

Minutes

Pedestrian & Bikeways Full Committee

January 19, 2016

8:00 a.m.

TMACOG Boardroom



Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments
300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Toledo, OH 43697
Phone 419.241.9155
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1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Ed O'Reilly called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of October Minutes [\[minutes\]](#)

Steve Atkinson moved that the minutes be approved, Dick Currie seconded the motion. All approved.

3. New Business

a. Committee Leadership and Nominations Vote

Nominees for chair and vice chair are Ed O'Reilly and Emily Zeigler, respectively. The chair called for additional nominees to the steering committee. No further nominations were made. Pat Squire moved that the list steering committee members for 2016 be approved, Dick Kudner seconded the motion. All approved. The new list will be posted to the ped-bike website. A brief discussion of committee operations and relationship to TMACOG Transportation Council ensued. All members of the ped-bike committee are encouraged to attend both full and steering meetings.

b. Annual Work Plan [Draft for Review]

The annual work plan was presented for review. A statement concerning reviewing the new transportation legislation was added. A motion to approve the revised work plan was made by Dick Kudner. Steve Atkinson seconded the motion. All approved.

c. Call for Subcommittee Members Bike Month 2016

Planning for May, 2016 Bike Month is set to begin. Several members volunteered to be involved. Others are also encouraged to find a way to participate in planning the events during May and in attending and participating in the actual events.

4. Old Business

a. Chessie Circle Trail Development Update

The City of Toledo CMAQ application to pave the trail (already developed with a stone base) from Bowman Park to University Hills was successful. This portion of the trail is thus scheduled to be paved in FY2021. Discussions about alternatives to the active rail portion of the trail are continuing. Metroparks is anticipating holding a public meeting in the coming months regarding developing its portion of the trail from River Road to Glanzman Road. They are working to develop a small trail head near Beverly Elementary School. An analysis of the Pratt Truss-Maumee River Bridge has been submitted to ODOT. A discussion ensued about the need to remove the bridge due to its deteriorated condition. The next meeting of the Chessie Circle Coordinating Committee is set for March 11.

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

A [revised draft map](#) of proposed routes for U.S numbered routes 25, 30, and 40A is posted on the TMACOG ped-bike webpage. Next steps are working with ODOT D2 to coordinate with jurisdictions involved and seek local resolutions of support. Once this step is complete across the state, routes will be submitted to AASHTO for certification. Thereafter, routes may be altered as

new facilities come on line.

c. University/Parks Trail Maintenance Plan Development

A subcommittee, consisting of trail owners and operators, is working to develop a maintenance plan during calendar year 2016 for the trail. Among the items that the plan will address area coordination and planning for long term operations, daily maintenance, and approaches for handling interagency communication.

d. Regional Bike Users Map Development

The subcommittee met and reviewed example of maps from other jurisdictions. TMACOG staff members are working with speed, volume and other data sets to begin the process of analyzing the bikeability of routes in the TMACOG transportation planning region.

5. Member Initiatives Roundtable

- Ed O'Reilly announced that the Clean Ohio Trails Fund and Recreational Trails Program grant application deadlines have been extended two months to April 1 (no fooling!). He also noted that COTF applicants may apply for increased amounts of up to \$850,000. These changes are expected for the 2016 round only. He also mentioned that the Metroparks will be applying for funding for the Oak Openings Connector, and for a trail within the Blue Creek Metropark. Ed noted that the map produced by the Lucas County Engineers office is very useful.
- John Pristash mentioned that the Sylvania River Trail project is set to begin by Fall, 2016 or sooner.
- Pat Squire noted that Maumee Valley Adventurers has their annual meeting in early February.
- Bill Saunders supports the bike users map initiative, saying it will do great things to stimulate cycling in the region.
- Chris Beaulieu noted that ODOT prequalifies consulting firms for bicycle facility design and pedestrian safety.
- Maura Johnson described the priorities and goals of the Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor group which works to preserve and conserve cultural and natural resources in the area between Toledo and Ft. Wayne. MVHC held a conference last fall. One of the items featured at the conference was the concept of a "blue trail"—a method to improve awareness and recreational use of the Maumee River and its tributaries in order to protect and improve the resource.
- Dick Currie discussed the latest plans put forth by the city of Perrysburg concerning Riverside Park which now focuses on access to the river. He questioned again the need to remove the old railroad bridge over the Maumee River (part of the Chessie Circle corridor).
- Dick Kudner pointed the approach used by the state of Michigan to highlight and promote its trails and noted that is a great example of a best practice that would be worth following in Ohio.
<http://trailsmichigan.com/>
- Steve Atkinson announced that TARTA is retrofitting the racks on all busses to carry 3 bikes per bus. Riders are also allowed to bring bikes on board if there is not sufficient rack space.
- Jenny Hansen recapped a recent press conference at which the Snow Angels program was touted. This program calls on residents, and neighborhood groups to volunteer to help neighbors who are unable to shovel their own sidewalks. Two schools in the TPS district are piloting a program to

clear the officially identified SRTS priority corridors.

- Christine Connell passed along comments from Keith Webb concerning the new bike lane section on Bancroft between Ashland and Monroe. In particular he expressed that he has brought some safety concerns to the attention of the city of Toledo in the area at the I-75 overpass and potential conflict between cyclists and traffic coming off of I-75. The city indicates it will revise the pavement markings to more clearly communicate the safe path for cyclists. The intent of the crossing there is for a combined ped and bike crossing.

Upcoming Schedule (please mark your calendars):

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