



MINUTES

MANHATTAN BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
City Commission Room, City Hall
1101 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502
February 16th, 2012

Members Present: Diane Novak, Brian Hardeman, Michael Wesch, Dave Colburn, Katy Vaughan, Joe Wright, Ben Champion, Joe Edmunds

Members Absent: Dan Scott

Staff Present: Joey Lightner, Bicycle Coordinator; Peter Clark, Design Engineer; Lance Evans, Long-Range Planner

Public Attendance: 0

B. Hardeman called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. on January 19th, 2012.

Approval of Minutes:

D. Colburn moved to approve the January 2012 minutes; D. Novak seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports:

1. J. Lightner presented a draft of the wayfinding signs to be used on Moro Street and asked for feedback from the committee. The committee suggested few changes to include color and sign layout. A final draft of the wayfinding signs will be sent to the city managers office for approval. Signs will be installed before Bike Week in late April.
2. J. Lightner also updated the committee on Bike Week. Events will occur during the week of April 29th –May 5th, 2012. There is a meeting to discuss Bike Week plans on Monday, February 20th, 2012 at 7:00 pm at Varsity Donuts. Most events are already planned. The City will be sponsoring the Mayor's Ride and Moro Bike Boulevard ribbon cutting on Saturday, May 5th, 2012.

Capital Improvement Project Request

1. J. Lightner reported that city staff will submit three (3) CIP request on behalf of the Bicycle Advisory Committee for: (1) 2013 Bike Boulevards, (2) a half-time staff position, and (3) a sidewalk on Ft. Riley Blvd near Poliska Lane. The committee discussed how important long lasting infrastructure changes are to the long-term bikeability of Manhattan. The HWY 177 Bridge was highlighted as a long-term structure that is not bike-friendly but is used often by cyclists.

Community Block Development Grant

1. P. Clark updated the committee on the sidewalk gap project funded by CDBG. As stated previously, a number of sidewalk gaps are present in Manhattan and CDBG funding can be used in low- to moderate-income areas to facilitate active transportation. A priority of projects has been established by city staff to include: South Manhattan, Longs Park, Allen Road from Casement to the existing sidewalk, the gap from the trail behind Prairie Village to Casement, Griffith from Casement to Northview Elementary, and Sunset Blvd from Anderson to College Heights. D. Novak inquired about the inventory of sidewalk gaps that was created. P. Clark stated that they CDBG areas were cross-referenced with the sidewalk inventory to locate areas that could be funded by CDBG.

Bike Boulevards

1. J. Lightner updated the committee on the status of the Moro Bike Boulevard. He stated that the first reading of the speed ordinance will be April 3rd, 2012 at the City Commission Meeting. Additionally, the second reading of the speed ordinance and the bike week proclamation will be on April 17th at the City Commission meeting. P. Clark stated that a prototype for the street sign has been developed, the ordinance has been written and pavement markings are being ordered for the project.
2. B. Champion inquired about how the bike boulevards were going to be evaluated. P. Clark stated that they City Commissioners had the final say on funding and that they're input was critical. B. Champion inquired on the public reaction to the bike boulevard. B. Hardeman states that some input will be negative but most will be positive. B. Champion inquired about the best way to elicit public input. P. Clark said that with the funding we have available, staff will continue to implement infrastructure changes unless City Commission has negative feedback. B. Champion suggested having a postcard available at the Moro ribbon cutting for residents to send to Commissioners with input.
3. K. Vaughan stated that the Riley County Health Department will have a health fair two weeks prior to bike week and that the bike community should be involved. B. Champion also stated that the KSU Master Plan is being updated and feedback should be given

Work session – Bicycle Policy

1. L. Evans updated the committee on the progress of future policy for bicycling in the city. He presented a draft of a vision, goals and implementation policies that could be used as a stand alone document or be incorporated into existing city plans. Rather than creating a whole Bike Master Plan, he suggested updating the Comprehensive Plan or Manhattan Area Transportation Strategy to include one or more of these goals. By updating one of these plans, the committee builds momentum for bicycling and has an opportunity to focus on specific aspects of biking. This is a realistic option that has the opportunity to elevate importance of bicycling in the city. He also suggested creating a separate Bicycle Advisory Committee Action Plan to help the committee focus on day-to-day efforts.

2. D. Novak inquired if the Comprehensive Plan mentioned multi-modal transportation. L. Evans stated that under policy two of the transportation section it mentions all modes. He stated that the MATS does go into more detail than the Comprehensive Plan. He also mentioned that the committee can work to improve public knowledge and opinion of bicycling; by updating and refreshing currently policy it could serve as supporting documents for other activities. P. Clark stated that any of these plans cannot create policy for education programs. L. Evans stated that something like educational programming does not belong in the Comprehensive Plan. B. Hardeman suggested creating a focused, clear set of items that the committee can accomplish to create support for future biking plans. L. Evans stated that an Action Plan could serve as that document. B. Champion stated that by updating the Comprehensive Plan, the committee raises awareness to biking. He also stated that an Action Plan would provide a list of priority projects that the committee could accomplish and would provide some accountability to the committee. D. Novak inquired if job descriptions should be reviewed to incorporate some biking tasks. L. Evans stated that both policy and politics are issues that need to be considered. Does the committee rewrite policy in hope of creating a political change or does a political change facilitate a policy change. Ideally, it is a blend of both. L. Evans suggested that members of the BAC attend planning board and city commission? meetings and give input as citizens at those meetings. B. Hardeman seconded this idea stated that at least one committee member should attend every meeting. He also stated that the BAC bylaws could be updated to include this responsibility. B. Champion stated that this could be the right balance for the committee as advisors and not activists. B. Hardeman stated that by attending other boards and committees, the BAC is limiting missed opportunities. L. Evans suggested getting community input on incorporating goals into the Comprehensive Plan. M. Wesch suggested making an event to increase participation from the community. L. Evans suggested meeting at the March BAC meeting to discuss wording on the policy and finish a draft of the map to present to the community. He also suggested drafting an action plan for the BAC.

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Next Meeting: March 15th, 2012.