

**FINAL MEETING MINUTES of the
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**December 11, 2011
6:00 PM**

**Community Room
215 N. Mason
Fort Collins, CO 80521**

FOR REFERENCE:

Chair: Rick Price	970-310-5238
Vice Chair: Josh Kerson	970-217-9480
Staff Liaison: Kathleen Bracke	970-224-6140
Staff Support: Dave "DK" Kemp	970-416-2411

BOARD/CITY ORGANIZATION MEMBERS PRESENT

Air Quality Board: Michael Lynn
Bike Fort Collins: Sylvia Cranmer
Colorado State University: Joy Childress
Downtown Development Authority: Kathy Cardona
Economic Advisory Commission: Rick Price
Fort Collins Bicycle Co-Op: Tim Anderson
Fort Collins Bicycle Retailers Alliance: Josh Kerson
Natural Resources Advisory Board: Glen Colton
Parks and Recreation Board: Bruce Henderson
Transportation Board: Shane Miller

ABSENT

At Large: Dan Gould
At Large: TBD
At Large: TBD
Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition: Kim Sharpe
Land Conservation & Stewardship Board: Kathryn Grimes
Poudre School District: MacKenzie Mushel
Senior Advisory Board: TBD
UniverCity Connections: TBD

City of Fort Collins:

David Kemp, Bicycle Coordinator
Kathleen Bracke, Director of Transportation Planning
Molly North, Assistant Bicycle Coordinator

Call to order:

Meeting called to order at 6:06 PM.

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Rick Price –

October minutes

Motion to approve by Bruce Henderson, Shane Miller seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

November minutes

Motion to approve by Bruce Henderson, Shane Miller seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Discussion Items:

I. Future Status of the BAC

Rick Price –

Are you satisfied with BAC and your use of time?

What are we doing well?

How could we improve performance?

Tim Anderson –

I have been a member for less than a year. It has been a good bully pulpit to talk about the Bike Co-op. but I am not as well versed about what I get in return. Are other people feeling like you are putting in your own personal agenda, but not getting anything back?

Bruce Henderson –

I like hearing about the different bike groups represented at the table. I take that back to the Parks and Rec board and there is interest. Improvement – because we are a subcommittee of the T Board, are they getting what they want out of our committee? I don't have a long-term perspective because I've been here less time than Tim.

Rick Price –

The BAC was created as a result of the special interest in bike issues in Fort Collins. It was due to administrative convenience that it was put under the T Board. Gary Thomas agreed that any advice we give T Board would not be disputed or fixed before it was sent on to City Council.

Shane Miller –

I sit on the T Board and we do review the topics that are raised at the BAC meetings and discuss those. But we don't change anything. We sometimes use it as a guide for our discussion. For example, we adopted the same opinion on the E Bikes issue.

David Kemp –

I have posted the ordinance on the screen if anyone is interested in reading the official document. The formation of the BAC was done very nontraditionally. It was done through the City Manager.

Josh Kerson –

Are we creating value for the T Board? Have we been able to guide them in a way that we are helping to make a change for our community? I'd like to ask them if we are creating value and helping to institute change. I am here because of the successes I see coming from this group. I'm inspired to be involved with making positive change, but can we measure that? Can we see that we are effectively helping in the decision making and implementation?

Rick Price –

Do we want to ask anything of Shane?

Josh Kerson –

Would you please ask T Board if we are helping affect change?

Glen Colton –

It is a good exchange of information, but I don't know that I bring a lot back to my Board. I learn a lot about what's going on in the community. I'm not sure about others, but I was frustrated about the E Bike issue. When I joined the Board in April we talked about the recommendation from the previous November. When it came back on the agenda last month we didn't have a quorum so we couldn't make a new recommendation with updated information. I didn't like that we had a year-old recommendation for Council.

Josh Kerson –

At the last Council meeting they were not able to get to the item, so it was bumped to the next meeting on December 20. The second reading will happen then. Unfortunately, one of the Council members took "E Bike" out of the ordinance. As it stands, Council is looking toward being safe and will not approve it until there is a larger study completed.

Rick Price –

Let me stop this conversation and get back on topic. How are other people feeling about the status of the BAC?

Joy Childress –

This is only my third meeting, so I have a similar sentiment. I feel like I am getting a lot of information, but I'm not giving a lot back.

Sylvia Cranmer –

From a selfish perspective, I can share this information and give input back. Being an active community cyclist, it is nice to be prepared and knowledgeable when

people tap me for information. This is a good way to get information and I feel as though we have an opportunity to give recommendations as well. Would it be a good idea to take information back to our Boards and get an official voice from our groups so we are here representing our groups and not our personal agendas?

Rick Price –

The issue may arise when that process slows down our decision making. That would require that we wait a month between information sharing and voting.

Sylvia Cranmer –

I think our decisions would have more weight if we knew that there are 5 or 20 or 400 people behind us.

Bruce Henderson –

I think a lot of that is happening already. Parks and Rec had a chance to talk about these and make a group decision.

Shane Miller –

T Board is not unanimous on every issue. If I say I am representing the T Board on an issue it is not a complete opinion. The idea is not that we are representing a unified opinion, but rather that we come from a certain perspective or background.

Rick Price –

All of the Boards I have been on have allowed the minority opinion to be shared.

Two big budget issues will be the Bike Library and the Bike Safety Town. When we have issues do we want to bring our boards into the process or does it complicate things too much? Let's try it and see if it is feasible. Get input from your various groups to bring input back to BAC to for these topics.

Action Items:

I. 2012 Work Plan

Rick Price –

We had a lot of changes in 2011. The work plan says any individual can bring up an issue and we will review it together. We also added "education" to #1. You have all had an opportunity to review this. Is there anything we want to change or address? No one can come in and talk about something if there isn't interest from 2/3. In my opinion, this is broad enough that we can talk about a variety of issues.

Motion to adopt by Shane Miller, Tim Anderson seconded. Work Plan approved unanimously.

Approved because we believe we still have work to do.

Discussion Items:

II. Econometrics of a Bicycling Community Made Simple

Michael Lynn –
See Power Point

Tim Anderson –
How did you determine median household income for college students?

Michael Lynn –
I used the data from the US Census, so I don't know how it was computed.

Rick Price –
I'd like to see population density or geographic square miles included in the study. I think those things would be far more telling than weather, for example. Did you look at Richard Floridas online article in July in which he used American Community Survey data? He has a sophisticated readership and they critiqued his comparison of such different cities.

Michael Lynn –
Anyone who has worked with raw data knows that you can make it look any way you want. I took 21 random cities and ran the numbers. Please suggest new kinds of data to incorporate into this equation. I'll compare anything using this model.

Rick Price –
Do we want to revisit E Bikes? Or is it a dead horse already?

Josh Kerson –
I'm always interested in talking about it, but I'm not going to steer the ship.

Rick Price –
I spoke with Kelly and Ben recently. Kelly said about 30 people have told him they have quit using the trails because there are too many bikes. Ben spoke with 75 people and the consensus was that there is a problem with congestion on the trails. E Bikes will open up the trails to more problems. He admitted that 75 motorists would also like to see bikes banned from the road.

I think it underlines the fact that we don't understand the conflicts, abuse, and numbers. We are going to need a baseline study. Council may treat this issue the same way as roundabouts. They will listen to the majority, so will our recommendation be valued?

Josh Kerson –
I'm happy they are being used in the mix, that they are allowed on roadways. I'm upset that the paper said "E Bikes are banned" because they were never voted on. In

addition, they are not illegal for people with disabilities. Betsy Jacobson with CDOT indicates that we are off the mark. Certain times of the day these trails are being used for commuting and transportation. Independent of their intention, the reality is that there is multimodal use, and they are being well used. We should encourage more trail building. I'd love to see four miles of the Power Trail used for an E Bike trial period. That way they can offer a revised opportunity for trial they spoke of. Maybe it wouldn't work on the congested Spring Creek Trail, but it could work on other paths. We can offer some of the trails for trial because there is a large growth in the E Bike industry worldwide. If they do the trial then we will have the data to speak about it intelligently. The biggest challenge is that people don't understand E Bikes. These are non-motorized bicycles trying to find a space to share.

Kathleen Bracke –

The Mason Trail was designed and built for transportation. That clarification is important to this conversation. Perhaps some of our trails are more conducive to the trial.

Glen Colton –

NRAB voted '3 to 5' to have a one year trial. Our concerns are that there is already congestion and there will be more. More data will be helpful.

Bruce Henderson –

Parks and Recreation was in favor of a trial. In fact, we spoke specifically about the Power Trail. There are a lot of curves and congestion on the Poudre Trail and Spring Creek Trail. We recognize that there are commuters on the trail, especially at specific times of day. We had a long discussion about it again last week because of the vote. There was a lot of ill will toward the direction Council went. The conversation went after the one proposal to remove "E Bike" from the ordinance. We had a long conversation about whether we should always send someone to the Council meetings when we have a vested interest in the issue. We can speak as the public, representing the Board with their support.

Rick Price –

I'd like to send someone to Council on December 20 to read our memo. Or maybe we need to send someone to address that we need to have a trial period in order to collect data.

David Kemp –

We have also talked about safety and etiquette issues being lumped into the E Bike issue. We are working on a trail safety and etiquette campaign to be launched this spring.

Rick Price –

I'd like to solicit a motion that someone go to the Council meeting to remind them that we are here because they appointed us and that we would like them to take our recommendation seriously.

Josh Kerson –

My understanding is that a Ranger does not have the authority to question someone's level of disability. There is not a qualification to use an E Bike on the trails.

Motion to take our message to Council by Rick Price, Josh Kerson seconded. Approved; 7 yes, 2 abstain.

Rick Price –

Who would like to go read the memo?

Josh Kerson –

Shane Miller might like to do that.

Michael Lynn –

If Shane cannot, I will plan to be there.

Staff Reports

David Kemp –

We are creating a trail etiquette and safety campaign, directed by Council. It is a collaborative effort with several City departments. We will collect antiquated signs, install new signs and kiosks, and launch a public campaign.

Part of the 2011 Bike Safety Plan was to help create a safe environment for all bikers by instilling ways to ride safely and responsibly and with etiquette on the trails. In working toward this goal, there was an analysis of trail signs which showed there was a hodgepodge of signs and a lack of consistency. Transportation, Park Planning, Natural Areas, and Parks have been working together to design better signs for the trail system (examples attached to minutes). We will be replacing outdated signs with new signs along the trail that will hopefully have more impact. Along with the installation of the signs, there will be a multi-media outreach promoting the signs and educating the public. The signs will show high traffic areas, with reminders to slow down; there will be signs to use an audible signal before passing on the left; and way finding signs with clearer information.

DK showed some images (SEE IMAGES)

There were several questions about locations, specific images, and implementation.

David Kemp –

I will send these images in a memo and you can send me input.

Molly North –

Bike Winter Fort Collins was a huge success. We hosted four events, including our biggest Winter Bike to Work Day event. We had over 1,000 riders, 49 business sponsors and 20 stations. We gave away 200 batteries and 600 bike lights.

Board Reports

Tim Anderson –

1) The Bike Co-op is still looking for higher ground. We have a 12-month lease, but we could be out in 90 days. We burn out of volunteers when we move. Bottom line, we need 4000 square feet. Reselling ready to ride bikes is our greatest income.

2) We had a great Valmont Park visit.

3) Looking at bike retailers' alliance - would there be value for a monthly sponsorship?

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.