



## **Bike Edina Task Force: News & Meeting Outcomes**

***September 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 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, , Carl Gulbranson, Ellen Jones, Jennifer Janovy, Kirk Johnson, Larry Olson, Rob Erickson, Tom Randall, Donald Eyberg, Dan Atkins
- **Absent:** Carl Follstad, Sally Dunn, Marty Mathis, Rob Erickson, Brad Schaeppi
- **Guests:** Edina Police Chief Jeff Long
- **Recorded by:** Peter Kelley

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### **1. Discussion with Chief Long**

Edina Police department has been getting numerous complaints about cyclists disobeying traffic laws, particularly stop sign and turning right of way. Chief Long

asked the group for ideas on how to combat the problem and educate cyclists. He is reluctant to hand out tickets (which are set by state law at \$140)

The group brainstormed a number of possibilities:

- Stop without tickets—warning
- Channel 16 Public Service Announcements
- Carl Follstad offered to write an article with police help
- Kirk Johnson mentioned BETF education efforts at various events
- Police talk at the Tour de Edina and other bike events
- Speak to bike groups
- Specific signage that informs cyclists the rules apply to them Jennifer Janovy mentioned signs from neighboring communities
- Social Media, Tweets, Facebook, BETF Website
- Positive reinforcement for people who do stop with reward (wrist band, portable light, etc.
- Bike friendly signs at the entrances to city, reminding them to mind traffic laws
- Question was raised about removing some unnecessary stop signs.

Conclusion was reached that this will be an ongoing effort to educate riders in the city. It is a safety issue as much as an enforcement problem. BETF agreed to continue dialog with Chief Long and work with the department to solve the problem.

## **2. Bike Counts**

BETF will carry out bike/pedestrian counts in mid-September at four intersections in Edina. This is an annual event done in coordination with Transit for Livable Communities(TLC) in other communities in the metro area.

## **3. Edina Art Appreciation Unveiling**

A bike related mosaic will be unveiling on September 10 at the York Ave. bridge along the Edina Promenade. BETF cosponsored the project. Alex Dir, former BETF student member contributed to the mosaic. BETF members were encouraged to attend the event to show their support.

## **4. Tour de Edina**

- a. Planned for October 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.
- 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. 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. Volunteers are needed for the event. Contact Carl Gulbrandson for more information.

## **5. Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Conference**

BETF members Larry Olson and Jennifer Janovy attended the Safe Routes to Schools Conference in Mpls. this August. The conference is held every other year.

The goals of the conference were to:

- Advance the integration of SRTS into transportation, engineering and planning at the local, state and federal levels
- Infuse the teaching and promotion of safe walking and biking skills into education curriculum to increase acceptability and desirability and to create lifelong behavior
- Enhance your understanding of SRTS efforts and the support of walking and biking as vital aspects of a livable community

Question was raised about forming a local safe routes committees for our schools in Edina. Edina currently does not have a safe routes plan. Discussion was planned for next meeting.

## **6. France Avenue Bike Route**

Alice Hulbert addressed the issue that France Ave (currently in the Edina bike plan as a bike route) cannot be marked as such because it is a county road and is not listed as a bike route in the county plan. Alice contact county officials, but was told BETF did not have standing to make a request to have the county plan amended. Such a request needs to come from the city staff. Peter Kelley agreed to raise the issue with Wayne Houle at their next meeting.