Bike Edina Task Force: News & Meeting Outcomes

October 11, 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**: Don Eyberg, Lori Richman, Tom Randall, Kirk Johnson, Peter Kelley, Rob Erickson, Donald Eyberg, Alex Johnson, Sally Dunn, Ellen Jones
- **Absent:**, Marty Mathis, Brad Schaeppi, Carl Follstad, Larry Olson, Alice Hulbert, Jennifer Janovy,
- **Guests:**
- **Recorded by**: Kirk Johnson, Peter Kelley

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1. **Tour de Edina:** Sunday, October 14th Peter encouraged all members to attend and help get the word out. Noon, 69th street and France area.
2. **Edina Transportation Commission:** ETC is recommending that the city council insert the word "motor" as the qualifier of vehicles in 2 instances –the result would make it legal for bikes to park and ride on a sidewalk. It is also recommending removal of stipulations requiring bicycle licenses.

3. **Bicycle Counts:** Peter summarized for the last 5 years Counts were down in 2012, likely due to bad weather on collection days. The count was down in conjunction with a Mpls. count conducted by Bike Walk Twin Cities. Peter learned that Bloomington Public Health was also conducting bike counts in Edina this fall. He has been in communication with the coordinator of that project to see if next year the groups could better coordinate their efforts. Wayne Houle informed that the City has a camera that counts bicycle traffic also.
4. **Community Groups:** Lori Richman mentioned activities in St. Louis Park, Bloomington, and Richfield. Quality Bike Parts(QBP) has talked about linking groups together. Discussed opportunities to coordinate, remove redundancies and create efficiencies for cooperation. Stay tuned – Lori will check around.
5. **QBP Tour:** Discussed some opportunities to visit and view operations for BETF. Also a second opportunity to kick off the Twin Cities-related community organization noted above.
6. **Swlrt.org: (SouthWest Light Rail Transit)**Don Eyberg summarized this--A Federal study that is open for public comment for next 60 days. Visit for more info and provide input regarding bicycle facilities. Future bike lanes/routes in Edina should take into account access to nearby light rail stations.
7. **Future Bicycle Lanes:** Peter announced that one of our winter meetings will be to identify and prioritize the future bike lanes. Ellen Jones mentioned Safe Routes to Schools as a priority along with where road construction projects will be. She also pushed for advocacy of protected bicycle lanes.
8. **2013 Priorities:** Peter advocated establishing objectives for strategy going into next year. Think of what your top three priorities are and bring them to the next meeting.
9. **Wayfinding and Bike Signage:** Peter mentioned the variety of signs and the opportunity to use state signage for consistency. What kinds of recommendations would the BETF have? Group agreed that inviting input from the Bicycle Coordinator from Minneapolis would be helpful. Thomas Randall agreed to reach out.
10. **Franchise Fees on city utilities**: Possible funding source the city is considering. The proposal could generate money to fund improvements for lighting, walking, and bicycling.
11. **Road Reconstruction:** Reviewed Feasibility Studies for neighborhood road redevelopment in 2012 .
    a. Lake Edina area: Hibiscus and Kellogg are designated as primary bike routes in the comp plan. Group discussed access via West Shore Drive and possible future connections to 9 mile creek trail. As this is completely a residential area near few obvious bike destinations at the moment, it was felt that no special treatment was called for apart from possible signage indicated a bike route.
    b. Normandale Neighborhood: Westshore Drive is a primary bike route. Close proximity to the Edina Water park and the ped bridge over Hwy 62 make

Westshore drive an important bike route. The group recommends the redevelopment project consider a separated bike lane, or at minimum road markings and signage. Discussion included questions related to the prohibition of bikes on the paths around Lake Cornelia and if there was any chance of that being lifted.