Bike Edina Task Force: News & Meeting Outcomes

May 9, 2013

- **Present**: Peter Kelley, Sally Dunn, Brad Schaeppi, Tom Randall, Larry Olson, Lori Richman,
- **Absent:** Marty Mathis, Kirk Johnson, Carl Follstad, Rob Erickson, Donald Eyeberg, Jennifer Janovy
- **Guests:** None
- **Recorded by**: Peter Kelley

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1. **Bike Rodeo Recap** – The BETF's annual bike rodeo was a great success. 75 kids representing every elementary school in the district and from as far away as Nebraska cycled through a series of stations designed to increase their road awareness, develop safe cycling skills and build enthusiasm for cycling. Thanks to the Hoigaard's and the Edina Police Department for their participation. And special thanks to Larry Olson for again organizing this fantastic event. We are looking for a volunteer to oversee the 2014 bike rodeo. Please let Peter know if you are interested.
2. **Walk/Bike to School Day Recap** – BETF members worked with South View Middle School teachers and staff to promote and organize National Bike/Walk to school day on May 8th. Teachers on bikes met students at key locations and helped guide them to school. Close to 250 students participated—almost 20% of the South View student population! Many commented that they will bike to school more often and staff were excited about the beginning of a new South View tradition.
3. **Vernon Ave** – Peter Kelley met recently with city engineer Wayne Houle and Hennepin County officials to review potential plans to develop Bike Lanes along Vernon/Gleason Aves from the Grandview area to Highway 62. The County will be resurfacing the roads in September. Additional study needs to be done, but initial indications are that lanes very feasible and the county seems willing to implement them.
4. **Lake Edina Bike Path** – At the May meeting the City Council approved the development of a bike path in the Lake Edina Park. The proposal was supported by the BETF and the Edina Transportation Commission. The path is part of the city's comprehensive bike plan. Development of this trail will fill a gap in the city's bike infrastructure, connect area neighborhoods and provide a safer route to school for local children. Construction is scheduled to begin in June.

5. **Met Council Information Meetings –** The Met Council recently held a series of meeting/listening sessions designed to gather input about the biking infrastructure needs in the suburbs. Lori Richman attended the Chanhassen session and reported that the focus was on long terms needs related to North-South and East-West corridors in the outer suburbs.
6. **Next Priorities** – The group agreed to devote the next meeting to the Bike Friendly community award sponsored by the League of American Cyclists. Our last application resulted in an honorable mention.

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 7:30 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, 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