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March Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2021 (virtual meeting)

Bob McBride called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Member attendees: Bob McBride (Chair), Christine Schultz (Secretary), Karl Hassler (Treasurer), Mark Deshon, Helga Huntley, and Dave Schultz

Partner liaison attendees:

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan
DelDOT: Paul Moser
University of Delaware: Ofc. Alaina Battle (Police)
Bike Delaware: John Bare
Delaware Greenways: Adam Crosby
City of Newark: Mike Fortner (Planning & Development)

Guest: Eric Jackson

Future Trails of Northern Delaware Coalition Grant

BikeNewark won the grant for which it had applied, and Delaware Greenways actually awarded the maximum \$2,500 (requested was \$1,508.87) toward the implementation of Newark Bikeways phase 2 wayfinding signs. The two other recipients were Delaware Center for Horticulture and Riverfront Development Corporation, for adding amenities such as bike racks, fix-it station, etc.

Newark Bikeways Report

With regard to increasing the speed of implementation of phase 2, Mark Deshon recently discussed options regarding logistics and funding with City of Newark liaison Tim Filasky, Director of Public Works and Water Resources. BikeNewark may be asked to provide additional funds related to the work the City would do (such as cost of posts and staff overtime) and supply volunteers as needed. Mark Deshon will confirm costs, suggest that the City consider in-kind planning time already furnished by BikeNewark (which Heather Dunigan estimated at a value of anywhere between \$20K and \$100K), and move forward with approval by the officers via email or Zoom of any new costs. Mark noted that last year BikeNewark had already approved funding of around \$3,000 for phase 2 implementation.

Events Planning

Bike to Work Month promotion

With a change from Bike to Work Day, the plan is to have a bike-promotion month. People will be encouraged to “Bike to...” a variety of events/locations. A draft poster was shared as well as current and potential partnerships for the virtual event. Hopefully, it will be safe to have a “pop-up” event in late May to culminate the month-long emphasis and give away Bike to Work t-shirts, supplied from DelDOT.

First Friday Rides

Neither event leader was in attendance to discuss future plans. Attendees confirmed the value of the events to increase awareness in the community and hope to discuss at a future meeting.

Trails-Use Research Project Preliminary Findings

Helga Huntley has checked in on the results. The data should be available and will be shared at the April meeting.

Discussion: Possible BikeNewark Data-Collection Effort

Heather mentioned that the *2014 Newark Bicycle Plan* provides suggested data needs. She suggested starting there to gather from the city what they already have to then try to fill in the gaps. This effort should also include a qualitative assessment of development proposals in Newark. Another suggestion was to provide hand-counts to compare to collected trail-counter data. Adam Crosby invited BikeNewark to pick a representative to be part of the Trail Usage and Safety Committee through the Future Trails of Northern Delaware Coalition. Dave Saunders was nominated for the committee.

Transportation Improvement District (TID) Planning

Engineering Committee prioritization of potential TID projects

Subsequent to the last partnership meeting, the Engineering Committee conferred and submitted a priority list of 24 projects (see addendum on last page of minutes) to the Newark TID Committee, taking into consideration information on rough costs and assumed feasibility. Paul Moser will model the projects, and the TID Committee will dialogue more about which projects fit well within the TID and, once analyzed, will share this info with BikeNewark in about three months. There will be another upcoming public workshop on the TID projects. A question was raised as to who is on the committee and what is the timeframe of their future plans. Heather stated that the TID looks at projects for a 25-year span.

The Newark Partnership (TNP)

Co-sponsorship of events planned by the TNP Nonprofit Enhancement Committee

TNP’s co-sponsoring of events will help both organizations and could be funded by TNP. Bob McBride hopes to take advantage of additional outreach and public information through TNP

website and newsletters. Its next meeting will focus on sustainability, and members of BikeNewark are encouraged to attend.

Treasurer's Report

Previous balance was \$6,700.68. With interest of five cents, the ending balance is now \$6,700.73.

Old and New Business

Looking ahead: 2022 LAB Bicycle Friendly Community application

Mark reminded BikeNewark that an application for the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community designation is due in early 2022. He suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed by the end of the summer, so that it can review the suggestions LAB had given the City of Newark feedback in 2018 in order for it to earn silver-level recognition. Karl Hassler asked what that feedback was. Mark summarized the six key points (e.g., have UD apply to become a Bicycle Friendly University). Someone wondered if UD's sustainability committee would be a good place to begin that process. A short discussion followed, citing the problem of decentralization of bicycle-related decision-making at UD.

City Council candidates survey

A seven-item survey was emailed to City Council candidates who are either new or are in active races, including the two District 2 candidates and the District 4 candidate who is running unopposed. Their responses will appear on our website and shared on social media.

HB36 – the bill to make the “Delaware Yield” permanent

John updated the partnership on HB 36. A letter of support from the League of American Bicyclists has been received and shared with state legislatures. The City of Newark has asked its lobbyist to advocate at Legislative Hall for the passage of the bill. No additional steps are needed now.

Bike Delaware to celebrate its 10th anniversary

Monday, March 22nd, is the 10th anniversary of the founding of Bike Delaware, one of BikeNewark's seven partner organizations. Everyone was encouraged to wish Bike Delaware a "happy anniversary."

Newark Charter School trail spur

Newark Charter School has proposed a bridge on its trail spur to the Rittenhouse Trail. Bob mentioned that Dave Saunders said that the school is suggesting BikeNewark make a donation to support the bridge. More discussion about signage and foot traffic on the spur is needed before deciding if we should financially commit to the school's request.

Adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Minutes by Christine Schultz

BikeNewark's improvement issues for Newark TID project priority

PRIORITY as of 3/9/21 (Note: numbers in parentheses relate to map/spreadsheet provided by DelDOT's Paul Moser)

- 1 Revamp Wyoming Road with possible two-way protected bikelanes and reconstructed intersections.* (21, 54, 55)
- 2 Develop a concept, plan, and subsequent project that will enable bicyclists to safely and conveniently bike from south of the South College Avenue bridge onto the James F. Hall Trail. (7, 31)
- 3 Make South College Avenue low stress within city limits, including access to/from STAR Campus. Apply striping for bicycle lanes, where missing, on South College Avenue between bridge and Delaware Avenue so that there are visibly continuous lanes northbound and southbound. (3, 4, 30, 44)
- 4 Find a safe, bicycle-efficient solution for low-stress connectivity on the block of Casho Mill Road between Nottingham Road and Church Road. Vehicles are currently allowed to obstruct the bike lanes on either side of the road, creating a less-than-safe "pinch point" for young students who bike to John R. Downes Elementary School from neighborhoods north of Nottingham Road. This would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the school's Safe Routes to School project (with DelDOT) along Casho Mill Road, which is to be completed soon. (11)
- 5 Improve bikeability on Lovett Avenue between South Chapel Street and Academy Street. (23, 24)
- 6 Create bike/ped pathway from Pomeroy Trail through Kershaw Park and along utility right-of-way to link to planned Emerson Bridge project bike/ped pathway (part of "phase 3" of Newark Bikeways low-stress bicycle network planned Northeast Bikeway). (20)
- 7 Create midblock crossings, including at David Hollowell Drive/New London Road and Winslow Road/South College Avenue.
- 8 Convert Olan Thomas Park sidewalk along Paper Mill Road to 10-foot bike/ped pathway to link Pomeroy Trail to planned Emerson Bridge project bike/ped pathway.* (51)
- 9 Create bike lanes along Apple Road bridge, from South Main Street to Barksdale Road. (8)
- 10 Create contraflow bike lanes on low-stress one-way Ray Street and McKees Lane to enhance bicycle connectivity choices that would help bicyclists avoid higher-stress intersections that have no provisions for bicyclists. (26, 42)
- 11 Improve Library Avenue bike/ped pathway and extend it from Delaware Avenue to East Main Street. (22)
- 12 Create a pathway from Rittenhouse Trail to UD STAR Campus. (43)
- 13 Employ more consistent and prominent usage of sharrows in critical areas (e.g., New London Road between West Main Street and Cleveland Avenue, Hillside Road between West Main Street and New London Road). (35)
- 14 Utilize McKees Lane north of Cleveland Avenue as a conduit, and negotiate a right-of-way trail behind car dealerships to Creek View Lane and build a bike/ped bridge over White Clay Creek to connect to Old Paper Mill Road through city parkland. (27, 28)
- 15 Reconstruct the SR4 pathway. This will become an important off-road conduit from the Southwest Bikeway to the STAR Campus and Rittenhouse Park. (45)
- 16 Identify a low-stress route or create a low-stress amenity that will serve Old Capitol Trail (Kirkwood Hwy.) in Newark from Cleveland Avenue to Windy Hills entrance. (37, 52)
- 17 Add bikelanes to block of North College Avenue between Cleveland Avenue and Ray Street. (29)
- 18 Improve and extend Old Paper Mill Road off-road pathway. (39)
- 19 Improve Hillside Road/Old Oak Road connector pathway. (18)
- 20 Create Marrows Road off-road pathway. (25)
- 21 Make Dallam Road (including Lafayette Road and Baylor Drive) a bicycle boulevard. (14)
- 22 Make Country Club Drive a bicycle boulevard and add sharrows. (13)
- 23 Make Winslow Road a bicycle boulevard. (53)
- 24 Add bikelanes to West Park Place and possibly on East Park Place post-rehab. (50)

The following projects involve City of Newark cooperation only but are of critical importance to Newark Bikeways.

- Install Newark Bikeways low-stress bicycle network "phase 2" wayfinding signage (connecting three new segments to the Central Loop Bikeway).*
- Allow bicycles to turn right from Amstel Avenue onto Orchard Road (i.e., either remove the prohibition for all vehicles or install an "Except Bicycles" sign). This is a critical intersection of the Newark Bikeways Central Loop and "phase 2" West Bikeway.
- Enable wayfinding for "phase 3" segments of Newark Bikeways low-stress bicycle network to be coordinated with construction schedule of existing and planned DelDOT and City of Newark infrastructure projects (i.e., Southwest Bikeway and DelDOT's Elkton Road project, Northeast Bikeway and City of Newark's Emerson Bridge project, South Bikeway and DelDOT's rehab of Delaware Avenue with bicycle amenities, and East Bikeway and Wyoming Road project).

*also part of the New Castle County Bicycle Plan (endorsed May 7, 2020)

