

Burlington Walk/Bike Council

Tuesday, February 15, 2011, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

MINUTES

1) Introductions, BWBC overview, find a minute-taker, review agenda

Those present introduced themselves to the group (16 in attendance).

2) Discussion of projects for 2011 & spending bike-set aside funds

The BWBC gets about \$37,000 each year rather than 2% as in years past but other projects happen through the regular paving program. Discussion of other projects: secure bike parking (e.g., at the farmer's market), new portable bicycle stands for events; could we purchase and provide lights, bells, helmets, etc.? Nicole says yes. We could coordinate with bike shops, OGE, etc or tie this to a specific event. Reflector vests could also be included. Next year: bike/ped plan study update.

Discussion about relationship with Church Street Marketplace and potential partnership to provide additional bicycle parking, including covered parking.

Will's ideas:

- safety/legal explanation of bicycle-related laws/ordinances to bike shops (note: Safe Streets Collaborative is doing some of this)
- print out bicycle parking guidelines (note: this is done)
- order a couple copies of APBP bicycle parking guidelines (note: this is done)

3) Sharrows & Bike Lanes in Burlington

Phil and Ross explained their research into the use of sharrows in other communities and what the federal guidelines say about their use. Roy Neuer and Rick Hubbard from the South Burlington Rec Path Committee contributed to this discussion as South Burlington is considering installing sharrows as described their research into their use as well. Phil suggests that sharrows must be part of the general transportation system rather than as a way to protect cyclists. They appeal to more skilled cyclists but won't attract new, unskilled or recreational riders. Ross provided a summary of study that examined sharrows in San Francisco. Rick explained that South Burlington is thinking of a sharrow demonstration project and that community education will be a big component. The east side of Spear Street (northbound) may be a candidate because the current shoulder is narrow (~2 ft) and there is a lot of bicycle traffic. Bryan asked about restriping the roadway to gain wider shoulders. The current road centerline could be moved westward about two feet which could provide four-foot shoulders on both sides (west

shoulder is currently ~6 ft). South Burlington folks don't want to use this as a reason to discourage use of sharrows. Further discussion about sharrows on Pine Street in Burlington as there is currently only room for one bike lane (on west side – no car parking allowed). Phil commented that Jennifer Dill (Portland State Univ) has found that cyclists will go out of their way to use a less trafficked route. Sharrows won't bring more cyclists to the road but bicycle boulevards would. Roy agreed with Phil that marketing along with sharrow installation would be good. He suggests adding sharrows to roads where there are currently a lot of cyclists. Sharrows might exacerbate the "roads are for cars" mentality and might contribute to roadway sign/marketing clutter. Education is very important for this type of project.

The BWBC and SB Rec Path Committee are interested in a possible joint project. Rick talked to Lou Bresee of the South Burlington Rec Path Committee about possible roadways and Main Street from Prospect up the hill (eastbound) to the bike lane may be an option. Jamie commented that there is a shared use path on the north side of Main Street (by Davis Center) that serves that section of roadway. Another joint project could be Queen City Park Road, however bicycle lanes on both sides might fit given the current road width, which would be preferable.

Rick took an informal poll of the group regarding sharrows on Spear Street – 10 were in favor, 1 opposed. Bryan explained that even though sharrows could be installed on Spear as per MUTCD guidelines, as an experienced cyclist he was opposed and wouldn't take the lane because of the traffic volume, traffic speeds, and roadway distance.

Nicole has a large sign with information about sharrows that would be helpful for the education/outreach piece. BWBC and SB Rec Path could do two separate projects but have a joint education/outreach effort.

Roy and Rick will contact Nicole for more information. Bryan noted that Essex Junction has also talked about installing sharrows from Champlain Valley Expo to Five Corners, but the long term plan is to widen the roadway to accommodate bicycle lanes.

4) Walk? Bike? Meetup! The Gathering of Walk/Bike Groups, 3/12/11

A small group has been meeting to plan this event to be held at UVM in Billings featuring keynote speaker Steve Miller. Thanks to Trav for making the posters! The UVM TRC is covering \$300, CATMA is covering \$300. The keynote is open to the public, and folks can choose to participate in the breakout sessions designed primarily for local groups (BWBC, BBC, Local Motion, BTV Cluster, UVM BUG, AARP VT, etc.). The agenda is being developed and potential

group discussion questions were reviewed. Those questions will be modified based on comments.

5) Updates

- **Burlington Bike Map** – another Champlain student has resumed map work with Nicole
- **Pearl St. Improvements Project** – BWBC members provided feedback on the three alternatives and as a result a fourth alternative has been designed and will be considered by the DPW Commission. (note: this alternative was approved)
- **AARP's Community Action Sponsorship training** – AARP is hosting a workshop on March 24 for training related to making projects happen, leadership training, and the effective use of volunteers. BWBC representation is needed because of the AARP award for the 127 Path project. Several people volunteered to participate.
- **Economic Impact Study of Biking & Walking in Vermont** – on Wed, Feb 16 there will be a public presentation of this study at statewide VIT sites, including Williston.

6) New Business

Chapin will come to the March 15 meeting to talk about the statewide economic study.

Next meeting – March 15 in Room 12, City Hall

Adjourned 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Davis