

Lewiston-Auburn Bicycle Pedestrian Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
2/13/13

Present: Mark Fuller, Pattie Reaves, Craig Saddlemire, Bob Rand  
Staff: Ed Barrett, Gary Johnson,

Updates

Gary – Brought plan that shows Auburn's snow and ice control plan  
Pattie – ATRC has not met recently

Minutes Approval for previous meeting 1/23/13

– Pattie motions to approve minutes from 1/23/13, Bob seconds, motion passes (4-0)

Downtown Circulation Study

Sherie was in attendance. It focuses on downtown residential community. Auburn is planning something similar in the near future for New Auburn.

Questions for committee:

1) Should Lisbon be 1 lane starting at cedar?

- Pattie said yes, that makes sense to go to one-lane
- She also suggested thru-vehicle traffic should be diverted to Lincoln
- Ed said vehicle traffic is better on Lisbon because it backs up on Lincoln
- Mark asked if they are looking at bike lanes on Lisbon
- Ed said it couldn't support lanes with the current width
- Craig said maybe sharrows could be on the street rather than bikes lanes, though one might be able to have bike lanes if the cobble stone was removed on either side. Lisbon street is very walkable right now, and that should not be lost.

2) Should residential streets downtown become 1 way? (ex. Horton st, Knox St)

- The beginning of Knox St has a very neighborly feel, and is designed with bumpouts and angled parking and a one-way street. One or more of these features might be worth considering for other parts of downtown.

Do small streets need bike lanes?

- Generally consensus is no, the local streets in the residential neighborhoods don't need lanes, that is to say that not ALL streets need lanes. Collectors with more traffic, however, could benefit from lanes. Pine and Bartlett could use lanes.

Rail to Trail

Mark met with Nate Moulton from Maine DOT and reported back on the Rail to Trail meeting and handed out his printed minutes. The meeting was informal and not an official meeting before Maine DOT. They want us to meet with Pan Am to talk before we meet with them officially. They also don't want to hear from us until we have some political support. Nate said he didn't want certain legislators talking to him in Augusta and telling him something different than he heard here. People at that meeting estimated that purchasing the rail bed would cost \$3-4 million. Lincoln Jeffers said he had

heard the cost would be much less than that number. Nate suspected that Pan Am would only sell it to Maine DOT. In which case, the trail could be converted back to a rail line some day. The Sun Rise trail is in the same situation. The advantage of Maine DOT purchasing it helps to make the problem with landowners moot. The right-of-way easement would persist. Mark described the span we are considering. There are another 4 miles that the state owns already. If this 10 mile section turned to trail, the state would probably convert the last 4 miles to trail as well. It was a good meeting but none of this means anything until we meet with Pan Am. Perhaps Dept of Conservation could help fund the purchase. Steve Eldridge said he's going to begin trying to contact Pan Am. It is not clear if the rail line can be abandoned by Pan Am. The Federal Surface Transportation board does have authority to declare the rail bed abandoned. If the trail is purchased by Maine DOT, MDOT has to build bridges again. Craig said it would be good to talk with local elected officials about this issue to make sure everyone is on the same page. Bob will talk with Peggy and Margaret about the idea to see how they feel about it.

### Complete Streets

Auburn and Lewiston Planning Board gave a vote of support. Dan Goiette (City Engineer) and Eric Cousens (City Planner) is concerned about Exception D item 3 (requested that "and" be replaced by "or"). Jeremiah did a nice presentation.

Pattie asked if we should have something in place that addresses the event of amendments to the policy. If one city amends, do they need approval from the other city? This is a good question.

Mark made a motion that we forward the Complete Streets Policy, as is, to the City Councils, seconded by Bob motion passes (4-0).

Auburn Council will workshop this item 5:30pm, Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Workshop is a good time to do turnout.

### Officer Nomination

Pattie makes motion to elect Bob as Vice Chair, Mark seconded, motion passes (4-0).

Next Agenda items for Feb 27<sup>th</sup> (Craig will not be present, Bob will facilitate)

- What's happening on Cedar Street?
- Bob requested we look at the LCIP
- Snow removal