



www.wilmapco.org/bikenewark

September Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2015

Attending were Mark Deshon (chair), Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO), Jeff Riegner (resident), Mike Fortner (City of Newark Planning), Paul Moser (DelDOT), Karl Hassler (resident), Susan Grasso (resident), Karen Rosenberg (resident), Phommachanh (UD Parking), Kristen Jones (UD student), and James Wilson (Bike Delaware).

Guest: Polly Sierer (Mayor, City of Newark)

Regrets: Joe Spadafino (City of Newark Parks & Recreation) sent regrets.

- *Newark Community Day presence*

The Newark Bicycle Committee will be participating in Newark Community Day on Sunday, September 20. Its booth, which is being shared this year by Bike Delaware, will be located on the east sidewalk near the south side of the Delaware Avenue crosswalk on The Green (near Wolf Hall). This is the same location we had last year. Mike Fortner will set up; Mark Deshon and Heather Dunigan will assist when they arrive. Jeff Riegner, Mark, and Mike will man the booth until 1 p.m. Bike Delaware will have representatives at the booth from 1-4 p.m.

- *Two-way, separated bike-lane facility ("cycle track") progress review*

Heather said that not much has happened since the successful cycle-track trial on Delaware Avenue earlier this summer. She did say that the consensus among those on the feasibility study committee is for placement on the north side of Delaware Avenue. There are two primary reasons for this: 1) the need to move truck traffic away from the utility poles on the north side of the street and 2) cyclists indicated discomfort biking contraflow right next to car traffic on the south side.

The next and final committee meeting will be on Oct. 1 at JMT, with members of the Newark Bicycle Committee in attendance.

Heather had prepared a nice schematic that will be used at Community Day and afterward showing the current thinking with regard to bike lanes in specific project segments along Delaware Avenue. It showed one-way bike lanes on either side of the

road from Library Avenue to the Pomeroy trail, at which point the two-way protected lane would begin on the north side of Delaware Avenue and continue all the way to Orchard Road. At that point, westbound cyclists would turn left onto Orchard and eastbound cyclists would turn right from Orchard onto the protected lane on the north side of Delaware Avenue.

- *September campus safety checkpoints*

Paul Moser has been organizing the fall semester checkpoints, which will be held on Wednesday, September 30, and Thursday, October 1, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on The Green at Delaware Avenue. Bike lights and helmets will again be offered free to participants.

Mark suggested that UD Police could help by having a laptop on site and helping students register their bicycles online during the checkpoints (WiFi dependent). He also asked Paul if Anthony Aglio would be there, as he has been for the past several years. Paul wasn't sure but mentioned that DelDOT's John Fiori should be able to attend.

Ban Phommachanh said that some 600 bicycles had been removed this summer on campus and mentioned that these checkpoints follow a Tuesday, September 29, Safety Fest at Harrington Beach on the UD campus. He will try to get out to that event to promote our safety checkpoints.

- *Progress on Newark-to-Wilmington trail*

Jeff said that the overall feasibility study has been completed but that it is not detailed. They've identified potential routes—northern, central, and southern plans. Jeff showed maps and briefly explained each route and the advantages and disadvantages of each. James Wilson asked what would be done first. Paul said that DelDOT is working on prioritization.

Heather wondered whether Delmarva Power was still putting up a stiff “road block” to a utility right-of-way that would be an integral part of the central (and most direct) route. Jeff indicated that there is a need for a broader conversation with Delmarva Power.

Jeff also mentioned that it will be critical to link the planned, new Newark Train Station through UD's STAR Campus connecting south. Paul mentioned that DelDOT is currently working with Peter Furth of Northeastern University for connecting overlays. The project PDF is downloadable from the DelDOT website (http://deldot.gov/information/projects/trails/Newark_to_Wilm_Pathway).

- *Progress on UD-City bikeshare project*

Ban said that this project is a “marathon, not a sprint” and went on to say that he just received all the bids from a handful of potential sponsors. UD Parking is in charge of moving this project forward but is partnering with the City of Newark. Mayor Polly

Sierer asked what kind of funding is needed from the city, to which Ban responded that UD's Michael Smith will be contacting the city in this regard. Ban is pushing for the project to begin in the spring as this will ensure more city involvement. This project is part of a larger effort to promote more cycling, carpooling, and vanpooling to ease the strain on parking within the UD's central campus area.

It was mentioned that DelDOT is doing a feasibility study for a bikeshare project in Wilmington.

Benefits were briefly brought up, and Jeff referred us to the League of American Bicyclists' treatment of the subject (<http://bikeleague.org/content/bicycle-commuter-benefit>).

- *Bicycle community meetings*

Heather said that the Newark Bike Project (of which she's now a board member) used to do monthly community meetings, and those have stopped. She mentioned there had been a Facebook comment from a community member indicating that many who may be interested in the work of the Newark Bicycle Committee cannot attend a 4 p.m. meeting. So, in this regard, Heather proposed that we partner with the Newark Bike Project, the White Clay Bicycle Club, and Trail Spinners to host quarterly community meetings to discuss bicycling issues in the greater Newark area and allow each organization to provide a brief update on its work. Someone suggested Thursday nights, but no specific day was chosen at this time.

Someone suggested maybe a bike ride could be done either before or after the meeting, depending on what day and what time the meetings would take place. The meeting place is yet to be decided; the Newark Bike Project facility and the Newark Public Library were mentioned as potential options.

- *Old or new business*

- *Cleveland Avenue pave/rehab project*

Carol Ireland had come to the previous committee meeting and asked about some sort of retrofitting solution to making the Pomeroy Trail crossing at this intersection better. While it wasn't clear that anything specific could be done right away, Paul reported that the section of Cleveland Avenue between Paper Mill Road/North Chapel St. and New London Road is scheduled for a resurfacing project within the next couple years.

This led to a number of inquiries about how that entire corridor might be improved and how we can go about influencing changes to the existing roadscape. Mayor Sierer asked, "Are there things the City can propose to DelDOT?" Jeff and James discussed how we should proceed in terms of getting partners involved and getting a proposal together to present to DelDOT. There was some talk about how nice it would be for a potential bikeway for the on-street parking to be removed. The

Mayor thinks this is a real possibility, though Jeff was more skeptical about the political reality of being able to remove that many parking spaces.

Paul suggested a TAP project overlaid onto the rehab project and that we develop an initial idea/map of what we'd like to see. The committee agreed that it needed someone to champion this proposal. Susan Grasso agreed to lead the effort, with help from Paul and Mayor Sierer (and possibly Carol Ireland, who needs to be contacted).

- *Elkton Road pave/rehab project*

DelDOT Planning has provided input to the repaving of Elkton Road and Christina Parkway. The committee asked about the possibility of implementing broader walking and biking connections, particularly between Suburban Plaza and Casho Mill Road. The committee still sees the Christina Parkway/Elkton Road intersection as a major opportunity to improve walkability/bikeability along that corridor.

- *Change in status of Linda Smith with committee*

Due do some job responsibility changes at UD, Linda Smith will no longer be able to participate as a committee member. Ryan Keenan, the person who has assumed Linda's role with UD Employee Wellness, is only interested in being a liaison with our committee, not a member. Ban said there was someone just hired at UD under the general job umbrella of "Green Initiatives." Ban said that he will check with this person and find out if he/she is willing to become an active member of our committee.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 15, at 4 p.m. at WILMAPCO.