

Lewiston-Auburn Bicycle Pedestrian Committee

Meeting Minutes

4/25/13

Present: Mark Fuller, Craig Saddlemire, Bob Rand, Jeremiah Bartlett, Sherrie Blumenthal, Pattie Reaves

Staff: Gary Johnson, Ed Barrett, Rick Burnham

Guests: Jamel Torres

Updates

Jeremiah – EPA is doing a bike-sharing workshop for Portland

Rick – Funding for the Riverside Greenway is coming according to a notice that Rick received (\$1.2 million)

Bob – The State Complete Streets bill didn't make it out of committee. MDOT is making a Task Force to develop a complete streets policy, May is bike month and the week of the 13th is bike to work week

Jamel – Handed out county trail maps for everyone (very cool), Bikes Belong Grant is coming along and the match will be 50/50

Ed – Walnut Street has begun

Sherrie – Trying to get the Farmers Market bike ride going again this summer

Pattie – Announced that she will be moving to Bangor and must therefore resign from the committee. Her participation has been valuable and we will miss her. We will need a new Lewiston resident to fill her seat.

Minutes Approval for previous meeting 4/10/13

Motion made by Jeremiah to accept the minutes, seconded by Sherrie. Motion Passed (6-0).

Rail to Trail

Mark drafted a resolution with Jonathan. Pan-Am has said they are not interested in selling their rail line, but that is not a surprise. At least they are communicating with us. A motion was made by Pattie and seconded by Jeremiah to form a subcommittee according to the following resolution:

The Lewiston-Auburn Bicycle Pedestrian Committee (herein referred to as the LABPC) resolves to form the following Sub-Committee, titled “The Lewiston Lower Rail To Trail Workgroup” (herein referred to as the RTT Workgroup).

Given the growing public interest in expanded trail networks in greater Lewiston-Auburn, and the recently completed Androscoggin Greenway Trail Feasibility report recommending it as the top priority in Lewiston-Auburn, the LABPC wishes to take the first formal step towards advancing the creation of a transportation and recreational trail along the former Lewiston Lower Branch Rail line between Lewiston-Auburn and Lisbon Falls. This corridor is also aligned with the “Inland Route” of the East Coast Greenway.

The RTT Workgroup’s mission shall be to identify, analyze and report regularly back to the LABPC on the various options for the conversion to a trail of the “Lewiston Lower Branch Railroad” from a point near Cedar Street in Lewiston and to a point near Canal Street in Lisbon Falls. The analysis of options would include securing the right-of-way, sources of funding, ownership models, user groups and maintenance/stewardship.

The RTT Workgroup would meet as needed and report at least once a month to the LABPC. The RTT Workgroup shall serve at the discretion of the LABPC and until the LABPC dissolves the Sub-Committee. The RTT Workgroup would consist of key local stakeholders identified below, recognizing that other local, statewide or regional organizations may be helpful in the RTT Workgroup’s efforts.

Identified Stakeholder Groups:

Town Of Lisbon
City Of Lewiston
City Of Auburn
LABPC
Lisbon Trails Commision
Lisbon/Lisbon Falls Snowmobile and ATV Clubs
Lewiston Snowmobile and ATV Clubs

State/Regional Stakeholders For Consultation:

MaineDOT
MaineACF
Bicycle Coalition Of Maine
Maine Snowmobile Association
ATV Maine
East Coast Greenway Alliance

Staff Support:

In addition to staff from the three municipalities involved, the Androscoggin Land Trust, through its’ LA Trails program, has offered to play a facilitation and convening role for this project, given the organization’s priority for implementing the Androscoggin Greenway in this region.

The RTT Workgroup shall be advisory in nature.

The motion passed (5-0). Mark Fuller will continue to represent LABPC on the subcommittee, but others are welcome to be involved as well. Appropriate staff or elected officials will be available to support the committee as needed.

Complete Streets: Next Steps

The same complete streets policy has passed in both cities. Auburn requested for their policy to be made into ordinance by October. LABPC's next steps include the following:

- Review current projects in the Capital Improvement plan and see how they align
- Host a training on June 5th for community members and staff to learn about design practices for bikeable walkable communities, followed by a bike ride or walk to examine our current infrastructure (Jamel is working on this)
- Supporting the development of a best practices manual that shared between the cities and suggests the best standards for our communities to design streets. This would be a living document that draws upon current research and addresses our local context. It would be available to city staff as well as private developers and contractors to understand how we want things done. Jeremiah suggested consulting services to help with this.
- Sidewalk policy, which may be included in the Best Practices document

Next Meeting is 5pm on Wednesday, May 8th at Lewiston City Hall