

City of Lawrence
Lawrence – Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee
February 8, 2016 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Anderson, Lisa Hallberg, Erin Paden, Jim MacMurray, Justin Eddings, David Hamby, Rod Hernandez
MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Ashley, Jacki Becker
STAFF PRESENT: Stephen Mason, Jessica Mortinger, Ashley Myers, Nick Voss
PUBLIC PRESENT: John Thornburg, Charlie Bryan, Nikki Wentling, Phil Collison, Dave Lowenstein, Josh Davis, Bruce Eggers

1. Call Meeting to Order and Introductions

Lisa Hallberg called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. A quorum was present and introductions were made.

2. Action Item: Approval of the January 11th Minutes

A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Lisa Hallberg seconded by David Hamby and passed unanimously (6-0).

3. Discussion/Action Item: Proposed Downtown Bike Corral Locations (<http://lawrenceks.org/mpo/bikecorrals>)

Jessica Mortinger said the Douglas County Community Foundation awarded a LiveWell Community Wellness Grant to install three bike corrals in downtown Lawrence. A public notice letter was sent to property owners located 250 ft. around the proposed locations. She said she received one comment in the form of a bike parking student memo, which she passed out to the committee.

Ms. Mortinger said the bike corrals usage will be evaluated during the summer/fall. Staff would bring the observations of bike corral usage and research for bike corral programs back to the BAC for discussion and consideration. BAC members could consider future recommendations to develop a program similar to the sidewalk dining permit process so businesses could install bike corrals. Ms. Mortinger indicated the BAC should open the floor for the public hearing. Ms. Hallberg indicated the public hearing had begun and asked those present to share their comments.

John Thornburg asked who proposed the location in front of the library. Ms. Mortinger said she worked with BAC member Jackie Becker to identify locations of additional bicycle parking needs downtown using the parking audit that had previously been completed. Mr. Thornburg said the new library should have been developed with better bicycle parking. The loops on the meters were a failed attempt to solve the problem after the fact and the Library has already had to re-sod the area under the meter poles. In the past the BAC rejected the idea to put bike parking in the grass in front of the library. He thinks the bike corral idea is a failed attempt to solve a failed plan and it is bad to have kids parking in the street.

Mr. Hamby responded saying there was additional bicycle parking available for kids to use at the library and he felt that adding the bike corral isn't going to hurt the situation. Instead it will

add parking. Mr. Thornburg said he still thinks there needs to be a permanent solution and a bike corral would hurt the situation.

Ms. Hallberg asked if anyone else had comments, there were none. Ms. Hallberg thanked Mr. Thornburg for his comments and closed the bike corral location public hearing.

David Hamby said the library location is in a no parking zone anyway and the other two would have to remove one parking stall each to have 10 bike parking spots. That sounds good. If the library one fills up quickly, it will give credence to the idea of having more bike parking. Lisa Hallberg said she likes the locations and she appreciates bike parking in the street as it increases the visibility of biking as a form of transportation.

Mr. Hamby motioned to recommend the three bike corral locations to the City Commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hallberg and passed unanimously (7-0).

4. Discussion/Action Item: 9th Street Concept Plan

Jessica Mortinger presented an overview of the designs provided by El Dorado Inc. for bicycle infrastructure along 9th street, which includes at the current time include a bike box at 9th Street and Massachusetts Street and bicycle lanes in the corridor. She indicated there are multiple conflicts throughout the corridor including conflicting values with the historic character of the brick sidewalks, ADA improvements and routes, limited Right of Way, Street trees, and others. It is currently proposed that certain sections of the street would have a second ADA complainant concrete sidewalk parallel to the historic brick sidewalk – so there would be two sidewalks, one brick and one concrete. She said it is city precedent that when a roadway is rebuilt, bikeway infrastructure is included. The Countywide Bikeway Plan calls for 9th Street to have a bike lane. Ms. Mortinger mentioned the design team and consultants had additional meetings planned and other non-bicycle infrastructure issues should be addressed at those meetings. The calendar of meetings can be found online at: <http://lawrenceks.org/9th-street-corridor-project/meetings>.

Stephen Mason asked if the sidewalks would have restricted wheel use like on Massachusetts Street. Ms. Mortinger said she hasn't heard anything discussion about restricting bicyclists from using the sidewalks along 9th Street and they would currently be allowed to under city code. Currently the Central Business District, which includes Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont Streets don't allow wheeled access.

Justin Eddings asked how the proposal fits with the rest of the City. Is it supposed to be the golden standard of how we want corridors? Ms. Mortinger indicated the project began as a way to design and implement a model Complete Street in the community. The current design with bike lanes fits into the Countywide Bikeway Plan, as the plan called for 9th Street to have a continuous bike lane. Mr. Eddings asked if it will be unique and the only bike box in town. Will it be an oddity that drivers don't know how to use? Would it be better to institute the bike boxes in a coordinated effort across the City rather than have the only one on 9th Street? Lisa Hallberg said her personal opinion is that achieving bike boxes are part of the bike infrastructure goal and if we don't get it now, we will never get the bike box. Erin Paden said it is a good location to start implementing bike boxes. Ms. Hallberg said the closer you are to Massachusetts Street the infrastructure should be dedicated to bikes. Another big picture item is the completion of

the Lawrence Loop. Hopefully the 9th Street corridor will connect the Lawrence Loop to Massachusetts Street.

Mr. Hamby said the key will be to educate bikers and drivers on how to use the bike box, but we have to start somewhere. Stephan Mason suggested interpretive signs should be installed to help people understand how to use the bike box. Mr. Hamby said information should be put in The Flame to educate on bike box usage similar to how roundabout education was distributed.

Mr. Anderson said 9th Street isn't his choice for a bike corridor; he would much more prefer 7th street for an East/West connection. Mr. Hamby and Ms. Hallberg agreed that more facilities on the ground equate to more visibility. Ms. Hallberg said we need to stitch together the infrastructure we have.

Mr. MacMurray asked when the design decision will be decided. Ms. Mortinger said she was unsure of the timeline, but everyone should get their input in now and attend the other public meetings the design team is holding as listed on their website.

Ms. Hallberg made a motion to support the inclusion of bike lanes and a bicycle box at the corner of 9th & Massachusetts Streets. Suggesting that if a bike box is installed at Massachusetts Street a "no right on red" should be explored to make the facility safer for bicyclists. Recognizing the competing challenges we support at a minimum bicycle lanes from Massachusetts Street to Connecticut Street and a bike route is established and marked with Share the Lane Sharrow Markings and Bikes may use full lane signs from Connecticut Street to Delaware Street. The motion was seconded by with Mr. Eddings and passed unanimously (7-0).

5. Discussion/Action Item: Appoint BAC Member to serve on the Bike Share Feasibility Study Steering Committee

Jessica Mortinger said the MPO was awarded two competitive grants from KDOT. The one pertaining to the BAC is the Bike Share Feasibility Study. A selection committee is currently reviewing the proposals that firms submitted in response to the RFP to do the study.

Bill Anderson asked what the study will entail. Ms. Mortinger said it will look at if bike share is feasible, if the market can sustain it, how to fund it, and where to have hubs, among other things. Ms. Mortinger said like the Countywide Bikeway System Plan, she would like to have two BAC representatives to help give the consultants direction – one to act as the representative and another as an alternate. Lisa Hallberg nominated Jim MacMurray and herself as the alternate. There were no additional nominations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Anderson and passed unanimously (7-0).

6. Discussion/Action Item: Bike Month Literature Review

Jessica Mortinger displayed the literature and poster that was used for Bike Month in 2015 and 2014. She requested space in the City newsletter - The Flame - for bike safety information in May. As a part of bike month, we typically send a letter and poster to the businesses in downtown and other large businesses. There is a commissioner bike ride and a bike month proclamation. She asked if anyone had ideas.

Bill Anderson asked if a calendar of events could be included on the poster. Ms. Mortinger said perhaps the events could be listed; however we don't always have the dates for the events in time to print.

Charlie Bryan said people don't understand bike signage. Educating about bike signage wasn't included in past Bike Month content. We want to be clear of helmet expectations and be consistent in our safety messages. He suggested the flyer be changed to educate of the existing signage and markings. Jessica Mortinger indicated the Health Department is welcome to create additional content that could be distributed with the BAC bike month posters and other content.

David Hamby mentioned there is going to be a class through Parks and Recreation taught by the League Certified Instructors called "Capable Commuting". It will explain what a sharrow is and what the "bike may use full lane" sign means. But not everyone will be able to attend the class. There is also an ad campaign about how bicyclists are everyone, which is free to use. He will send the link to the videos to the group.

Mr. Bryan said the Health Department can use the CDC funding for broader bike educational information. Ms. Mortinger said the only issue is the timeline, which is late April. Ms. Mortinger said staff will work on this in coordination with the Health Department and will bring something back for the BAC to review.

7. Other Business/Updates

There were none.

8. Public Comments

John Thornburg asked if there is still a police force member on the committee. Lisa Hallberg said yes, Dan Ashley. Mr. Thornburg said he is glad to hear that, as it was a recommendation from the Bicycle Friendly Communities process. He asked if the BAC is consolidated into the Transportation Commission, will the City not meet the requirement for a BAC from Bicycle Friendly Community. Charlie Bryan said Davis, CA is one of the platinum cities and they combined into consolidated transportation board. Furthermore, the Pedestrian Bike Issues Task Force is recommending getting to the next Bicycle Friendly Communities level. Jessica Mortinger said it is not clear what will happen with the Task Force recommendations. The MPO will still need regional input from specific bike/ped folks. Mr. Thornburg said he thought the police presence on the BAC was a good one and it was great that it was implemented; it would be a shame to see it fall away.

Phil Collison serves on the Citizen Advisory Committee for the 9th Street. He hadn't seen this version of the proposed plan and didn't understand bike boxes, sharrows, or the share the road signs until it was explained.

Josh Davis lives on 9th Street. He asked if there is precedence in Lawrence of dual sidewalks. Jessica Mortinger said she doesn't know of any. Mr. Davis said it looks like both would need to be maintained. Ms. Mortinger indicated she was unsure of how snow removal or sidewalk maintenance would be enforced. . Mr. Collison said there has been discussion of Lawrence Parks and Recreation maintaining them if they are designed as Shared Use Paths. Mr. Collison said the proposal will go for comment on February 29. The Citizens Advisory Committee will

vote on it on March 2. Charlie Bryan asked about a protected bike lane. Mr. Collison said it was mentioned, but not pursued.

9. Adjournment of Meeting and Announcement of Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2016 at 5:00 pm.