
Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2007
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: City Council Chambers, City of Urbana, 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL

Members Present: Gary Engelgau, Gary Cziko (via phone), Rick Bernotas, Barak Rosenshine, Sheldon Katz
Staff Members Present: Jennifer Selby
Absent: Brandon Bowersox, Susan Jones, Dana Mancuso, Audrey Ishii, Gary Biehl

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Rick Bernotas called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by verbal record and a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Upon voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by to approve the March 20, 2007 minutes. Sheldon Katz moved to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Rick Bernotas. Upon a voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

V. Public Input

No public input

VI. New Business

A. Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) – School Travel Plan endorsement

Jennifer Selby emailed out the first draft of the School Travel Plan to all commission members for their review prior to the meeting. The Plan is complete except for the information regarding the percentage of students who bike, walk, and ride the bus to school. The Champaign-Urbana schools performed a survey to acquire this information and will provide the results for the Plan as soon as they have them. The types of projects the cities and school districts want to apply for funding for are spelled out in the Plan and include enforcement, education and engineering projects. The School Travel Plan must be completed and turned into IDOT by May 31, 2007. Submission of the School Travel Plan is the first step in applying for SRTS funding. Once the Plan is approved, the City can apply for funding. Funding applications are due June 30. Jennifer asked the Commission to endorse the School Travel Plan. A vote was taken to endorse the Plan. Gary Engelgau moved to endorse. All were in favor of the endorsement.

B. Safe Routes to Schools – Letter to IDOT endorsement

At this time, engineering time (i.e. design time for a consultant) is eligible for SRTS funding. However, enforcement and education time is not available for funding. This includes staff time to organize Walk to School Day or police time to go to the schools to discuss safe routes to school. Jennifer Selby presented a letter to the members of the commission which was drafted by the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission to the Illinois Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Megan Holt. This letter requests that future cycles of the SRTS funding allow staff time for education and enforcement to be eligible for funding. Jennifer asked the Commission to endorse the letter. Sheldon Katz asked if the funding available would divert funds from another needed aspects of the program. Jennifer Selby did not think this was a possibility. Rick Bernotas asked for motion to endorse the letter. Sheldon Katz moved to endorse the letter and Gary Engelgau seconded. All were in favor of the endorsement.

C. League of Illinois Bicyclists Police Training

Jennifer Selby attended this training on May 3, 2007. Dean Shott who is the outreach director for the League of Illinois Bicyclists did a presentation on safe roads for bicycling. Nine Urbana police officers, the Chief and Assistant Chief of Police and various other members of the community were in attendance. Mr. Shott discussed the Illinois law regarding riding bicycles on a highway in which all cyclists shall be granted all the rights and shall be subject to all the duties applicable to the driver of the vehicles. The safest place to ride is on the street. He talked about bicycle crashes in which the majority of them are falls (50%) with car/bike and bike/bike crashes tying for second at 17%. He talked about different age groups of bicycle riders. Children age 10 and under tend to run signals and dart out into traffic. With adults, accidents are often the drivers fault as far as motorist turning in front of them or running a red light. He talked about the best place to position you in the driving lane. He discussed what law enforcement can do to make the roads safer for bicyclists. The main goal would be to improve voluntary compliance of the laws by vehicles and bicyclists as well as correct violator behavior, change community behaviors, reinforce safety education, reduce the number of crashes and ultimately reduce deaths and injuries. He discusses that many police officers will not pull bicyclists over because of reasons such as peer or social pressure. The officers do not consider bad bicycle behavior to be a major violation and it is just not worth their time to write a ticket, especially when there could be something else bigger come along. The advantage to writing tickets to bicyclists is the prevention of injuries, crashes and death. He said law enforcement should focus on the laws regarding bicyclists and driver behavior. Number one for bicyclists would be riding against the flow of traffic; this is unsafe for the cyclists and the driver. The bicyclist needs to be predictable and drive in the right direction. The failure to obey traffic signals and failure to yield at stop or yield signs or failure to yield when turning left is second. As far as motorists, the violations include speeding, failure to yield, unsafe passing of cyclists, improper right turns and driving while intoxicated. The different bicycle enforcement options include a positive reinforcement program, verbal warnings, written warnings, and a step up from that would be a written citation or an arrest. It is very important to do a through investigation if there is an accident. Jennifer mentioned the video titled "Share the Road - Same Roads, Same Rules, and Same Rights. This video is available for viewing on the League of Illinois Bicyclists website. This is a 6 ½ minute video that has been distributed to all the drivers education classes in Illinois. She said it was a really good video, short and straight to the point on how to share the road with bicyclists. Rick Bernatos asked if there was any literature that Jennifer Selby could share. Jennifer will contact Mr. Shott to see if there is a PDF of his power point presentation.

D. Bicycle Master Plan Public Workshop

Jennifer Selby presented the information from this workshop that was held May 3, 2007 at the Urbana Middle School. They had between 60-70 people show up to mark up maps, and listen to the presentation from CCRPC and Ed Barsotti. At the workshop, people broke up into groups geographically and then the groups presented their ideas for bicycle facility types and locations. CCRPC is in the process of compiling the information for the steering committee meeting which is coming up on May 25, 2007. The next workshop is planned for the fall. This was a very impressive workshop. Rick Bernatos mentioned that when people were marking up the maps at the workshop, there seemed to be a large focus on the routes people currently took or that were familiar with. He asked about routes that people might like to use, but are not considering because they are too dangerous and people don't naturally think about it. He suggested University Avenue from downtown Urbana to downtown Champaign. He thinks most cyclists are adverse to University Avenue, but can we look at that location. Jennifer Selby said we could bring up that route to CCRPC and they will always be able to look at additional streets. Gary Engelgau asked about making Vine Street and Race Streets opposing one way streets. Jennifer Selby said there has been no talk of making these streets one way. He suggested that this could incorporate the bicycle safely on the main road. Jennifer Selby said that a lot of those streets the bicycle would work without making them a one-way street. You don't want to make a contra - flow bike lane on a one way. Sheldon Katz brought up the point that sometimes with one way streets, if not designed properly, can increase the speed and that makes it more dangerous for bicycles. Rick Bernatos mentioned that Orchard Downs at Race Street might be difficult. He rides both north and south bound on Race Street and Vine Street and it seems to work ok. Barak Rosenshine said this seems to work when the streets are adjacent like University Avenue and Church Street he likes the idea, but Race Street and Vine Streets are a ¼ mile apart downtown. Rick Bernatos asked about the groups of people we were reaching. The statistics of how people learned about the meeting showed that most people heard about it through email or word of mouth. Is there any discussion about how to reach some different groups of people? Is email or the internet the best way to reach

people? Jennifer Selby said that she had not had that discussion yet and she was not in the room when the vote happened. She feels that we can certainly try other ways to reach people. The flyer announcing the public meeting was distributed throughout Urbana, including: downtown business, bike shops, dorms, email, they were printed in English and Spanish and distributed at churches, business and big industries. There was a sign in sheet at the meeting where people had to put their name and address and we could possibly do a GIS map of where the people came from and see if there were areas we needed to focus on a bit more. Sheldon Katz asked if there was anything the commission could do at the next workshop and Jennifer Selby said she will find out and let us know.

E. Bicycle Parking Ordinance

Jennifer Selby distributed the current ordinance for bicycle parking – essentially if a business has 10 or more parking places then they are required to provide bicycling parking (minimum of 4 spots and a maximum of 25) or 10% of the required automobile parking up to a maximum of 25. The bicycle racks have to be on a paved, all weather, dust-less material such as concrete, asphalt, bricks, or rock chips and wood chips, it needs to be on an incline and it can be waived if the developer states they do not get a lot of bicycles and it can also be reduced by as much as 50% if they can prove there won't be that much bicycle use. There is no specific type of rack that is required as long as it accommodates current bicycle model and lock types and needs to be approved by the zoning administrator, it has to be in the same place as the automobile parking. She suggested that we read over the ordinance and since Brandon Bowersox is not in attendance at this time we can discuss this at the next meeting.

Barak Rosenshine mentioned that the racks that only hold 10 bikes are not adequate. He said at the new development areas such as The Pines, and 5-points, there should be bike racks close to the stores. Jennifer Selby said she does not have the site plans for these developments and she thought this ordinance would apply to each separate business such as a bank, restaurant, dry cleaners; they would all need to meet the requirements. This rule should apply to the business, not the land for commercial use. She suggested this might need to be made clearer. Rick Bernotas suggested that we can talk about types of racks that we don't want to see. A lot of people are opposed to the large rings that you have to line up with. Also, he thought that it might be interesting to consider how the land is going to be used. He talked about the Farmer's Market at Lincoln Square. There are tons of pedestrians. As a cyclist you have to lock your bike to the front entrance of Lincoln Square or have folks walking their bikes through the market itself. In a case such as this or a carnivals or farmers market, it would be interesting to define a perimeter on bike parking. Jennifer Selby brought a flyer for portable bike rack system that can be brought out for these types of events. The commission members thought the portable bike rack was a good idea. Sheldon Katz asked if we had the ability to specify the type of bicycle parking by anything other than zoning. Jennifer Selby was not sure about that. She will check into that and get back to the commission. It is only broken down by public use, commercial use, industrial/transportation related uses and residential. This will be carried for discussion to the next meeting.

VII. Old Business

No old business.

VIII. Announcements

No announcements. We are not sure if there will be a meeting in June. Jennifer Selby will let the commission know.

IX. Adjournment

Rick Bernatos adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Hoffman
Recording Secretary