.

Paul Moser, Mike, Heather, Mark, Karl, and Angela Connolly volunteered to put some time in at the booth. Mark will check with Linda Smith and Christine Schultz about their availability and possible help as well.

- *Planning for fall bicycle safety checkpoints*

Regarding the Fall Bike Safety Checks Anthony says he’s pretty open. He suggests we do both events in the same week maybe attempt to create “buzz.” He proposes that we try Wednesday, Sept. 3rd (12-3 p.m.) and Thursday, Sept. 4th (4-7 p.m.). He’d be willing to do one later in the day when students are not in such a hurry.

Once we get the dates set, we can reach out to Newark Bike Project and the UD Police. Anthony will be away the week of Sept. 8th and is already booked for the 18th and 19th.

The committee is fine with these dates and times. Paul indicated that Trabant University Center patio might be a good location, if we want to hold a safety check somewhere other than on Delaware Avenue at The Green.

- *Old or new business*

With respect to the BFC status, Heather announced that one thing we were lacking is yearly instructional bicycling classes. She said that the White Clay Bicycle Club is sponsoring a full-day class on Saturday, Oct. 18, at WILMAPCO (flyer attached). The cost is \$30 and includes lunch. Jon and Ceci McCormick and Paul Hess will be conducting the class; contact him at *pehess@comcast.net* to register. Mark said he'd try to get Linda to publicize among UD employees, to try to get some who may be thinking about commuting by bike or simply riding for fitness but who don't feel confident yet to attend. Heather mentioned that it would really be great if employees could use some of their Wellness dollars for this purpose.

Frank asked if the City will be working on increasing street parking for bikes. Mike said that it will be working specifically on private parking lot spaces near the new South Main Street location of the Newark Bike Project to accommodate bicycles. Mark cited statistics from the publication *Protected Bike Lanes Mean Business* on economic benefit from six bikes being parked in the same on-street space as a single car. Retail revenue per hour per square foot for a one-car space is 50-cents greater for six bikes than for a single car. Mike indicated this is not currently under consideration.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, August 21, at 4 p.m. at WILMAPCO.