

**DRAFT  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**November 5, 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**

**Bike Fort Collins:** Sylvia Cranmer  
**Colorado State University:** Fred Haberecht  
**Economic Advisory Commission:** Jim Clark  
**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  
**Transportation Board:** Shane Miller

**AT LARGE PRESENT**

Dan Gould  
Dee Colombini  
Mike Hinterberg

**ABSENT**

**Air Quality Board:** Michael Lynn  
**Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition:** Kim Sharpe  
**Downtown Development Authority:** Wynne Odell  
**Fort Collins Bicycle Retailers Alliance:** TBD  
**Poudre School District:** MacKenzie Mushel  
**Senior Advisory Board:** Ellen Lirley  
**UniverCity Connections:** TBD

**CITY OF FORT COLLINS PRESENT**

Molly North, Interim Bicycle Coordinator  
Aaron Iverson, Senior Transportation Planner

**CITIZENS PRESENT**

Aaron Fodge, North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Garry Steen, Transportation Board Chairperson  
Kate Jeracki, Note Taker

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. with a quorum present by Chair Sylvia Cranmer.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

No changes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kathryn Grimes moved to approve the minutes from Oct. 8, 2012, as presented. Joe Piesman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**FOLLOW UP FROM PRIOR MEETING/FUTURE BUSINESS.**

None.

**ACTION ITEMS**

None.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Regional Bike Plan**

Aaron Fodge, senior transportation planner for the NFRMPO, distributed a preliminary map showing 11 regional bicycle corridors in Northern Colorado. He explained that the Bike Plan is part of the Regional Transportation Plan, a collaborative effort involving a council of elected officials from various jurisdictions to plan for future transportation needs and air quality issues. The organization is now focused on the year 2040.

Sylvia Cranmer explained that the MPO acts as a conduit for state and federal transportation funds for local projects, such as FC Bikes and infrastructure improvements on North College Avenue.

The map is the result of the effort to create an inventory of existing and planned trails within and connecting to the NFRMPO region and to prioritize projects within the Bike Plan. Fodge said the effort started in Fort Collins and grew outward; the towns of Windsor and Timnath are now involved.

Fodge said there is good support for the Bike Plan from councilmembers throughout the region. He is asking for input from the BAC to take to the Transportation Board's December meeting as part of the effort to get formal support from all the communities involved.

Fodge said that the Poudre River Trail, which began in Fort Collins and will soon cross I-25, connects the region's communities from east of Greeley to north of Highway 287, and they are all trying to figure out how to access it. Joe Piesman asked where the crossing will be. Fodge said it will be an overpass between Harmony and Horsetooth roads, but he will double check on the exact location. It has been funded with a GOCO grant, and should be completed by the end of 2014. Piesman said the Poudre Trail is great for the entire region.

Fodge pointed out that trails extend beyond the Northern Colorado region, for example the Front Range Trail that connects the Poudre Trail will several trails to the south and the South Platte American Discovery Trail that follows the river from Denver to the eastern plains.. That's why the NFRMPO is working with the Colorado Department of Transportation, Larimer and Weld counties, and private partners. Fodge said CDOT wants local jurisdictions to go for project funding. Larimer County wants to extend the Poudre Trail north and help Fort Collins and Loveland improve connections, and is working with Berthoud and private property owners for access to Carter Lake. The county is also working with Boulder County for improvements to trails that could connect the two.

Aaron Iverson said the Transportation and Streets departments are working on some of specific challenges mentioned by committee members to making all the connections. That includes a Power Trail crossing on Harmony Road, which is on the master plan but has no funding or date of completion. Iverson said the City is looking at options right now.

Kathryn Grimes asked about the railroad crossing on Harmony Road. Iverson said that the City has been working with the PUC and the railroad and almost all the pieces are approved. The crossing should be replaced in January. When the final plans are signed off, the intention is to have all three traffic lanes go all the way through.

Bruce Henderson said with trails going from one jurisdiction to another, signage and wayfinding is very important. He suggested there be standard signage end to end, applied uniformly from community to community. Fodge said he would take the issue to the NFRMPO council to find ways to work together.

**Shane Miller moved the Bicycle Advisory Committee send a letter to the Transportation Board recommending the regional bicycle corridors as presented by Aaron Fodge. Bruce Henderson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Sylvia Cranmer will draft a letter of support to the Transportation Board and circulate the draft to BAC members for approval.

## **2. Safe Routes to School**

Aaron Iverson said the deadline for applying for state grants to continue support for Safe Routes to School was coming up in December. He said there are two types of grants the City will apply for: one for programming, education and training at the schools, and one for infrastructure to complete existing routes. Coordinator Nancy Nichols would like to expand the existing programming; Iverson asked the BAC for input on infrastructure projects to fund.

Two years ago, grant money was used to install bike racks at elementary schools and install missing sidewalks in critical areas to connect pathways between neighborhoods and schools. The City received no grant money last year, although it submitted two projects: sidewalk connections to Tavelli Elementary, off Lindenmeier Road near Country Club Road, and sidewalks to Bacon Elementary on Timberline Road south from Ketcher Road.

Iverson said the City intends to resubmit the Tavelli project because Poudre School District has money to put toward it, and the grant process now requires 20 percent matching funds.

The Timberline project is still on the table as well, and Iverson outlined other possible areas for improvement. One was a paved path and pedestrian crossing on Carpenter Road, between Lemay and College avenues, to provide access from the residential area on the north to the Cottonwood Plains Elementary on the south. He said this is a high traffic volume, high speed area, and people are now using a path that leads to the Pelican Marsh Natural Area for access. And Boardwalk south of Harmony Road is missing a piece of sidewalk.

Iverson said the school district is very interested in seeing sidewalks on west Vine Drive near Irish Elementary, but the needs in the area are too great for the scope of this grant. He added that the City's Streets Department is working on the area, to widen Vine and create cohesive shoulders.

Iverson asked members if they had other areas they thought should be considered. Sylvia Cranmer asked if there was anything in the Safe Routes to School program for high schools, since while 75 percent of elementary students are accompanied to school by parents, the higher grades are more

likely to get to school on their own. Iverson said he would have to check with Nichols, whose focus has been on elementary schools, but he said Rocky Mountain High School requires any student who applies for an on-campus parking permit to complete a bicycle safety course before the permit is issued. Cranmer added that while high schoolers can drive, there are more bike riders at the middle schools.

Iverson agreed, and pointed out that the Tavelli project is a priority because of an existing narrow bridge that creates a chokepoint for students coming from new developments on the west side and must be dealt with if that is to be a safe bike route.

Kathryn Grimes pointed out that traffic on Carpenter Road is traveling at 55 miles an hour and questioned whether just a traffic signal would make crossing safer. She felt lots of signage would be needed to warn trucks and cars to actually slow down for the signal. Iverson said an overpass has been discussed, but since Carpenter Road is also Colorado Highway 392, CDOT has jurisdiction and budgetary responsibility.

Shane Miller said bicycle safety should be taught at all grade levels, and it is really important for young drivers to be aware of bicyclists. Molly North said CDOT is incorporating bike safety into its drivers license course, even if there isn't a question on the exam yet. She added that Nancy Nichols has been thinking of including high school students in the education programs in elementary schools, to have them act as mentors for the younger kids. Tim Anderson suggested high schoolers teach a refresher course for people over 65 as well.

Miller added that blinking yellow lights are not enough on east-west streets like Harmony Road because of the issue of backlighting in the early morning and evenings. He said the speeds should be lowered. Joe Piesman said the signs on east Elizabeth Street that show how fast a car is actually going are really effective in slowing drivers down and encouraged posting more of them. Iverson said the City posts them in cooperation with the school district. Shane Miller suggested using the same technology to warn drivers if a pedestrian or bicycle was in a crosswalk before they reached the intersection so they could slow down.

Dee Columbini asked who pays for school crossing guards. Iverson said the City reimburses the school district, and Molly North said the budget offer was included with funds for signage.

Tim Anderson said part of the problem is the boundaries for the schools, which shouldn't require students to cross streets like College Avenue.

Mike Hinterberg asked if income parameters were part of the grant application, since Irish Elementary was unlikely to see any new development in the near future. Iverson said demographics are part of the package, and they looked at all the different needs through that lens as well. Tavelli and Irish are in older parts of town, while streets around Bacon will develop as new homes are built. He said those costs are borne by the developer through the street oversizing fee, to allow development to pay for itself.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Staff Reports**

Molly North reported that BFO offers for Safe Routes to School, the Bike Library and bike parking all made it through to the second reading of the budget, set for Nov. 20. The demonstration of the B-Cycle and ViaCycle automated bike share programs went very well. The US Grand Prix Cyclocross race was in Fort Collins for the third year in October, which puts Fort Collins on the world stage in the sport. Bike Fort Collins and the Convention and Visitors Bureau were both involved in the event.

The City is part of a regional bid for the US Pro Cycling Challenge next year. The bid is due on Nov. 16 with a decision expected 30 days later.

Bike Wise is a regional group formed to share best practices and support the NFMPO regional bike plan. Communities across the board are putting on their own bike and pedestrian events – Greeley’s first bike event was held in collaboration with the Zombie Zoom last week – and it’s exciting to see the bike culture spreading.

North reported for Kim Sharpe that the BPEC held a visioning retreat two weeks ago that was very useful in focusing on sustainable resources.

### **2. Board Member Reports/Comments**

Tim Anderson reported that the Bike Coop is looking for a long-term, sustainable location. He is also part of the UniverCity Connections subcommittee on transportation.

Bruce Henderson pointed out that that bike trails are the most citizen-appreciated amenity in the parks department.

Jim Clark introduced himself as the new representative of the Economic Advisory Committee. He has been working on the bid for the USA Pro Challenge, which is a great way to promote Fort Collins.

Shane Miller said he will be leaving the Transportation Board at the end of the year when his term expires and would like to leave a written record of his

insights over the past six years. He invited members of the committee to share their thoughts with him on what would be helpful to include. He would like to present it to the T-Board in January, so he asked for input by December.

Mike Hinterberg reported on the plans for the new Mormon Temple at Timberline and Trilby Roads, which will require constructing a new street. He said the neighborhood has concerns about traffic – an estimated 20,000 people are expected to visit the temple each week, since it is a regional facility. He said the church is widening the sidewalks and adding bike lanes and there will be bike parking on the promenade, and the impact on the surrounding roads should see a net gain. Jim Clark added that it is an economic gain for the city. Hinterberg also said the ride out to Soapstone Prairie, the farthest of the City's open spaces, attracted about 25 people for the winter rally.

Sylvia Cranmer reported on the kickoff tonight of the Community Funded online fundraising project for the Bike Library. Although the library receives city support, the federal CMAQ grant is expiring, so they are trying the local crowdfunding site to raise money for the existing downtown kiosk and future automated options in other locations. Jim Clark said the downtown community would like to see the kiosk stay in Old Town and continue to offer free bike checkouts, because it is a uniquely Fort Collins amenity and an alternative to expensive weekly bike rentals. Kathryn Grimes agreed that it is a big draw precisely because it's not just a bike rental.

Molly North said the challenge is to find a way to keep the the Bike Library going past 2012 and sustainable in the future. Although future locations need to be automated, that does not necessarily preclude keeping the existing system as well. Jim Clark said he was concerned that the downtown businesses agreed to tax themselves to maintain existing amenities and now amenities, like the ice rink and maybe the bike kiosk, are going away.

Shane Miller said that the Bike Library and an automated bike rental system can serve two different constituents: recreational users and commuters. The automated system should be integrated with Transfort to provide last-mile service, while the library can remain an amenity to allow visitors to explore the city on two wheels. Molly North said the plan is to launch the automated system to coincide with the opening of the Mason Corridor MAX system to do exactly that.

Sylvia Cranmer said she will invite Bike Library Director Stacy Sebeczek to the December meeting to talk more about the Community Funded project.

**NEW BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.