



## Bike Edina Task Force: News & Meeting Outcomes

***August 11, 2011***

**Purpose:** The Bike Edina Task Force (BETF) meets to serve citizens and partner with City staff and elected officials to promote bicycle improvements in Edina for education, encouragement, infrastructure, enforcement, and ongoing assessment. We support implementation of the approved [City of Edina Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan](#) that serves all levels of bicyclists, connects key destinations including safe routes to schools, and integrates with the Twin Cities' regional bike network. Our **vision** is a progressive bicycle-friendly community where citizens can integrate cycling into their daily lives.

**Time & Location:** BETF monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room at Edina City Hall. For questions contact Brad Schaeppi or Peter Kelley, Co-Chairs. Guests are welcome.

**Distribution:** BETF, guests, City Manager, City Engineer, Edina Police BETF Liaison Sgt. Timothy Olson, SHIP contact Robyn Wiesman, and Mayor & City Council. Also, Jack Sullivan to forward to the Edina Transportation Commission, and Dianne Plunkett Latham to post for the Edina Energy and Environment Commission.

- **Online source:** [Source link here](http://tcstreetsforpeople.org/BikeEdina) (<http://tcstreetsforpeople.org/BikeEdina>)
- **Present:** Peter Kelley, Brad Schaeppi, Carl Gulbranson, Ellen Jones, Jennifer Janovy, Kirk Johnson, Larry Olson, Rob Erickson, Tom Randall
- **Absent:** Carl Follstad, Sally Dunn, Alice Hulbert, Marty Mathis, Donald Eyberg, Dan Atkins, Andrew Heyer
- **Guests:** None.
- **Recorded by:** Brad Schaeppi

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### 1. Tour de Edina.

- a. Planned for October 9<sup>th</sup>/Second Sunday in October.
- b. The Ride is 5 miles, will have Police escort and a sag wagon, and will start at Braemar Golf Course.

- c. The ride has City of Edina Park Board and Police support.
- d. Contact Carl Gulbranson for more information. Council member Mary Brindle is the lead organizer of the event in partnership with the Rotary Club of Edina Morningside.
- e. Tickets in advance are \$5 for an individual or \$10 per family. The day of the ride, tickets are \$10 for an individual and \$20 per family. The intent is to use the proceeds for hunger concerns with a portion to help purchase bike racks in the City of Edina.
- f. **MOTION:** Jennifer Janovy moved that “BETF gratefully acknowledges the offer to dedicate some of the Tour de Edina proceeds for bike racks in Edina and is happy to assist as needed in the selection of and placement of these racks.” The Motion was seconded by Carl Gulbranson. The Motion passed 9-0.

## **2. Edina Transportation Commission (“ETC”) Update.**

- a. Jennifer Janovy updated the BETF on the proposed France Avenue bridge/at-grade crossing. Jennifer stated the city council voted to have the ETC and staff work together to develop an RFP/RFQ for both the proposed ped/bike bridge over France Avenue at 72<sup>nd</sup> and enhanced at-grade crossings at several points along the corridor. Jennifer stated the ETC does not support the proposed bridge but strongly supports improved at-grade crossings and sidewalks. Jennifer stated the project needs to look at the whole area, including foot and bike traffic. As an example, Jennifer mentioned there is an existing need for greater bike and pedestrian options as there is a large elderly population in and around the project area. She offered as an example witnessing a wheel chair user wheeling into traffic in a section with no side walks. Specifically, the Right of Way needs to be studied for all uses, the timing of lights, as well as reviewing past studies including the Southdale Study, and the Promenade Study. Jennifer stated the bridge approach on the west side of France is proposed to be 400’ long and that the bridge will cross France diagonally.

## **3. City Council Work Session outcomes/action items.**

- a. Transit for Livable Communities (“TLC”) Grant Status
  - i. The City Council passed a motion on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 supporting the bike boulevard grant with 5 specific clauses. Notably, Wooddale Avenue was downgraded from bike lanes to Share the Road and public process that is acceptable to the Council will be initiated after MNDOT approval of the 62/Valley View proposed design.

- ii. The BETF discussed its thanks that the City Council has taken further action on the Grant with the intent of preserving the Grant funds. The BETF discussed specifics, notably frustration that Wooddale Avenue's future was locked-in without designated bike lanes, as was the original plan in the Bike Boulevard Grant. The BETF recommends future study will keep open the option of bike lanes on Wooddale Avenue. The BETF also has concerns about a possible conflict between the proposed bike lanes on 54<sup>th</sup> and a future sidewalk along the roadway as shown in the City's comprehensive plan. Details of the BETF's comments will be documented in a conditional letter of support to the City.
  - b. Bike Rack Inventory
    - i. City Council expressed interest to see an updated inventory of Bike Racks in the community.
    - ii. BETF will discuss this issue more in depth to decide next-steps.
  - c. Revised Bike map/connections to nearby communities
    - i. City Council expressed interest to see Bike Plan updates to reflect progress to date, including connection updates to adjacent communities.
    - ii. BETF will discuss this issue more in depth to decide next-steps.
  - d. BETF Structure
    - i. City Council supported the existing structure of the Bike Edina Task Force with some reservation, notably the potential to miss out on a more formal subcommittee/committee process.
  - e. Edina Police/Bike traffic concerns
    - i. Peter Kelley explained that City of Edina police attended the Worksession to discuss recent complaints by citizens of bicyclists not obeying traffic laws. Peter noted that the City of Edina police will be invited to a future BETF meeting to discuss working together to address the lack of obeying traffic laws by some cyclists riding in Edina.
- 4. Kirk Johnson appreciation
  - a. BETF thanked Kirk for his many years of leadership and service!!!!