



L-A Bicycle Pedestrian Committee Agenda Second Floor Conference Room

Auburn City Hall

Sept 3rd, 2014

5:00pm – 6:30pm

Members Present: Adam Reed, Mark Fuller, Craig Saddlemire, Jeremiah Bartlett, Don D'Auteil, Bob Rand, Sherie Blumenthal

Staff Present: Jason Ready, Dan Goyette, Gary Johnson, Rick Burnham

Guests Present: Darcy Whittemore, Chrissy Adamowitz, William Steinbock, Jamel Torress

5:00pm – Intro, Updates, Acceptance of Minutes

Craig – Met with Clint. Peace Bridge is being checked to see how it works on Auburn side.

Jeremiah – Some painting needs to be done. Long stripes need to get finished. Dan said its' coming soon.

Gary – Injured.

Don – Our new Lewiston City Councilor rep, in place of Kristen.

Bob – Bike and balloon ride. Informal survey ask how much money people spent. Want to expand biking at this event.

Adam – Craig will present to Auburn council. New enhancements downtown look good.

Dan – Construction updates – Route 4 will be paved with new turn. Park Ave includes bike lanes and sidewalks. Turner street will have ramps from Union street to Rowe.

Mark – Met with Tracy from Rail-to-Trail committee. Trying to reform relationship now that Jonathan is gone. ALT will no longer be able to take a leadership role in the project. There is movement and there will be meetings to bring in local legislators.

Mark makes a motion to approve the minutes from previous meeting on 7/23/14, seconded by Jeremiah, motion passed (7-0).

5:10pm – Safe Routes to Schools Study (Darcy)

Darcy has been doing surveys in the local schools about how students walk and bike to school. Bill Webster was very supportive and had other school admins help out.

Lewiston Middle School and Montello participated in the study. In Auburn, Walton School and Sherwood Heights participated. The surveys were sent to the national center and the results were processed for us. Darcy summarized the results in a handout on Lewiston Middle School. 35% of students live within 1 mile of the Middle School. Butch Pratt created a 1-mile walk zone for the middle school (cuts off at East Ave and Russell Street). 22% live within this walk zone. Distance is the biggest barrier for not letting kids walk to school. Speed and traffic volume is the next highest reason for not letting kids walk. Martel and Geiger, everyone takes the bus, because they're surrounded by dangerous streets. Keeping in touch with school transportation director is really important. Martel is currently on the list to build a new school. In Auburn, Darcy talked with Billy Hunter, who works for school district and contracted to Northeast Bus Services. For Montello, the district is spread out everywhere. Roughly 34% live within walking distance of school. 40% of parents drive kids to school within ¼ mile. 80% of all students take bus to school. Carpooling is infrequent at both schools. 50% of students who live within ½ mile have asked for permission to walk or bike. Jim Cliff is open to having a welcome back to school event. In Auburn, at Sherwood Heights, 38% live within 1 mile of school, 57% walk within ¼ mile. Almost half are getting ride in a family vehicle. No one bikes to school. Traffic is extremely congested at Walton. Most families here drive their kids to school. Some families don't like that their kids have to walk to school. Mike Davis has requested bike ped safety education at the school. There is a walk to school day on October 8th. There is a high amount of fear among parents. Some of it is unfounded, regarding the chances of abductions, etc. Fear of some unsafe streets is legitimate. Look out for application to Statewide Walking School Bus Program. Looking for applications this fall. Want to look at areas with the greatest potential for walkers. Jeremiah said there is a gap between those really close to the school and those really far away. There is potential to help those in the middle that are currently getting private vehicle trips. Auburn has a much reduced walking policy. Bob asked what's next? Mark said our role should be looking at problem crossings, intersections, and trying to reduce barriers to walking/biking. For example, would doing something at College and Russell make a difference? Darcy suggests a Lewiston and Auburn subcommittee and focus on the data to see where the major problem spots are. Walton has a lot of potential to improve and the Principal is really on board. Darcy will send Craig lots of attachments and he will forward them.

5:40pm – Complete Streets RFP (Jeremiah and Bob)

Jason began. ATRC has a policy committee which put together money for a planning study of bike ped needs. In this case, they are looking at key connections for bikes and pedestrians on collectors and arterials. Also looking to design a best practices complete streets manual. Selection committee included Jeremiah, Rick, Gary, Bob, Jason, Dwayne from MDOT. Street Plans Collaborative from Brooklyn, NY has been selected. Negotiations will begin to make sure what they're asking for is what we have budgeted. From there we'll be coming back to bike ped committee to get feedback on the process. TPUDC is the partner organization that will work with the Street Plans Collaborative. Jeremiah said all of the proposals were good. Street Plans rose to the top. It will be approved at next policy committee meeting. We can start proceeding as soon as a month from now. MDOT project manager has not been assigned yet.

Dwayne Scott is filling in for Dan Stewart for now. We still need to figure out how to make sure we have design recommendations for local roads in this final document. One interesting thing about the Street Plans proposal is that you can test things out with temporary treatments. An example is using cones or planters to make a bulb out before the curbs are installed.

6:15pm – Auburn Street Projects and Formalizing Review Process for projects (Craig and Staff from Auburn, if present)

Need to make process clear. All streets should be made complete. If they cannot, the design exception needs to come to the bike ped committee. If the bike ped committee disagrees with staff, the issue is brought to council for a decision. If the committee and staff agree with the exception, there is no need for council action. We can present this process to both councils. The sooner staff can bring us designs, the better.

6:40pm – Public Education/Active Communities Ideas (Bob and all)

Bob said there was interest in a community bike ped forum of some kind. Maybe a half day to bring stakeholders together. The question is... what kind of bike ped things are we lacking and what should we focus on? To we need to educate motorists, cyclists, kids? It would be nice to have the consultants present at a forum like that where they can hear about local issues. There are many opportunities for education. At a future meeting, maybe we can discuss where we can start in terms of education. There are national events we could dovetail on, such as “parking day.” We have not had any bike ped forums in L-A before. BCM would likely be interested in working with us on this. Bob was asking how we as a committee could organize lots of bike-to-school days. Bob's ideas have mostly been about getting more people to ride bikes. A new trail will be opening in October. Should we have an opening? The new Riverside trail is 10' wide. Maybe there can be a ribbon cutting. Maybe ALT or Healthy Androscoggin. Shall we invite Mike Auger to next meeting? Check in about the date of the opening of the new trail. BCM is partnering with someone in Portland to produce an earn-a-bike program.

6:55pm – Next Agenda Items for September 24th

- Public Education
- MDOT Update
- Complete Streets Work
- Riverside Trail Press Event

Motion to adjourn made by Jeremiah, seconded by Mark, motion passed (5-0).

7:00pm – Adjourn