

# Minutes

## Pedestrian & Bikeways Steering Committee

August 19, 2015

8:00 a.m.

TMACOG Boardroom



Toledo Metropolitan Area  
Council of Governments  
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### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Vice Chair Emily Ziegler called the meeting to order.

### 2. Approval of May Minutes

Dick Currie moved that the minutes be approved. Dick Kudner seconded the motion. All approved.

### 3. New Business

#### a. US Numbered Bike Route Initiative in Ohio

A map of proposed US Bicycle Routes through the region was provided for review and comment. Ohio DOT has announced a goal to establish a network of signed US bicycle routes that will follow the AASHTO/Adventure Cycling proposed corridors. The goals of this effort are to improve safety, provide continuity and connectivity between urbanized areas, and serve as a backbone for a long-distance network. The process of developing the path of the numbered routes in the TMACOG region will seek local input and support. Resolutions of support will be sought from all affected jurisdictions in the region. Bike advocates are encouraged to offer input and assist with field reviews. This is not a construction project but may help to focus and prioritize funding in the future. Finalized routes will be submitted to ODOT and then ODOT will submit statewide plan to AASHTO. This is expected to occur by April 2016. Once approved by AASHTO stakeholders will explore options for signing the routes.

Committee members commented that this initiative would have the potential to attract long-distance cyclists, and the consumer activity, to the region and being on the national route would be preferable to being on state route.

#### b. Additions to proposed bike network

- i. University Parks Trail extension—A map showing a proposed route for extending the University Parks Trail west from King Rd to Sylvan Prairie Park was reviewed. A

large portion of the proposed route potentially makes use easements for a wetland project involving Ten Mile Creek that is being done by Lucas County Engineers. Members noted that this was a good use of public dollars.

- ii. Eastern Lucas County Bikeway Project—A map showing a proposed 17 mile bike facility in eastern Lucas County was provided for review. This facility would connect Pearson Park to Maumee Bay State Park, to Howard Farms, to Metzger Marsh, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Magee March. A meeting among stakeholders is scheduled to refine the exact route and explore funding options.
- iii. Swan Creek Connector—A map was provided depicting a proposed connection between Maumee and the Chessie Circle Trail within Swan Creek Metro Park and making use of proposed facilities on Arlington Ave in Toledo and on Eastgate and Cass in Maumee.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **a. Chessie Circle Trail Development Update**

The Chessie Circle Coordinating committee met July 10. The old railroad bridge over the Maumee River will require further review including an updated assessment of the bridge condition. The Metroparks portion of the trail will likely proceed to be developed on schedule during 2016.

##### **b. University/Parks Trail Fence Review -Update**

Stakeholders met on August 4 to share findings of a comprehensive review of the trail's condition, including the fences. It was determined that a trail sustainability and maintenance plan would be helpful in planning for future trail improvements and maintenance. The group intends to meet over the next half year to work on a draft plan.

#### **5. Member Initiatives Roundtable: Updates to local plans, events, announcements**

- Jenny Hansen reported the Toledo Public School SRTS received notification that their application for ODOT funding for Safe Routes to School is being fully funded for up to \$60,000 for non-infrastructure improvements, and up to \$397,800 for infrastructure improvements, for a total of \$457,800. Walking and biking routes maps for each K-8 school are now posted online: <http://www.livewelltoledo.org/objectives/objective-4/srts-priority-corridors/> . LiveWell will be continuing its partnership with Toledo Bikes! to conduct fix-it events at up to 16 schools over the course of the 2015-6 school year. There will also be waling school bus programs at several schools this year, due in large part to a partnership with United Way

graduation coaches who will help lead the walks.

- Steve Day noted the ribbon cutting for the Chessie Circle Trail. He updated the group on the status of the Draft City of Toledo Bike Plan and noted that the city is continuing to take comments on the plan.
- Christine Connell announced two upcoming workshops: September 9, Bikeway Design Training: State of the Practice held by the [Ohio Safe Routes Academy](#) and will take place in Columbus; and September 28-29, [Designing for Pedestrian Safety](#), held by FHWA-NHI and Ohio LTAP and will take place in Toledo.
- Dick Currie asked about Sidecut project status and it was explained that the project is going forward as planned, with just a slight delay brought about by the devastation from last spring's thaw of the Maumee River. He is seeking support for ways to encourage officials in Perrysburg to expand bikeways in that city, and noted that there seems to be a gap in the regional proposed network in the city.
- Dick Kudner shared an article concerning Ford Motor Company's entry into the electric bike market and noted that this is a sign of growing interest in cycling.
- Pat Squire updated the committee on the status of a lawsuit involving a rider who was struck at last year's Mad Anthony River Rally. Members of TAB attended the sentencing in a visible show of support for justice for cyclists injured by motorists.

**2015 Schedule (please mark your calendars):**

- **Full** Committee meets quarterly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays: January 20, April 21, July 21, October 20
- **Steering** Committee meets quarterly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays: February 17, May 19, August 18, November 17