



Bike Edina Task Force: News & Meeting Outcomes

December 8, 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 2nd 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.

- **Present:** Peter Kelley, Alex Johnson, Kirk Johnson, Marty Mathis, Andrew Heyer, Carl Gulbranson, Larry Olson, Don Eyberg, Sally Dunn, Jennifer Janovy, Carl Follstad, Dan Atkins
 - **Absent:** Brad Schaeppi, , Alice Hulbert, Ellen Jones, Rob Erickson, Tom Randall
 - **Guests:** None.
 - **Recorded by:** Kirk Johnson
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1. City Liaison Updates

- a. Wooddale Bike Blvd: Previously scheduled public meetings have been postponed (new dates have not yet been set). Funding for the study has not yet been released by the Federal Agency. Legal requirements related to minority and woman owned contractors have also held up the process. RFPs will need to be

re-sent when these requirements have been met. Group recommendation to ensure that TLC is informed of efforts and issues; Peter or Brad to follow-up with Steve Clark and Wayne.

- b. ETC
 - i. France Avenue crossing update near Gallagher from ETC: Jennifer offered to bring forward at next meeting any opportunity to address bicycling topics. Noted optimism that we can provide crossing at grade. Improving access for walking and bicycling is one of the goals of the funding for this project. This would connect to Promenade.
 - ii. Tracy: Feasibility study is on agenda for next meeting. Opportunity to include sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and parking.
- c. Bike route striping that we recommended a few months ago: No news yet.
- d. Bicycle parking issue: Some changes in the contract had to be reviewed. Bicycle racks aiming to be installed in the spring of 2012.

2. Bike Rodeo 2012

- a. Larry met with Chris Holden who works on staff at Cornelia and is very supportive of the event.
- b. Date: Saturday, April 21, 2012 at Cornelia, 10 a.m. to noon.
- c. Vendors/providers that may have tables: QBP, BETF. Others may be included. Freewheel was included last year. Others will be lined up.
- d. Sensing lots of enthusiasm.

3. West 70th Feedback

Jennifer covered some neighborhood feedback that traffic patterns shifted to 66th street and Normandale. Opportunity for BETF to write a letter of support for the bicycle lanes. Comment that speed of traffic on average moved from 37 mph to 32 mph (speed limit is 30). Comment that there is a stop light on West Shore which has diverted traffic to West Shore. This issue also presents an opportunity for more bicycle lanes. Peter volunteered to write a Letter to the Editor.

4. Project List Review—An ongoing process reviewing projects and activities the BETF has been involved with in the past or may be interested in going forward.

- a. Comprehensive Bicycle Plan review. Discussed merits of updating the Plan (recommended in the plan to update it approximately every 3 years). It was published in 2007 and approved in 2008. Kirk volunteered to follow-up with

Community Design Group (publisher) to see if BETF can acquire the source files.

Carl F. and Sally D. offered to be part of a sub-group. Strategy:

- i. Identify what needs changes
- ii. Recommend what/how to make the changes (e.g., update the document, add a supplement, etc.)
- iii. Recommendation to connect with bordering communities.
- iv. Recommendation to include bicycle parking.
- v. Update Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail information.
- vi. Advantages include education, ensuring our vision and mission are relevant, noting accomplishments (e.g., implemented versus planned), communicating to other bodies and Metropolitan Council.
- vii. Next meeting: All members agreed to review the Plan and be thinking about what sections ought to be revised. Note that Wayne Houle offered assistance with mapping updates.

b. Safe Routes to School:

- i. Jennifer offered that ETC is a foundational group that can support SRTS.
- ii. Noted that Bloomington received another SHiP grant (Statewide Health Improvement Program) for SRTS.
- iii. Discussion included advantages of additional bicycling and walking to school. Some obstacles include promotion of driving to school in part due to the revenue gained by the school district from parking fees. There are 500 student parking spots. Traffic in neighborhoods near schools is approximately 50% school related (cite source). Discussion included the dangers experienced near schools due to congestion from driving.
- iv. Alex to determine what the related group names are at the Edina High School and names of the leaders at each.
- v. Noted that there is relevance to Living Streets for these concepts.
- vi. A conundrum is that biking and walking is not the responsibility of the schools; however, there are many City and school efforts directing tax dollars to support the driving and busing.
- vii. At next meeting, we can cover some strategies and leadership. Noted that overall Larry previously offered to be a leader.