



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: March 25, 2008

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: **2007 Bicycle Program Accomplishments**

Recommendation:
Receive and File

Previous Directives:
None

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Don Elwood, P.E. - Director Transportation Planning and Engineering Services

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P. E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Donald Pflaum

Reviews

• Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval	NA	Date
• Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan	Approval	NA	Date
• Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval	NA	Date

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Business Plan: Action is within the plan. Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification:
- City Goals:
- Comprehensive Plan:
- Zoning Code:

Background/Supporting Information:

The role of the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) is to promote both commuter and recreational bicycling, to advocate bicycling infrastructure improvements, to encourage safe riding, and to involve people interested in bicycling issues throughout the city. The BAC was created in 1991 to function as an advisory committee to the Mayor and City Council as well as the Park Board and serves as a liaison to bicyclists, businesses, neighborhoods, and other communities and agencies. The BAC is comprised of various individuals interested in bicycling issues representing both the public and private sectors including the City Attorney's Office, Metro Transit, Minneapolis Schools, CPED, Minneapolis Police Department/Traffic Control, MnDOT, Minneapolis Park Police, Minneapolis Public Works, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, University of Minnesota Transportation and Parking Services, Minneapolis Communications Office, Neighborhood Revitalization Program, Minneapolis TMO, and the Minneapolis Downtown Council. Numerous residents, bicycle advocates, and non-profit representatives attend from all regions of the city. Representation from the Mayor's office and several council offices also regularly participate. The group is currently chaired by Minneapolis Public Works.

Each year the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) reviews the previous year and bicycle program accomplishments are presented to the Minneapolis City Council.

2007 Minneapolis Bicycle Program:

2007 was a very productive year in all aspects of the Minneapolis Bicycle Program. Below is a list of 2007 bicycle program highlights:

- Completion of the Midtown Greenway Bridge Over Hiawatha Avenue (Hennepin County, MnDOT, and Minneapolis Public Works)
- Completion of the NE Diagonal Trail (Minneapolis Public Works, Three Rivers Park District, Roseville, City of St. Anthony, Windom Park Neighborhood, Como Neighborhood, and MnDOT)
- Completion of the CEPRO ramp along the Midtown Greenway (Hennepin County, Phillips Neighborhood)
- Completion of the Upper River Trails along the west side of the Mississippi River between Plymouth Avenue North and the BNSF Bridge (MPRB, AFCAC)
- Secured the resources needed to finish the Midtown Greenway Bicycle Station (City of Minneapolis, MnDOT, Allina, Ryan Companies, Midtown Greenway Coalition, Freewheel Bikes).
- Became the top bicycling city in the nation for bicycle parking according to a report published by the Thunderhead Alliance (City of Minneapolis)
- Created a strategic plan for Safe Routes to Schools within the Minneapolis School District and started to introduce bicycle education into Minneapolis Schools (Minneapolis Schools and the City of Minneapolis)
- Solicited public input and secured nearly \$7 million in funding from the Non-Motorized Pilot Program, which is administered by Transit for Livable Communities (City of Minneapolis and Transit for Livable Communities)
- Supported the statewide "Share the Road" campaign through education and promotion
- Conducted comprehensive bike counts throughout the city. These counts showed a 50% increase in bicycling since 2003. (MnDOT and the City of Minneapolis)
- Included improvements for bicycles in the citywide 10-Year Transportation Plan (City of Minneapolis)
- Increased participation in several major bicycle events (All agencies and numerous event organizations and sponsors)
- Maintained the status of having the second highest bicycle mode share in the country amongst large cities. (City of Minneapolis)

2007 Bicycle Advisory Committee Report on the Minneapolis Bicycle Program:

BAC Issues Discussed:

The Bicycle Advisory Committee discussed numerous bicycling issues including:

- **10-Year Transportation Action Plan** – Considerable discussion regarding the Downtown Action Plan recommendations and selection of future bike routes. Recommendation developed regarding 2nd and Marquette Avenue corridors after receiving council direction.
- **Bicycle advocacy** – Many BAC members have been working to create an independent bicycle advocacy group that is not affiliated with the city, but would work directly with the BAC to address bicyclist's needs. A bicycle advocacy group would be better positioned to lobby and would provide a forum for residents to become more active in bicycling advocacy.
- **Bicycle Ambassador Program** – The BAC provided input on the development of the Bicycle Ambassador Program, which was funded by a TLC/NTP grant.
- **Bicycle crash study** – Each year Public Works presents the BAC with a crash report. Trends and crash reduction measures are discussed.
- **Bike Bait Program** – Discussions about how to catch bicycle thieves.
- **Biking on Sidewalks** – Discussion regarding the city ordinance pertaining to bicycling on sidewalks. It was concluded that a better map is needed clarifying where it is legal to ride.
- **Biking to the MSP Airport** – The BAC discussed strategies for improving bicycling to the airport. A resolution was forwarded to the City Council/Mayor for consideration.
- **Cost Effectiveness for Projects** – The BAC discussed criteria for the development of future projects that considers the cost-effectiveness of a project.
- **Creative operations and maintenance funding solutions** – Each month the Bicycle Advisory Committee discussed creative methods of funding the operations and maintenance of existing and proposed facilities. Some options that were explored include trail advertising, trail naming rights, a sales tax for bicycles, merchandising, imposing user fees, maintenance endowments, cutting existing service, and create ways to reduce operations and maintenance funding through better capital investments.
- **Safe Routes to School** – The BAC was presented with progress reports and recommendations by consultants working for the Health and Family Services Department. A committee comprised of numerous agency partners including the Minneapolis Park Board, Minneapolis Schools, Public Works, Health and Family Services, and several interested citizens was created to facilitate a Safe Routes to School Program for Minneapolis.
- **Strategic planning** – The BAC completed its work to better define its roles and responsibilities in bicycle advocacy.
- **Trail Rules and Regulations Policy** – Discussion of a policy that relates to trail rules and regulations. Examples include trail hours of operation, pet policy, trail speed limits, special events along trails, and trail etiquette. There was need to discuss this issue since the city and MPRB have different policies and procedures and there is varying levels of enforcement. This policy will be included in the forthcoming bicycle master plan.