

**MEETING MINUTES OF
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**March 5, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

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

FOR REFERENCE:

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|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Chair: Rick Price | 970-310-5238 |
| Vice Chair: Josh Kerson | 970-217-9480 |
| Staff Liaison: Kathleen Bracke | 970-224-6140 |
| Staff Support: Molly North | 970-224-6112 |

BOARD/CITY ORGANIZATION MEMBERS PRESENT

Air Quality Board: Michael Lynn
Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition: Kim Sharpe
Economic Advisory Commission: Rick Price
Fort Collins Bicycle Co-op: Tim Anderson
Land Conservation & Stewardship Board: Kathryn Grimes
Natural Resources Advisory Board: Joe Piesman
Transportation Board: Shane Miller

AT LARGE PRESENT

Dan Gould

ABSENT

At Large: TBD
At Large: TBD
Bike Fort Collins: Sylvia Cranmer
Colorado State University: Joy Childress
Downtown Development Authority: Kathy Cardona
Fort Collins Bicycle Retailers Alliance: Josh Kerson
Parks and Recreation Board: Bruce Henderson
Poudre School District: MacKenzie Mushel
Senior Advisory Board: TBD
UniverCity Connections: TBD

CITY OF FORT COLLINS PRESENT

Kathleen Bracke, Director of Transportation Planning
Amy Lewin, Transportation Planner
Molly North, Assistant Bicycle Coordinator
Gary Steen, Transportation Board Chairperson
Todd Hopkins, Bicycle Patrol Officer, Fort Collins Police
Kate Jeracki, Note taker

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Kevin Beucher

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. with a quorum present by Chair Rick Price.

AGENDA REVIEW

Rick Price moved the discussion of the bicycle program priorities survey from Discussion/Informational Items to Follow-up from prior meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of Feb. 12, 2012, meeting as presented made by Tim Anderson, seconded by Joe Piesman. Minutes approved unanimously.

FOLLOWUP FROM PRIOR MEETINGS/FUTURE BUSINESS

Roundabout: Kathleen Bracke provided statistics on traffic flow through intersections comparable to Jefferson and Mountain, where a roundabout is under consideration. The intersection of Ziegler and Horsetooth sees about 20,000 cars per day, while Jefferson and Riverside sees about 21,000. She pointed out that there are only 13,000 cars on Jefferson itself, but the linking streets increase the number of trips through the intersection. The percentage of trucks using that intersection is about 7.7 percent of traffic – double what a regular arterial route would be – because of the state highway, according to Dan Gould.

Kathleen said ride-throughs show that the roundabout at Crossroads Boulevard and I-25 in Loveland works for trucks, even if the truckers don't like roundabouts in general.

Rick Price said while the original recommendation was to make Jefferson Street a two-lane intersection, CDOT rejected that idea, even though Jefferson should be

covered by the Complete Streets state law. Shane Miller thought Fort Collins should bring the original recommendation back to CDOT.

Kathleen said CDOT looks at Jefferson as part of a corridor that includes parallel streets and off-street options that bikes could use to avoid the roundabout. The question is about volume and how to accommodate traffic where Riverside drops a lane.

During discussion of the bike incompleteness of other streets in Fort Collins, Mike Lynn pointed out that the Mason Trail stops at Prospect, with no crossing that makes sense. A well-linked infrastructure that would allow bicyclists to get where they are going is essential to get more people out of their cars and riding bikes, Shane Miller added.

Kathleen said that when the Mason Corridor project is complete, bike travel will continue through the CSU campus. The disconnect was not intended to be left as long as it has, she added. Plans for the Midtown Corridor on College Avenue between Prospect and Harmony have been re-evaluated to possibly include bike lanes on the frontage roads, especially in light of the closing of big-box stores in the area.

Bike Program Priorities Survey: Rick Price discussed the work he has done so far, looking specifically at the 60 percent of the population that say they do not ride bikes in town because they do not feel comfortable or safe on the streets. Shane Miller asked what specific concerns or objections can be addressed with infrastructure. Rick Price said while complete separation of bikes and motor vehicles is not realistic, education about how to ride safely can be very valuable.

The Economic Advisory Committee has asked Rick to bring it a presentation with priority recommendations in two weeks. He asked the BAC for suggestions.

Education was a high priority, especially for kids. Kathryn Grimes said the Bike Ambassador Program should be a priority, even though no one knows about it yet. Tim Anderson said BAC should recommend a total bike education program. Dan Gould agreed, adding that the city and the school district should collaborate in the area of bike safety. Tim said CSU should educate its students without city funding.

There was much discussion of Kim Sharpe's suggestion that the BAC redo the survey, originally done in Portland, Oregon, in 2005, with guidance from experts at CSU. Her thought was to have statistical backing for recommendations to City Council. Committee members agreed but doubted there would be time to complete the task in the near future. Dan Gould said the BAC should use its own expertise to make recommendations on needed infrastructure improvements.

Rick will use the information in his study to recommend a push for education to the EAC and bring what the EAC intends to send to Council to the April meeting of the BAC.

ACTION ITEMS

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Dan Gould nominated current vice chair Josh Kerson as Chair; Kim Sharpe seconded. Shane Miller nominated Rick Price, but received no second. Kathryn Grimes read an email from Sylvia Cranmer, who nominated Tim Anderson, but he declined. Josh Kerson was elected unanimously with one abstention.

Dan Gould nominated Sylvia Cranmer as vice chair; Tim Anderson seconded. Shane Miller nominated Rick Price; Mike Lynn seconded. Sylvia Cranmer received 3 votes, Rick Price received 4, and will become vice chair at the next meeting. He also announced that he will be gone in June, as well as August through November.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Bike Library Update, Amy Lewin

Amy Lewin outlined the ongoing study of bike libraries in other locations and the usage survey among Fort Collins residents, which is funded through the end of the year. She said the goal was to identify preferred alternatives and recommendations for long-term sustainability of the Fort Collins Bike Library, which has almost doubled the number of patrons between 2008 and 2011. To date, 63 percent of respondents to the online survey said they have brought visitors to the Library, but only 27 percent have used it themselves. There are currently 3 locations in downtown Fort Collins.

During discussion, Mike Lynn said he thought the FC Bike Library was a nice social thing rather than a system in a big city where it is too expensive to own a car. He would like to see more specific data in a number of areas that relate specifically to Fort Collins, especially where the bikes go, how they are used compared to how people would like to use them, how long are they used. That would help make the decision of whether to keep it and how to fund it.

Tim Anderson said the question to answer is whether it is a novelty or a really useful thing. Shane Miller said a transportation solution can't only put stations in one area, they have to be throughout the city in a fully articulated system so users can go anywhere they want. He added that in the future he will be recusing himself from voting on any issues related to bike systems, because of a potential conflict of interest with a new business venture.

2. Bicycle Ambassador Program Update, Molly North

Molly North updated the BAC on progress with the program since January. After designing logos and the website (bpeclarimer.wordpress.com),

developing a volunteer program and making presentations to stakeholders for feedback, the Bicycle Ambassador Program will launch in April with free Roll into Spring events. To be held April 17-21, Roll into Spring will have specific FC Bikes-branded events for businesses, CSU students, residents and families.

The duties of a Bicycle Ambassador are to educate, promote and share the message of safe bicycling with residents of all ages.

Rick Price asked how the Bicycle Ambassador Program will interface with the Train the Trainer program held at the Bike Co-op that trained 70 people last year and 100 this year. Molly North said they hope to be reaching different groups, and they are finalizing the exact requirements for ambassador training. It could ultimately be decided by the Safe Routes to School personnel, and additional training may be required.

Rick Price also asked if a Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO) offer will be made to support the Bicycle Ambassador program. Molly North said that had yet to be determined.

Molly added that the exact costs have not been quantified for BFO purposes, but lots of the work is being done by volunteers of a variety of ages and abilities. Kathleen Bracke added that the programs are being integrated with efforts such as those at the Bike Co-op, rather than replacing any. By building a volunteer base and taking a more cohesive approach, existing programs won't get lost.

3. Bicycle Safety Officers, Todd Hopkins, FCPD

Officer Hopkins talked about the importance of bicycle patrols not only to enforcement of bicycle traffic regulations but to overall community policing efforts. There are 8 bike officers, a sergeant and a lieutenant now based out of the Mason Street Parking Garage, with more in training. They also take radio calls in patrol cars equipped with bike racks, and ride bikes in the neighborhoods during the downtown festival season. A lot of their work is enforcement of the downtown dismount zone and ticketing bicyclists for not following traffic regulations as well as dealing with conflicts involving bicyclists, but they can also make contact with other citizens and suspects with probable cause.

On the issue of bike theft, Officer Hopkins said that lack of a mandatory bike registration system makes it hard to determine ownership of a bicycle during a stop. He encouraged bike owners to register their serial numbers with the city.

Many of the stops he makes at night are for bikes without lights. Unless the rider has an active warrant, Officer Hopkins said it was within his discretion to give the person a light rather than write a ticket.

That opened a discussion of lights on bikes in general. Rick Price felt that the New Belgium Bike-In Movies should be an opportunity for stronger enforcement to underscore the importance of the safety issue. He felt selling the lights rather than giving them away would give them more value. Officer Hopkins said the FCPD is participating with FC Bikes and other organizations at such events to get lights to riders on the street without them. Shane Miller agreed with the educational approach, saying that building a positive relationship would be more effective in getting riders to protect themselves.

REPORTS

1. Staff Reports

Kathleen Bracke outlined the timeline for Budgeting for Outcomes offers. The first offers are due May 4, with final offers due June 2, but she emphasized that the process will be ongoing. The budget goes to City Council in August, with public input taken through November. Rick Price asked her to send committee members dates for the public meetings through email. Joe Piesman suggested the BAC should make recommendations on the front end. Kathleen will present an update at the April BAC meeting.

2. Board Member Reports/Comments

None.

NEW BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- BFO offers update in April.
- Bicycle program priorities recommendations to the Economic Advisory Committee in April.
- Regional bike plan, when there is something to report.

ADIJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. by Chair Rick Price.