

Burlington Walk/Bike Council
Minutes of 2/27/14 Meeting

Present: Doug Connolly (BUG), Phoebe Spancer (UVM), Tony Redington, Serril Flash, Mary Twitchell, Gene Miller, Eric Hull, Jon Adams-Kollitz, Damon Lane, Brent Weigel, Rob Bast, Jack Daggett, Mary Manges, Barbara Mines, Lou Bresee (Lake Champlain Bikeways), Lisa Aultman-Hall (TRC)

Lisa Aultman-Hall, UVM Transportation Research Center:

Lisa brought us her lessons learned from a sabbatical year travelling and studying in the western US, based at UC Davis. Highlights: our issues to be overcome are money, hills, and climate. Davis, CA, has 65K people in 10 square miles with 34K students. The campus was redeveloped (from an Ag school) in the 60s-70s under a bicycling advocate, as a bicycling-friendly campus. The campus and city have a unified public transit system, lots of roundabouts on cycle paths, even small ones, but the issues of a difficult climate and hills do not exist there.

Here, we can do more with public transit, and back-in angle parking. Our local culture is favorable. The colleges and the outdoor recreation industry are potential allies.

What will it take? The 'tipping point' that will catalyze more investment in infrastructure is not a *percentage* of rideshare, it's a *number* of riders. Lisa will be further researching what it is. When we have enough riders on the streets the awareness will create the demand. We need to work together with the educational institutions and the recreation industry. Land use planning, walking and transit can all promote biking. Pick the battles that will build numbers: e.g., connecting UVM campus to South Burlington, not to downtown Burlington.

COMMENTS: Read Jeff Speck, The Walkable City, 2013. Mary: Looking at downtown and the UVM/Champlain campuses separately, they are flat. We can do more with each separately than by obsessing about the hill. Phoebe: the existing mag-loop signal triggers are all capable of being tuned to be triggerable by a bike. Essex Jct. is doing this now.

Jack Daggett proposal: Jack brought a draft letter to City Council suggesting closing Cherry and Bank Streets to motor-vehicle traffic and extending the pedestrian mall between St. Paul and Winooski. We can further discuss this in future meetings but research is needed into how much of it has already recently been considered under, e.g., PlanBTV.

Bike Boxes Update: Nicole: as stand-alone projects our 'planned' boxes at Pearl St on Union n'bound and on N. Winooski s'bound are impracticably expensive. DPW will look into putting them into the paving budget instead of spending the walk/bike set-aside money.

Brainstorm BW/BC (and other) event ideas for 2014:

Barb Mines: a walking hillclimb? (Steve will collaborate.) In May?

Doug: UVM Helmet Day: April 9.

Cycle the City: April 27.

BW/BC Annual Meeting: May 22.

Western New England Greenway organization to host a Burlington-start ride, south to Connecticut, in late July or early August. (Lou Bresee)

Bike Party rides (RJLalumiere)

Jon A-K: Ride365 ride next Thursday 3/7.

Halloween Ride October 26.

Updates:

BW/BC Steering Committee members needed, Jim Holway has stepped up! but ask your friends, too.

Walk/Bike Summit: March 29 at the Hilton -- sign up online!

Bike/Ped Action Plan (Nicole has secured this grant from VTRANS)

North Avenue Redesign: cycle track and roundabouts end-to-end remain in the mix; and light rail is on the wish list.

Next Meeting Thursday, March 27, 5:30 - 7:00, Room 12, City Hall

Tony -- the guest speaker will be Sandy Thibault from CATMA