

Minutes

Pedestrian & Bikeways Committee

February 16, 2016

8:00 a.m.

TMACOG Boardroom



Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments
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1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Ed O'Reilly called the meeting to order. An item was added to the agenda concerning the updated current proposed non-motorized projects regional map.

2. Approval of November Minutes *[minutes]*

Howard Abts moved that the minutes be approved, Dick Currie seconded the motion. All approved.

3. New Business

a. Sylvania Area Bikeways Initiative [Map]

Stakeholders in the Sylvania Area have created an initiative to map and ultimately sign these routes. Using currently existing facilities, the Sylvania Area Bikeways Initiative strives to create connections for bicyclists within Sylvania Township and the City of Sylvania to major bike routes, to key destinations, and to surrounding communities.

It was noted that Toledo Metroparks is proposing an Oak Openings Connector trail and that this trail should be added to the next update of this map.

Questions about the anticipated type of signage to be installed Bike May Use Full Lane (BMUFL) signage vs. the Share-the-Road (S-t-R) led to a discussion of the pros and cons of each type of signage. At this point, no one on the committee knows exactly what type of signage is to be installed. A general consensus emerged that BMUFL should have a place in the signage we use in our region. Committee members agreed that there does indeed seem to be some confusion among motorists and bicyclists over exactly what is meant by "Share-the-Road," while BMUFL seems communicate more clearly what all users of the network can expect to find on our roadways.

Steve Atkinson moved that the steering committee endorse the Sylvania Area Bikeways Initiative. Keith Webb seconded the motion. The steering committee unanimously endorsed this initiative.

b. Updated Current Proposed Non-Motorized Projects Regional Map

The pair of maps posted on the TMACOG ped-bike page will be updated to reflect an off-road route that serves the purpose of connecting Secor Metropark south to the Wabash Cannonball Trail, known as the Oak Openings Corridor Connector. There is currently a proposed on-road (share-the-road/sharrow) connector on the map that was identified on the long-range plan. The off-road trail has several advantages. It goes directly through natural areas including the new Wire Grass Metropark, and because it is a path separated from traffic it will attract another type of user than the on-road facility. Both proposed facilities are in keeping with the long range plan and since

each may be used by different types for making this connection and both will remain on the updated map. Dick Currie moved that this new map be endorsed, Howard Abts seconded the motion. All approved. The new maps will be posted on the TMACOG webpage. Discussion then took place as to whether a more direct route between Secor and the University Parks Trails could be identified. Bike Route 20 on Bancroft was noted as a connector. An alternative possible route could use the future bike lanes on Kilburn Road to either Sylvania Rd or Brint and then east to the trail.

4. Old Business

a. Chessie Circle Trail Development Update

The City of Toledo CMAQ application to pave the stoned portion of the trail from University Hills Blvd to Bowman Park was successful. CMAQ funds are committed for FY2021. Funds for the connector (a side path along University Hills Blvd) from Chessie Circle to the bike lanes on Bancroft have been approved by the TIP committee for FY2018.

b. Proposed U.S. Bicycle Routes in the Region

ODOT is currently reconsidering its timeline for this project and may push the spring deadline for collecting resolution back. They are also expected to offer more guidance on collecting these resolutions including a template.

c. University/Parks Trail Maintenance Plan Development

The group working on a trail maintenance plan hopes to have a draft plan to present to ped-bike committee by the April of May meeting.

d. Regional Bike Users Map Development

The subcommittee working on this project is using SEMCOGS model as a starting point for evaluating the roadway network. Staff meets later this week and will set another meeting of the subcommittee.

e. Bike Month Planning

Sylvania Slow Ryders is moving the event that has traditionally been held in August to May this year. The move is to leverage advertising for bike month. It was suggested that members of the Bike Month committee reach out to Michelle Grigore with Toledo Metroparks to identify opportunities to collaborate around Bike Month.

5. Member Initiatives Roundtable

- Emily Ziegler announced that Metroparks is working with the Northwest Ohio Rails-to-Trails organizations to extend the paved portion of the Wabash Cannonball Trail by approximately 10 miles to just before Wauseon. TAP funding will be sought through Maumee Valley Planning Organization. The rail road crossing just before Wauseon is a later phase of the project. She also noted that Metroparks is designing a single track mountain bike trail just west of Oak Openings. More details on this to follow as it develops. Metroparks is submitting two grant applications: one to Clean Ohio Trail Funds for the Oak Openings Connector, and a second to the Recreational Trails Program for the Blue Creek connector.

- Pat Squire noted that Maumee Valley Adventurers is planning 4 major rides this year.
- Keith Webb is writing a grant proposal to develop event bike parking resources in order to make bike valet services available.
- Dick Currie updated the group on the Riverside Trail project in Perrysburg. He noted that current plans call for using Water Street which might mean that this street would have to be redesignated in some way. He noted that the guard rail at 199 and Scheider Road prevents traffic from using Scheider this route and wondered if a gap could be made in the guard rail to allow bikes to use the route. It was recommended that he take this idea to Doug Dariano.
- Howard Abts noted that since the re-opening of the High Level Bridge the joints are much friendlier to bicyclists.
- Steve Day announced that the City of Toledo is applying for Clean Ohio funds for the Chessie Circle connection at Bancroft and the bike lanes on Bancroft. He discussed several city bike initiatives now underway: the city's work with Woodlawn Cemetery and ODOT to improve bicycle access to the cemetery and between it and Joe E. Brown park; the side path on Arlington Ave is being constructed; plans for a facility connecting the new Middlegrounds Metropark to Promenade Park are underway. The city is also working on a plan for directional and way-finding signage. This sparked a conversation about the need to develop low maintenance signs that can harmonize well together across different facilities and owners.
- Lance Dasher shared the news that the Sylvania-Metamora side path construction may be moved up on the schedule.
- Steve Atkinson noted that TARTA hopes to have outfitted all its busses with 3-position bike racks in time for bike month. According to TARTA's count data there are between 1100 to 1300 bikes placed on rack per month. Most seem to use buses and bikes together for work trips to make the last mile.
- Alex Bourgeau announced that MDOT and SEMCOG are actively pursuing connections into Ohio. Near term plans call for meeting with Sylvania and Bedford.

2016 Schedule:

Full Committee: Quarterly on 3rd Tuesdays:

January 19, April 19, July 19, October 18

Steering Committee: Quarterly on 3rd Tuesdays:

February 16, May 17, August 16, November 15