

**MEETING MINUTES OF
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**April 9, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

**Conference Room A&B
281 N. College Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80521**

FOR REFERENCE:

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

BOARD/CITY ORGANIZATION MEMBERS PRESENT

Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition: Kim Sharpe

Bike Fort Collins: Sylvia Cranmer

Downtown Development Authority: Kathy Cardona

Economic Advisory Commission: Rick Price

Fort Collins Bicycle Retailers Alliance: Josh Kerson

Fort Collins Bicycle Co-op: Tim Anderson

Land Conservation & Stewardship Board: Kathryn Grimes

Natural Resources Advisory Board: Joe Piesman

Parks and Recreation Board: Bruce Henderson

AT LARGE PRESENT

Dan Gould

ABSENT

At Large: TBD

At Large: TBD

Air Quality Board: Michael Lynn

Colorado State University: Joy Childress

Poudre School District: MacKenzie Mushel

Senior Advisory Board: TBD

Transportation Board: Shane Miller

UniverCity Connections: TBD

CITY OF FORT COLLINS PRESENT

Kathleen Bracke, Director of Transportation Planning
Amy Lewin, Transportation Planner
Molly North, Interim Bicycle Coordinator
Beth Vogelsang, Bike Library Consultant
Aaron Iverson, Senior Transportation Planner
Gary Steen, Transportation Board Chairperson
Karen Cumbo, Director, Planning and Transportation Development
Kate Jeracki, Note Taker

GUESTS PRESENT

Aaron Fodge, Transportation Planner, North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization
Shawn Monk, Planning Technician, North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA REVIEW

No changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rick Price asked that page numbers be included on printed minutes. Price also asked that the March 5, 2012, minutes be amended under the discussion of the Bicycle Ambassador Program to reflect that he had asked if a Budgeting for Outcomes offer will be made to support the Bicycle Ambassador Program. Molly North said that had yet to be determined.

Motion to approve as amended by Kathy Cardona, seconded by Kim Sharpe. Minutes approved unanimously.

FOLLOWUP FROM PRIOR MEETINGS/FUTURE BUSINESS

Bike Program Priorities: Rick Price presented a spreadsheet showing his recommendations to the Economic Advisory Council. He recommended the City invest \$239,387 annually in 2013 and 2014 in bike-related programs, including \$100,000 each year to attract national and international bicycling events. Budgeting for Outcomes offers will be required for a half-time bike program administrator; Bicycle Safety Education Plan implementation; economic development for the national and international events; and the bike share program.

Josh Kerson thanked the committee for electing him Chair in March. He also reported that Vice Chair Rick Price agreed to be relieved of his duties since he will not be able to make several meetings this year. Josh Kerson asked Sylvia Cranmer, who also had been nominated for the Vice Chair position, to take it on, and the committee agreed. She will begin serving at the May meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Regional Bike Plan, Aaron Fodge

Aaron Fodge presented an update on the status of the plan for improving bicycle transportation in Larimer and Weld counties. The plan is required to be included in the federal Regional Transportation Plan for 2040, and will provide a blueprint for future investments across the region. NFRMPO is asking for input to the plan from both local and state government agencies as well as from local citizens to develop recommendations and support for grant applications to fund the comprehensive plan.

Fodge distributed a matrix showing the existing inventory of bike infrastructure in the 15 member communities of the NFRMPO, and maps of existing trails, both on- and off-system. He admitted that the regional map is still incomplete, and pointed out that the quality of data on existing facilities varies widely across communities and could be much stronger. He asked the committee for feedback as representatives of Fort Collins.

In general, the committee would like to see the existing trails connected, to allow bike travel to become a viable alternative to car trips. Bruce Henderson would like the plan to emphasize the gaps to help governments understand the value of making the connections. Kathy Cardona would like to see bike routes become a separate layer on GIS maps. Sylvia Cranmer said connectivity would create a synergy to allow communities to share ideas and learn from each other as well as create economies of scale both financial and in leveraging other resources. Joe Piesman said there needs to be an underpass under I-25 to connect both sides of the highway. He added that planning for national or international biking events could be done on a regional basis. Dan Gould said that being able to connect to a regional system would provide an economic benefit to the city by creating a bike tourism destination, which would drive development of other bike-related amenities. Josh Kerson would like to see more infrastructure sharing and multi-modal ~~travel, travel~~; with electric bikes allowed anywhere bikes are allowed. He would also like to help other communities develop their individual plans. Tim Anderson pointed out the importance of emergency services access to bike trails, and involving EMTs and first responders in the plan, given how many miles of trails are involved. Molly North said that participating in the regional plan gives the city an opportunity to become a national leader as well. She

said that bike-friendly communities like Fort Collins have an obligation to educate other communities to help the entire region become bike-friendly. Fodge acknowledged that the challenges in each community will be different, and Fort Collins is more advanced than most in providing infrastructure and education for bicycling.

On the question of routes and destinations that should be included in the regional plan, Tim Anderson said he has long wanted to see a full-fledged bike park where events large and small could be held. He added that every destination should be connected to public transportation as well. Fodge agreed, and pointed out that the Park & Rides are all full, and vanpool vehicles all have bike racks. Rick Price said it was important for all the communities to use the same data and definition of a “bike path,” and suggested the NFRMPO could mediate that process. Joe Piesman wants bike lanes to be taken into consideration in any road upgrades; Shawn Monk said Larimer County is planning for bikes as it replaces the bridge over the Poudre River on North Shields. Sylvia Cranmer said any community could be a destination as long as there is a designated, safe route to get there. She would like to keep recreational bikers in mind as well as commuters, since they use the trails differently. Kathy Cardona hopes the Mason Corridor project stays on track. Fodge said that development of bike trails along rail lines and waterways is a priority. Dan Gould also pointed out the dual function of recreation and commuting of the trails, and the plan should pay attention to both as demand increases and bikes have to share the trails with pedestrians. He added that the current bus/bike system does not serve transit commuters well. Josh Kerson said the greatest number of bikers start riding off-system because they are afraid of traffic. Off-road trails are important because they encourage beginners to become confident enough to move on to roads.

On the question of future direction, Kathy Cardona said communities getting together and brainstorming is extremely important, because they can learn from each other about other issues, too. Josh Kerson asked Fodge if he would be willing to present to the advisory group of bike retailers and manufacturers as well as citizens and agencies. He said he would be delighted.

2. Bike Library Update, Amy Lewin

Amy Lewin presented results from the Bike Library usage online questionnaire. Of the 781 respondents, 86 percent are Fort Collins residents, 48 percent male, 52 percent female, 90 percent own a bicycle; 92 percent said they were familiar with the Bike Library, 71 percent say they used it once or just a few times a year, 25 percent have used it themselves and 56 percent have brought visitors to it. While most respondents listed the fact that it is a free service among the positives, 74 percent said they would be willing to pay a fee to use the Bike Library.

Consultant Beth Vogelsang outlined the results of a review of peer cities with bike-sharing programs: Pullman, Wash.; Boulder; Des Moines/Iowa City; Madison, Wis.; and Chattanooga, Tenn. What the cities all have in common are a downtown area, a grid street system, a strong college or university campus presence, and a transit system that connects with bike routes. Fort Collins has all of these elements; the addition of the MAX buses will strengthen the transit portion. Vogelsang said the trend in all the cities studied is toward automated bike rental system, and Fort Collins should at least consider kiosks as an alternative moving forward.

Lewin recapped the options on the spectrum from no bike rentals at all; continue the Bike Library as it is; an expanded Bike Library; adopt a hybrid system with a combination of live staff and automated kiosks; or go with a completely automated system. All the alternatives are being considered to arrive at a preferred alternative to recommend to City Council, along with a BFO offer for the 2013-14 budget. She said the Bike Library will continue in its current form — without charge — until a new alternative is chosen, or funding runs out.

Rick Price asked how the peer cities financed their bike rental programs. Vogelsang said they all started with grant money for upfront infrastructure, and now receive a mix of public and private support as well as user fees.

Kathryn Grimes said she likes the free service for the downtown area because it appeals to tourists but could see automated kiosks in other parts of town to serve commuters. Sylvia Cranmer agreed that recreational cycling is very different from commuter cycling.

Rick Price asked if staff had any concerns about the quality of the data collected through Survey Monkey. Lewin said it wasn't a scientific survey but a questionnaire that asked people to share information to give a sense of how the Bike Library is being used.

3. Parking Plan Update, Aaron Iverson

Aaron Iverson said that the City's land use code is under review and the current language ties bike parking spaces to a percentage of parking spaces provided for cars. However, as transit oriented development increases, there are no spaces set aside for cars, so how should bike parking be allocated?

Iverson said proposed changes would decouple bike parking from automobile parking and instead tie it to the square footage, based on land use type. In addition, the code will define bike parking as either long-term or short-term and the requirements for each type. Short-term parking includes bike racks in front of buildings; long-term is secured and covered. This question will be part of the Land Use Code update this summer.

Joe Piesman read a memo from the Natural Resources Advisory Board that supported hub parking for bikes along the Mason Corridor and safe, secure long-term bike parking that includes video surveillance. Tim Anderson added that long-term parking needs a roof. He also stated that rack designs need to be more efficient and consistent because the current system looks like a hodgepodge. He asked what the current capacity is; Iverson said the details of space are in the current plan.

Molly North said that in transit oriented development, parking is market-based, not prescriptive, and developers can explore ratios of bike/car parking based on land use type to go above basic requirements if they want to.

Rick Price said Transfort will have to change its policy on abandoned bicycles to accommodate long-term parking.

Josh Kerson said it is important to provide a mix of safe in-front parking at facilities around town and areas in parking structures where you can lock your bike. Sylvia Cranmer added bike parking has to be convenient and easy to find, to make it obvious a business supports cycling. Kathryn Grimes asked if the City knew how many bikes were being parked by commuters and left all day. Iverson said occupancy counts of bike racks depend on the day of the week and location of the racks.

He said he would recommend to the Planning and Zoning Commission to set the percentage of bike parking space as high as possible in the land use code and that there is strong support for both short- and long-term spaces.

REPORTS

1. Staff Reports

Molly North updated the BAC on progress of the Bicycle Ambassador Program. The launch is set for next Tuesday, April 17, with events in Fort Collins and Loveland, and she has been working with BPEC on publicity and outreach.

Rick Price asked if a Budgeting for Outcomes offer will be made to sustain the Bicycle Ambassador program.

Kathleen Bracke said that all Budgeting for Outcomes offers will be prepared for public input June 4 though 14. The first offers are due from staff May 4; after the public process, they will be revised and resubmitted for a second round that begins on June 21.

Bracke said her department is collaborating with others on offers for FC Bikes, the Bike Library and the Bicycle Ambassador Program, and identifying areas where programs can boost the City's bicycle-friendly rating from Gold to Platinum as part of the offer. Some of the offers are requesting funds required to implement the 2008 Bicycle Plan and the 2011 Bicycle Safety Education Plan. These two plans will be combined in the 2013 update; Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Town will still be part of it.

Kim Sharpe pointed out that the Bicycle Ambassador Program is a Larimer County program, with participation by CSU, PVHS, the City of Loveland, CANDO, LiveWell and a number of other organizations. This means the burden of funding is not just on the shoulders of the City.

Rick Price expressed disappointment that the BAC has not had more input on the Bicycle Ambassador Program, since it is core to the mission of bicycle safety. He said that the City should fund it for the sake of the kids and students in this community, but he hasn't heard a plan for funding it. He is concerned that the program will be diluted by outreach and it would be a mistake to hand it off.

Kim Sharpe said the decision to involve other organizations was made in 2011. She pointed out that in the NFRMPO presentation, regional cooperation was considered a strength, and people throughout the region deserve to be educated about bike safety.

Joe Piesman said the BFO process is still a mystery to him. When is the best time for Boards and Commissions to have constructive input?

Karen Cumbo said City Council would be meeting with seven results teams on April 10 to provide budget direction, which would be communicated to City employees on April 11. She said now would be a good time to let Kathleen Bracke know what areas you would like to focus on.

Rick Price said the BAC has not discussed priorities for BFO, and he would like to do that before public comment opens in June. Otherwise, there is no weight to being a Board or Commission member.

Kim Sharpe pointed out that every BFO offer has to be tied to an element of the Transportation Plan that has already been approved and reflects the priorities and concerns of the BAC and the T-board. Can the BAC address the transportation offers as an agenda item in May?

Bracke said staff will bring what they have to the next BAC meeting for review. She emphasized that the process will be ongoing, and said BAC members can email any input directly to her anytime.

Joe Piesman said the committee is trying to see the offers early, but doesn't want to make extra work for staff. Josh Kerson added that it is not the committee's place to get into the nuts and bolts of the offers, but would like to review the highest priorities. He asked that staff provide materials as far ahead of the May 14 meeting as possible so committee members can review them before the conversation to settle on a group idea that can be heard.

2. Board Member Reports/Comments

None.

NEW BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

May meeting dedicated to review of Transportation BFO offers/topics.

Next meeting May 14 at 215 N. Mason St. Community Room, 6 p.m.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. by Chair Josh Kerson.