Bike Edina Task Force: News & Meeting Outcomes

November 8, 2012

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 Peter Kelley, Chair. 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 Dianne Plunkett Latham to post for the Edina Energy and Environment Commission and Ned Nelson of the Hennepin County Bicycle Advisory Committee

- **Present**: Peter Kelley, Rob Erickson, Donald Eyberg, Sally Dunn,
- Don Eyberg, Tom Randall, Jennifer Janovy
- **Absent:** Lori Richman, Alex Johnson , Marty Mathis, Brad Schaeppi, Carl Follstad, Larry Olson, Alice Hulbert, Ellen Jones, Kirk Johnson
- **Guests:** Steve Clark
- **Recorded by**: Peter Kelley

---

1. **Wooddale Avenue and Bike Boulevard discussion** – The majority of this month's meeting was devoted to a discussion of the new advisory bike lanes on Wooddale Ave. There was general sense of disappoint regarding the highly charged negative reactions to the lanes, but an understanding of how the lanes might be confusing for drivers. Future bike projects in the city clearly need to be better communicated to residents in advance, especially anything new or unusual. Steve Clark from Transit for Livable Communities

(TLC) attended the meeting and clarified that the advisory lane project was a study and that the TLC needed actual usage data from the city. All agreed that it was too soon to suggest changes to the current design. Steve stated that if the results demonstrated the new lanes didn't improve safety, TLC wouldn't continue to support them, but that they needed actual data. He pointed out that a similar treatment in Mpls had reduced accidents from approximately 10 a year to 0 so far this year. Steve stated that TLC might have funds to help city conduct the evaluation if needed.

The group universally agreed that Wooddale Ave was a critical bike route in the city and that it must retain some type of road markings. Alternative options were discussed: green lanes/boxes similar to treatment on Valle View Road(questions about durability were raised), Mpls examples of chevrons with bike indication (Steve pointed out that any options other than a lane would not allow the speed limit to be reduced), removal of the parking lane and establishment of dedicated bike lanes(recognized as unlikely). One possible benefit off the new lanes is that it is getting citizens talking about biking and bike infrastructure. We appreciate the dialog that has sprung up.

2. **Priorities for 2013** -- The group held a brief discussion of possible BETF priorities for the coming year.
    a. League of American Bicyclists designation – past efforts resulted in an honorable mention for the City. Given all the new bike infrastructure in the city, it may be time to consider applying again in 2013 or prepping for a possible 2014 application. Kirk Johnson has agreed to lead the effort.
    b. Living Streets –work with the Edina Transportation Commisssion (ETC) to clarify policy and assist with implementation.
    c. Education – continue to conduct annual Bike Rodeo, increase efforts around Safe Routes to School and other activities that will improve bike safety in the city
    d. Recruit new members.
    e. Develop relationships with biking groups from neighboring communities to better coordinate and integrate our efforts.