

**MEETING MINUTES OF
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**August 13, 2012
6:00 p.m.
Community Room
215 N. Mason St.
Fort Collins, CO 80521**

FOR REFERENCE:

Chair: Sylvia Cranmer
Staff Liaison: Molly North

970-493-5277
970-224-6112

BOARD/CITY ORGANIZATION MEMBERS PRESENT

Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition: Kim Sharpe
Bike Fort Collins: Sylvia Cranmer
Downtown Development Authority: Wynne Odell
Fort Collins Bicycle Co-op: Tim Anderson
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

Economic Advisory Commission: TBD

Fort Collins Bicycle Retailers Alliance: TBD

Land Conservation & Stewardship Board: Kathryn Grimes

Natural Resources Advisory Board: Joe Piesman

Poudre School District: MacKenzie Mushel

Senior Advisory Board: Ellen Lirley

Transportation Board: Shane Miller

UniverCity Connections: TBD

CITY OF FORT COLLINS PRESENT

Molly North, Interim Bicycle Coordinator

Emma McArdle, Transit Planner

Megan Bolin, Economic Health Analyst

CITIZENS PRESENT

Bob Flynn

Josh Mehlem, Alta Planning +Design
Garry Steen, Transportation Board Chairperson
Kate Jeracki, Note Taker

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. without a quorum present by Chair Sylvia Cranmer.

AGENDA REVIEW

No changes. The committee welcomed Wynne Odell as the new representative of the Downtown Development Authority.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Flynn presented comments on the Troutman Underpass Construction. Although he is happy to see the crossing finally being built after 15 years, he feels closing the Mason Trail for 6 months for construction is excessive and could discourage bicycle ridership in the area. He also raised the issue of the cost and complexity of the bike/ped crossing, and suggested the city research simpler, less expensive designs for future crossings. He also pointed out the lack of bicycle land on Troutman Parkway for the two blocks east of the corridor between Mason Street and JFK Parkway. He felt safety concerns will become worse after the underpass is opened and bike traffic sees a drastic increase.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from July 9, 2012, could not be approved without a quorum present.

ACTION ITEMS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Midtown Urban Design, Megan Bolin

Megan Bolin, Emma McArdle and consultant Josh Mehlem presented a brief overview of the Midtown Corridor – College Avenue from Prospect Road to the South Transit Center to be built next to Woodley’s Fine Furniture as part of the Mason Corridor transit project. While the city has a targeted infill/redevelopment plan for the area, outlined in the 2010 Redevelopment Study, and an Urban Renewal Plan that would allow TIF money to be used, there is no cohesive design vision for buildings and streets in the area. Staff and consultants are gathering input from boards and commissions through September, which will be followed by a community workshop and public open house to determine design alternatives to go before a City County Work Session on Jan. 8, 2013.

At this point, Bolin said there are no set guidelines or standards for the project, just broad parameters. Josh Mehlem said they would like to hear

what the BAC considers the issues and challenges for bicyclists and pedestrian under current conditions in the area. Given that more people will be coming into the area because of the MAX bus rapid transit service, what kind of multimodal access is needed?

Wynne Odell asked if it would be possible to allow bike access on College Avenue. Mehlem said that is one of the goals, since an estimated 10 percent of trips in the area could be made by bike or on foot. Molly North said that it would be up to CDOT to lift the restriction that keeps bikes off College, and under current conditions, no one would consider doing it. But with the redesign of the frontage roads along College, it might be considered, since there would be an economic impact to local businesses without that access. Tim Anderson asked if there was a plan for the redesign of the frontage roads, which are inconsistent and a hole in the east-west system. Mehlem said the decision of whether to keep them or get rid of them involves CDOT, so it's not a simple yes or no. They are considering proposals with and without them, and looking at how they interface with bikes and pedestrians. Dan Gould added that the issue of east-west connection is huge and should be explored in detail. He suggested that since the Foothills Mall will be between the Swallow and Horsetooth stations on the BRT route, a safe, inviting pathway should be constructed from Mason Street to the mall, or consider moving the Swallow Street station south so it is more aligned with the center of gravity of the mall. Megan Bolin said the stations can't be moved at this point, but grade separated crossings have been discussed for the area near the mall. Gould felt the Broadway and Euclid intersection in Boulder would be a really good model. Bruce Henderson agreed that east-west connections were vital.

Wynne Odell asked if CDOT or the City is responsible for the frontage road. Erin McArdle was unsure. Odell added that businesses were concerned about the economic impact of losing access from the frontage roads, but if there were a total redesign on both sides of College, there could be an upside. Sylvia Cranmer suggested the committee might need a field trip to the area, since she rarely goes south of Prospect on her bike, since Remington Street ends at Stuart – which made the point that a more bike- and pedestrian-friendly redesign is needed. Bruce Henderson pointed out that bicyclists have to get off the Mason Trail at major access points to get to businesses in the Mason Corridor. Wynne Odell said that waiting to cross arterials is a detriment to using the trails the way there are supposed to be used, and the area of Horsetooth around Manhattan is not bike friendly at all. Megan Bolin said they would be meeting with the local car dealership group in the McClelland/Horsetooth area to discuss possible improvements.

Tim Anderson suggested better wayfinding signage on Mason Trail, perhaps every quarter-mile, to let users know where they are and how far it is to major landmarks, like the parks or municipal buildings. Wynne Odell would

like traffic lights that recognize bicycles without having to get off to push the actuator button. Molly North said the city has received a grant to improve traffic signals in eight intersections with the highest car-bike crash rates, and will be installing upgraded sensors.

Sylvia Cranmer said it was hard to answer the consultant's questions on the gaps in the 2008 Bike Plan without it in front of her; Molly North said she would include a link to the plan in the minutes.

<http://www.fcgov.com/bicycling/bike-plan.php>

Bruce Henderson said he'd like to see more bike arterials that help riders stay off the more heavily traveled roads. Dan Gould added that secured, sheltered bike parking leads to more all-weather usage. Sylvia Cranmer agreed, and said she would like to see bike parking close to buildings and visible, so the benefits of biking are obvious. She would also like to see more efficient bike racks that don't fill up so quickly. Wynne Odell asked about the economic impact of devoting more parking to bicycles and less to cars. Josh Mehlem pointed out that the new commercial development guidelines no longer mandate the number or type of parking spaces to be provided for a new building.

Dan Gould said the goal for any bike-friendly design should be whether a parent would let a 12-year-old child ride there by himself. College and Swallow doesn't fit that goal now, but is there a design that would?

Megan Bolin said the idea of creating separate district identities, with signage and other design elements along the Midtown corridor has been discussed, and asked for input from members. Bruce Henderson said it could be a good idea, as far as it can go, and could help with wayfinding. Sylvia Cranmer agreed, saying that the identities would have to be created, since there's not much flavor there now. Perhaps the theme for each station could be expanded? Or find a historic thread for the area?

Wynne Odell said that the Midtown area divides the east and west portions of the city, and it would be nice to create a bridge across it.

The team will return to the BAC with design alternatives in November or December, and any questions should be emailed to Molly North.

2. Trails Master Plan, Amy Lewin

Amy Lewin presented an update on progress of the Trails Master Plan. The 2011 Plan Fort Collins charged City staff with determining how well the existing trail system meets the community's needs, and whether it needs to change to meet future needs.

Topics studied are safety, connectivity, environmental sustainability, street system connectors, accessibility to all users, standards, needed

improvements, maintenance issues and funding for both development and maintenance.

Lewin said staff has been doing community outreach and studying best management practices from other cities as well as gathering input through the survey conducted in person and the questionnaire posted online at fcgov.com/trailsplan. Two trail events/intercepts have been completed and one more is scheduled in September. She presented some of the preliminary numbers from those events and discussed some of the emerging patterns.

Once the September count is completed, the complete findings will be shared with boards and commissions in October and November, then the project team will go to a City Council Work Session on Dec. 11; the Plan should be finalized in early 2013.

Dan Gould suggested that the trail maintenance crews should be recognized for their good work on early snow removal that keeps the trails open in the winter. Sylvia Cranmer said there should be better lighting on some parts of the trail where it is pitch dark, especially in the winter. Gould said there were lots of trade-offs with lighting. Tim Anderson said as a trike rider, he had concerns about trail width. Lewin said they recognize that there are some narrow areas, and are looking into if they can be widened. Wynne Odell said if they are wide enough to benefit Tim's trike, they'll be wide enough to benefit everyone.

REPORTS

1. Staff Reports/BFO Process Update

Molly North said the new Land Use Code approved by City Council two weeks ago now requires bike parking as a ratio to square footage or number of bedrooms, rather than a percentage of car parking spaces. In addition, 60 percent of the bike spaces must be covered and secure, 40 percent can be outdoor spaces.

North said there was not much new to report on the BFO offers, but staff expects to see a recommended budget from the City Manager by the end of the month.

She also asked for more volunteers to help with the September trail count, and for members to help get the word out about the online survey as well.

2. Board Member Reports/Comments

Dan Gould referred back to Bob Flynn's comments on the Troutman underpass and asked if there has been any analysis of whether the four-lane portion east up to JFK Parkway is properly configured for bicycle traffic. Increased bike traffic on Troutman Parkway will occur after completion of the underpass. There are

no bike lanes on West Troutman or East Troutman up to JFK. This leads to awkward interactions crossing College Avenue. On-street bike lanes need to be considered on Troutman. Does Troutman really need to be four lanes from Mason to JFK?

Tim Anderson reported that the Bike Coop building is being looked at by a new developer. If it is purchased, they could stay for a year or have to move in 90 days; no one knows. But the Coop is looking for a real estate expert to help them find a new space within a mile of College and Mountain, preferably 8,000 sq. ft. but could get by with 4,000 sq. ft. Sylvia Cranmer said that the Bike Coop Board has already completed a Strategic Analysis.

Sylvia Cranmer reported that Bike Fort Collins had a successful weekend at New West Fest on Aug. 10-12, with lots of interested people stopping by the interactive booth.

NEW BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next meeting Sept. 10 at 215 N. Mason St. Community Room, 6 p.m.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. by Chair Sylvia Cranmer.