

Minneapolis BAC Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, April 23, 2014
4 PM – 6 PM
Minneapolis City Hall – Room 333

1. Member Introductions and Sign-in (4:00 – 4:05)
2. Approve BAC Agenda and Minutes (4:05 – 4:10, see Attachment 1)
3. Protected bikeways planning update, Anna Flintoft (4:10-4:40)
4. Engineering Subcommittee, Paul Frenz (4:40-5:20, see Attachment 2)
 - Lyndale/Hennepin reconstruction
 - 10th Ave Bridge **ACTION**
 - Nicollet Mall **ACTION**
 - W 36th St protected bikeway **ACTION**
 - LaSalle Ave **ACTION**
5. Discussion of April 14, Star Tribune Commentary: [To Bicycle or Not to Bicycle?](#), Nick Mason (5:20-5:30)
6. Announcements (5:30 – 5:40)

Next BAC Meetings:

Thursday, May 8, Education, Encouragement & Enforcement Subcommittee

Tuesday, May 20, Engineering Subcommittee

Wednesday, May 21, Executive Committee

Wednesday, May 28, Whole Committee

Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday, April 23, 2014, 4 PM – 6 PM
Room 333 Minneapolis City Hall

Members Present: Richard Anderson, Billy Binder, Simon Blenski, Ginger Cannon, Bill Dooley, Ethan Fawley, Paul Frenz, Robin Garwood, Janice Gepner, Bob Hain, Matthew Hendricks, Hōkan, Joshua Houdek, Nick Mason, Gina Mitteco, Greg Sautter, Jim Skoog, Sarah Stewart, Georgianna Yantos, Kelley Yemen

Members Absent: Joe Bernard, (excused), Lisa Bender, Marin Byrne, Brian Funk, Roy Hallanger, Jessica Hill, Gary Nelson, Ciara Schlichting (excused), Peter Wagenius

Others Present: Tim Davis, Anna Flintoft, Scott Shaffer

Actions

1. For the **10th Avenue Bridge**, the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee recommends "Alternative C" with a walkway on both sides of the bridge and recommends that physical barriers be added between driving lanes and bike lanes to provide protected bike lanes.
2. The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee recommends that **Nicollet Mall** continue to accommodate bicycles. If a protected bike lane is not added with the Nicollet Mall project, a north-south protected bicycle lane should be added in downtown concurrently somewhere between and including Hennepin Avenue and 3rd Avenue South.
3. The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee supports a two-way protected bike lane on **36th Street West** between Bryant Avenue and Dupont Avenue, including the removal of parking on the south side of 36th from Dupont to Bryant. At 36th Street and Richfield Road, the BAC recommends:
 1. eliminating or greatly shortening the merge lanes to allow for a more appropriate sized bicycle/pedestrian space,
 2. that 11-foot lanes are used instead of 12-foot lanes to maximize space for the share walk-bike path and to reduce travel speeds.
 3. that bollards be extended farther west to better define the free-right turn and to reduce travel speeds; and
 4. that a scramble stop light cycle be explored to make it easier to get from the SE corner to the Lake Calhoun paths.
4. Before deciding on a layout for **LaSalle Avenue**, the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee requests that Public Works staff bring the LaSalle Avenue project to the BAC for discussion and determine a feasible plan for a north-south protected bike lane in and through the heart of Downtown. This area is a critical connection and we cannot afford to miss out on potentially two routes (LaSalle and Nicollet) without making the decision on the protected bike route that will serve this area.

Summaries of Discussions

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm and was chaired by Nick Mason. Following brief member introductions, the Agenda and March Minutes were accepted unanimously.

1. **Protected Bikeways Planning Update** presented by Anna Flintoft.

- Anna is working on a document which will be an amendment to the Bicycle Master Plan that includes recommendations on Protected Bikeways.
- She has had ongoing discussions with the BAC Engineering Subcommittee.
- The document will consist of a list of corridors and include estimates of capital and maintenance costs.
- Time frame: public meetings in May, presented to City Council by the end of 2014.
- Definition of Protected Bikeway: bike lane that is physically separated from motor vehicle traffic via parked cars, curbs, medians, bollards/flexible posts, plants or other vertical feature.
- Protected Bikeways include off street trails, bicycle/pedestrian bridges, street sidepaths (like the Loring Bikeway), and on street protected bicycle lanes.
- Anna presented a map showing the increase of bicycle lanes in Minneapolis since 1997.
- Anna said she will estimate the extra maintenance cost for protected bicycle lanes, since, like a trail, they will require additional vehicles to clear snow.
- There was discussion on the validity of estimating “additional maintenance cost” since current on street bike lanes are not cleared adequately for bicycles.
- Bob Hain emphasized the need to think through current winter bicycling needs.
- Ginger Cannon said the Park Board has experience clearing protected bikeways and can share information on their maintenance costs.
- May 8 public open house will ask for input on where people think protected bicycle lanes are needed and why. Meeting will also request input on Hennepin County bike plan.
- There will also be an opportunity to provide feedback online.
- Key factors to consider will be: high bicycle demand, high traffic conflict, and lack of alternative routes.
- At the same time as Anna is planning for Protected Bikeways, the city continues to omit them from current plans (see Engineering Subcommittee Report below).
- The need for a good north/south bicycle route through downtown was raised.

2. **Engineering Subcommittee** Report from Paul Frenz – ***ACTIONS***

- **Hennepin/Lyndale Reconstruction**
 - Preliminary plans shared with subcommittee. No drawings yet.
 - Subcommittee raised concerns about the 94 exit crossing as well as crossing at Groveland Terrace and Vineland on bicycles.
 - Issue of getting to Dunwoody discussed.
 - More public comments in June and July. Construction in 2015/2016.
 - The city will return to the Subcommittee as plans develop.
 - Ethan Fawley suggested the BAC put together a list of our concerns for a resolution next month.

- **10th Avenue Bridge – ACTION**
 - Current plans just include a painted bicycle lane.
 - Protected bike lanes in both directions are needed since traffic goes fast.
 - A motion was presented that suggests the plans be revised to include protected bicycle lanes.
 - The motion was passed unanimously with one abstention from Gina Mitteco.
- **Nicollet Mall – ACTION**
 - Current plan does not include protected bicycle lanes. The plan has bicycles sharing space with buses and/or streetcars.
 - Discussion on importance of Nicollet as a north/south bicycle route.
 - Greg Sautter pointed out that since Nicollet is currently designated as the downtown route for bicycles, state law specifies it must be maintained or replaced.
 - Even if another north/south bicycle lane is added, it is still important to provide for bicycles on Nicollet.
 - A resolution was presented emphasizing the need for a north/south protected bike lane through downtown and adding that bicycles should continue to be allowed on Nicollet Mall.
 - The resolution passed unanimously.
- **West 36th Street Protected Bikeway – ACTION**
 - Paul presented a resolution to support the plan except for recommending that the lanes be 11 feet instead of 12 feet, that the bollards be extended, and that a scramble light be employed.
 - Plan includes a protected bicycle lane from Richfield Rd to Kings Hwy with some type of bicycle lane to Bryant.
 - Simon said the plan will include bicycle turn boxes and bike crosswalks to facilitate transitions.
 - May 6 public meeting at St. Mary's Orthodox Church, 6-7 pm.
 - Ethan Fawley suggested a revision asking for more bike/ped space.
 - The revised resolution was passed unanimously with one abstention from Ginger Cannon.
- **LaSalle Avenue – ACTION**
 - Reconstruction from 8th to 10th St and resurfacing from Grant to 12th.
 - Paul presented a motion asking Public Works to look at the whole length of the street as a possible north/south route into downtown.
 - Richard Anderson added that there is a bike lane south of Grant.
 - Simon said that project staff will come to the Subcommittee next month.
 - Robin Garwood suggested a slight modification in the wording, and lamented that some within Public Works continue to ignore the need for protected bike lanes while at the same time others are drafting policy for their inclusion.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Discussion of April 14, Star Tribune Commentary: To Bicycle or Not to Bicycle?** Led by Nick Mason

- The Commentary describes 4 things that are needed for the city to reach its goal of 15% bicycle mode share by 2020 and also explained his view on not wearing helmets.

- Nick strongly agreed with the 4 things needed and said we are starting to make good progress on one item with 30 miles of protected bikeways and bikeways for everyone.
- We are not doing enough. How to make more progress?
- Billy Binder said that we are losing ground to other cities by not narrowing lanes.
- Paul Frenz was disappointed that Shaun still advocated not wearing bike helmets.
- There was discussion on the importance of wearing a bike helmet.

4. Announcements

- Nick: Minneapolis Bike Week is coming up, May 4-11.
- Ethan Fawley: encouraged people to help create buzz around Bike Week and to get involved. 28 Minneapolis schools, including 8 high schools, are participating in National Bike to School Day (Wednesday). Join one of the caravans led by Council Members on Bike to Work Day.
- Jim Skoog: Open Streets North Minneapolis Greenway Experience on May 31. Also Bike Law event.
- Joshua Houdek: 32nd Ave at Hiawatha: there is room to do a through bike lane. The County is waiting for direction from the City so tell your Council Member to support this.
- Joshua: Brackett Park access ramp and sidewalk squeeze project is moving forward but construction in August. Connection to Greenway will be closed for 1-2 weeks then.
- Ethan: Bikeways for Everyone campaign kickoff event on Tuesday at Open Book to help educate people about protected bike lanes.
- Billy: Hennepin County Bike Plan meeting Thursday, May 8 at Central Library.
- Gina Mitteco: State bikeway plan meetings coming up in Minneapolis and St Paul Spread the word. Meetings will be family friendly. She emailed us information.
- Nick: next month is our last meeting with our current members. Send him suggestions on what to do. He will work with Ethan and Robin on highlights of our accomplishments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janice Gepner.