
Date: Tuesday, September 18, 2007
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: City Council Chambers, City of Urbana, 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL

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

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Brandon Bowersox called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 May 15, 2007 minutes. Rick Bernotas moved to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Gary Biehl. Upon a voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

V. New Business

a. Bicycle Master Plan - Draft Proposed Bicycle Network (CCRPC)

Presentation by Champaign County Regional Planning Commission by Rita Black and Gabe Lewis. Ed Barsotti is also helping with the process of creating the Bicycle Master Plan but he was unable to attend this meeting. At this time they are unveiling the bike network they are proposing. The timeline was presented at the public workshop held in May 2007 there was 67 attendees and 60 people filled out "individual idea maps" which allowed participants to draw their preferred bicycle routes through Champaign and Urbana. Parks were included on the route maps, along with specific locations. They are on schedule for the proposed bicycle network. This is a draft because it has not been approved by the steering committee. Once it has been approved it will be sent to the web page for the bike plan and they will open the period for public input.

The most requested streets for bicycling were Race Street, Washington Street, Philo Road, Lincoln Avenue and Main Street. The most requested off street paths and connections were the Urbana – Danville Rail Trail, Florida Avenue extension to Route 130, Anderson Street connection to Windsor Road, the completion of the side path on the north side of Windsor Road between Philo Road and Myra Ridge Drive.

Comments summary: included Urbana destinations, intersections and barriers, general issues and safety issues.

Field inventory criteria included: street width, pavement type, parking type, drain type, railroad crossing and sidewalk/side path status.

The BLOS (bicycle level of service): which includes number of through lanes, rightmost lane width, average daily traffic counts, posted speed limits, pavement condition ratings – 1 – worst, 5-best ; Most streets in Urbana have a rating of 4.0; newly constructed or repaved streets received a rating of 5.0 ; brick roads = 3.0; gravel roads = 2.0;

Important guidelines: serve the need of the diversity of bicyclist – they want to target less confident riders. Maintain and make use of the opportunities provided by the existing roadway system, create a continuous,

connected system of facilities spaced no more than ½ mile to 1 mile and integrate existing trails into the network.

Options for the bike network: Shared roadway with regular lane width, shared bike/parking lane, bike lanes, dedicated trails on separate rights of way, rails to trails, utility easements, along rivers, bike routes.

The next steps: finalize proposed bicycle network, prepare bicycle implementation plan, hold a public meeting, and finalize bicycle plan. Please refer to the CCRPC website for more information www.ccrpc.org

VI. Public Input

Rob Scott, 122 Franklin Street, Urbana, IL; He is a bicyclist who rides along Broadway Avenue south of University Avenue – to the University of Illinois. He is interested in making Broadway Avenue a complete street. He believes it is wide enough already, but would like to see more trees planted along that area, paint the street and add a bike path along the roadway.

Scot McCollum, 713 Arlington Court, Champaign, IL; He is a bicyclist – comments included the bike path on Illinois Street. He had bicycles coming in the opposing direction to him on the same side as him. He did notice more violations occurring. He felt the plan looked great. There needs to be more public education – to the short and long term residences of C-U. How is that going to be approached? Brandon asked if this happened before the new arrows were painted and Scot said the arrows were already down. Brandon hopes that we can address this when Jennifer talks.

Marianne Downey, 503 E. California Avenue, Urbana, IL; She hopes we can complete the picture to include pedestrian traffic in the process. She would like to see signage at Illinois Street and Vine Street like there is at Philo Road and Florida Avenue “no turn on red when pedestrian is present”. She also represents HUENA. She mentioned that there is a mixed use (pedestrian, bicyclists, and families) path around Victory Park that is part of the plan that was a combined effort from the City and the Urbana Park District. She thinks signage is important to incorporate into the process.

Rick Bernotas agreed with Rob Scott’s suggestion of having more trees within the city. They not only block the sun but they reduce the heat radiating from the streets. Windsor Road south of the south farms came to mind – there is opportunity to include the arbor and the parks department – a good complete bike path includes wind break and shade.

Gary Biehl asked about the colors of the bike lanes on the map. He wondered if the different colors meant that they other roads are not bike friendly – how will they be designated so the bicyclists know where to go on route. Rita Black said the main routes that have been used and recommended – based on the data they collected they were able to decide what the best ways to have the bike lanes on. Not all the streets are bike friendly. Depending on the volume and speed limit, pavement, etc. they are not recommending all the streets.

Gary Cziko mentioned bicycle boulevards, such as in Berkley, California - these are residential streets where through traffic is discouraged and he wondered if any thought has been given to do something like this in Urbana. Rita Black said at the first approached they did not want to consider closing any streets down. They would like to look at the facilities that have been used so far and introduce a new concept. In the future they might look at this as another option.

Rick Bernotas inquired as to the amount of time for feedback of the plan, once it has been implemented and set into action what is the process that is in place to change things, if needed. Rita Black said that the plan will be evaluated every five years. It will be updated and proposed changes will be implemented as this plan has a database by segments and the City of Urbana will keep the database updated – which includes increases in traffic, pavement type, etc. Brandon Bowersox added that the bicycle and pedestrian commission and the bike master plan process will continue and make it possible for the next round of improvements. Jennifer Selby said there are specific areas of town that will be updated based on the Capitol Improvement Plan – such as Philo Road will be 2008, Main Street will be 2009. Signage and striping does cost money and we will need to prioritize them so we can work it out in the budget. Rick Bernotas asked about where the money was coming from – do we have to rely on grants or does the City have money set aside. Jennifer Selby explained that some projects are already in the budget – some will be

paid for with Motor Fuel Tax monies so we will just add bike lanes when we do the projects. Some routes are involved in grant monies also. She will check on the signage money whether or not it is in the budget or not. Brandon Bowersox believes we did not have a dedicated line item for signage but the CIP is a large pool of money that goes to many budget line items. He said we could ask the city council for a stream of revenue to cover the costs such as paint and signs.

b. Annual Report to City Council

Brandon Bowersox passed out a draft annual report that he is working on to present to City Council. Headings include an overview of the commission, summary of activities, the engineering projects that have happened, other projects and grants that are underway, then a section of the report would discuss education and enforcement, walk and bike to school day would be included in education and then a section of recommendations. There are five recommended topics he discussed and would like our feedback. 1. Community wide education and enforcement plan. 2. Budget for education and enforcement. 3. Budget for implementation for the bike master plan. 4. Continued coordination with other cities. 5. Recommendation about complete streets policies continued training, review time of projects.

c. Member Appointments and Terms

Jennifer Selby informed the commission that at the August 2, 2007 council meeting the members of this commission all had their terms reappointed except Sheldon Katz as he asked not to be re-appointed. We have an eleven member commission we actually have one opened position right now, which is held for the school district which we are waiting on to get filled.

d. New Bicycle Legislation

Jennifer Selby updated the commission that Senate Bill 80 was passed. There are three changes to the traffic laws. 1. There is a three foot clearance when passing bicyclists. 2. The right turn hand signal – you can now put your hand out to the right. 3. Clarify to the bicycles to the far right rule. She will email that information to the members after the meeting.

e. Walk and Bike to School Day

Wednesday, October 3, 2007 – they are looking for volunteers to walk with the students to school; every elementary school in Urbana is participating in the event. Durst Cycle will be donating two bicycles to be given away during the event – children need to complete the checklist and then turn it in for a chance to win. There will be a Bike Rodeo on Saturday, September 22 at the Farmer's Market. The bicycles will be on display at the Rodeo.

VII. Old Business

No old business.

VIII. Announcements

Jennifer Selby announced that on October 4, 2007 there will be a webinar at City Council Chambers. This is on bike lane design – this is a free webinar for anyone interested in attending.

IX. Adjournment

Brandon Bowersox adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Hoffman
Recording Secretary