

**MEETING MINUTES OF
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**January 14, 2013
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
Fort Collins Bicycle Retailers Alliance: Libby Harrow
Land Conservation & Stewardship Board: Kathryn Grimes
Natural Resources Advisory Board: Joe Piesman
Parks and Recreation Board: Bruce Henderson

AT LARGE PRESENT

Dee Colombini

ABSENT

At Large: Dan Gould
At Large: Michael Hinterberg
Air Quality Board: Michael Lynn
Colorado State University: Joy Childress
Economic Advisory Commission: Jim Clark
Poudre School District: MacKenzie Mushel
Senior Advisory Board: Ellen Lirley

CITY OF FORT COLLINS PRESENT

Molly North, Interim Bicycle Coordinator
Amy Lewin, Transportation Planner
Aaron Iverson, Interim Transportation Planning Director

CITIZENS PRESENT

Rebecca Bowen, Minute Taker

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. without a quorum present by Chair Sylvia Cranmer.

AGENDA REVIEW

No changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes could not be approved without a quorum.

FOLLOW UP FROM PRIOR MEETING/FUTURE BUSINESS

No follow up from prior meeting.

Wynne Odell asked for clarification about the members invited to be a part of the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Molly North explained there are 15 representatives from other City Boards and Commissions and important biking groups. The representative from each Board or Commission has a term that is determined by the term of his or her respective Board or Commission. There are three additional At Large members who are community members interested in biking issues. These community members serve a two year term.

North discussed the Fort Collins Bicycle Retailer Alliance which was formed roughly 2 years ago and is comprised of 18 local retailers and 13 local manufacturers. This alliance was formed to pool dollars for education and sales campaigns as well as coordinated efforts within the biking community.

No future business was discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Presentation on the Paved Trail Study

Amy Lewin presented the Paved Trail Study, updated from the August presentation. Lewin discussed the December Fort Collins City Council Work Session and provided a review of the Paved Trail Study. The Paved Trail Study, requested by the City Council, focused on gathering data to develop a long-range plan for paved trails and to look at design standards for existing and proposed trails. Several department members were involved in the Paved Trail Study including members of Park Planning, Development and Natural Areas. Marty Heffernan lead the team for this study.

The Paved Trail Study Team used automatic trail counters and 80 volunteer counters to collect trail usage data. The automatic trail counters were infrared cameras which tracked motion but could not differentiate between an animal and a person, or a single person walking and a group. Lewin explained the Team's efforts to calibrate the automatic trail counters with the data collected by the volunteers. The volunteers conducted 128 counts over the course of 3 months, on both weekdays and weekends. In addition, 588 trail users were interviewed and two online surveys were conducted, together receiving close to the same amount of individual feedback as the in-person interview. Bruce Henderson asked about the differences and similarities between the two online surveys. Lewin stated the questions were phrased a little differently and there may be some overlap between the two surveys.

The Paved Trail Study presented during the December work session covered several topics including information on the current trail system, as well as sister and other city trail system comparisons. As the data collected was summarized, Lewin noted several observations were discovered. One observation highlighted the importance of trails to a resident's quality of life. Overall, there is a high level of satisfaction in the community regarding the trail system. Joe Piesman added the comments from many interview participants expressed a true appreciation for the trails and felt the questions did not encompass their full sentiment. Kathryn Grimes suggested using a numerical scale to capture a better sense of the interview participants' comments.

Additional observations included the high usage of the trails with only limited congested areas. The Team found that the current 10 foot wide trail was satisfactory to most interview participants. Grimes stated the response regarding the Spring Creek Trail included concerns for congestion. The Spring Creek Trail is the most used trail and the Team is looking at options to widen the trail. Interview participants also expressed appreciation for the well maintained trails and requested more trails. As the Team looks at options to add more trails, they will take into consideration the need for maintaining balance between the scenic qualities and the need to respect the environmental impacts. Lewin stated the data from the Paved Trail Study also collected information on the real and perceived safety of the users. Some interview participants expressed the need for more lighting on the trails and concern for underpasses and overpasses. Lewin commented on the use of space and safety concerns regarding eBikes and speed of travel on the trails.

Regarding the data ratios for usage of the trails, the Team found that there are seven bicyclists to every three pedestrians and there are slightly more

male users than female users. 90% of individuals with dogs were compliant with lease regulations.

The City Council asked the Team to look at the asphalt section of the Spring Creek Trail. Currently the Team is looking at re-designing a section of this trail to take out one of the 90 degree turns. The Team is also looking at mowing operations, paved and unpaved sections of the trails and accommodating multiple age and ability levels. The City Council also asked for clarification of data collection techniques.

Lewin discussed the updates after the December work session including specific concerns for safety and adjacent gravel paths. The Team is also looking at more details regarding the re-design of the asphalt section of the Spring Creek Trail. The methodology used was the National Pedestrian Bicycle Documentation Project.

The Team's goal is to create a plan to bring back to the Council in Spring, 2013. This plan includes details on linking the local trail system with the regional trail system crossing over 1-25 along the Poudre River. GOCO funds for this expansion have been awarded with a targeted construction start in 2014.

Kathryn Grimes shared a comment from the Land Conversation & Stewardship Board which was a suggestion to label the current Bike Map as the Bike and Paved Trail Map. Molly North discussed the key located on the map. Tim Anderson also commented about the need for weed management to be addressed.

In a recent comparison between Fort Collins trails and other cities' trails, it was noted that Fort Collins does not count sidewalks and other non-trail miles towards the paved trails per resident number.

REPORTS

1. Staff Reports

Molly North said that Fort Collins, Loveland, Windsor, Estes Park, and Larimer County will be hosting stage 6 of the USA Pro Challenge on Saturday, August 24th, 2013. This event will be broadcasted worldwide to over 6 billion contacts. The application was submitted as a regional effort and has started conversations about creating a separate governmental entity that would encompass the 5 communities of Fort Collins, Loveland, Windsor, Estes Park and Larimer County.

North discussed the application for the Bike Friendly Community program with the League of American Bicyclists due February 26th, 2013. North would like to discuss the application at the upcoming BAC meeting February

11th, 2013. Suggestions given included creating a highlight reel used with a cover letter sent out to advocates and producing a short video to include with the application.

Aaron Iverson provided an update on the search for an FC Moves Program Manager and an FC Bikes Program Manager. The hiring committee has begun the process of sorting and would like to have the BAC involved in the decision making process.

2. Board Member Reports/Comments

Kim Sharpe reported that BPEC is in the process of finalizing the 2013 Strategic Plan and is planning special celebrations for bicycle ambassadors which will do bike presentations for various groups including instruction on helmet and road safety.

Bruce Henderson said the Parks and Receptions Board has worked with Colorado State University Marketing Research students to help conduct surveys.

Tim Anderson said the Bicycle Co-op has its premises under contract and may need to find a new location as early as May or June if the property is sold. Anderson asked the BAC for suggestion for new locations.

Kathryn Grimes said the Land Conservation and Stewardship Board really enjoyed the presentation by Marty Heffernan and discussed the accuracy of the statistics used as well as the suggestion for the new Bike Map title.

Joe Piesman asked Molly North and/or Amy Lewin to provide an update for NRAB in the next 4 to 5 months.

Sylvia Cranmer said Bike Fort Collins will be hosting an all day retreat and will be looking at better committee structure. The Mission of the Organization is to advocate for safe and enjoyable bicycling in Fort Collins.

NEW BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Molly North would like to discuss the application for the Bike Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists.

Next meeting: February 11, 2013 at 215 N. Mason St. Community Room, 6 p.m.

ADJOURN

Kim Sharpe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Kathryn Grimes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.