

# Minutes

## Pedestrian & Bikeways Full Committee

July 21, 2015

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 and asked members to introduce themselves.

### 2. Approval of October Minutes

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

### 3. New Business

- a. Resolution in support legislation requiring a 3-foot passing distance and protocol for proceeding through an intersection that has malfunctioning traffic lights  
Pat Squire moved that the resolution be approved. Steve Atkinson seconded the motion. All approved. The resolution will be forwarded to Transportation Council.

- b. University/Parks Trail Extension

Emily Zeigler and Dave Zenk from Metroparks of the Toledo Area presented a proposed route for a 2.5 mile extension of the University/Parks Trail. The route would begin at King Road and proceed west across the former King Road landfill, crossing Silica Road and Ten Mile Creek and then following the creek, then following the east and north edges of the Central Ave Truck Parts property to a paper street that leads into Sylvan Prairie Park. The proposed route addresses a goal to connect parks and other destinations in western Lucas County with Toledo.

The timing for this proposal is precipitated by two developments. First, abatement issues regarding the landfill have been resolved to the point where crossing it with a bike path is now feasible, so long as this portion includes fencing on both sides of the trail. Second, Lucas County Engineer's office is developing a drainage improvement project along Ten Mile Creek which can potentially incorporate a bike facility in a relatively cost efficient manner.

Committee members commented on how this proposed facility might be further developed with connections to Secor Park using Silica Road or Centennial Road. The Metroparks will continue to work with stakeholders on this proposal.

- c. Proposed U.S. Bicycle Routes in the Region

Christine Connell shared a first draft map of proposed routes for U.S numbered routes 25, 30, and 40A. The purpose of the map is to serve as a tool for meeting with affected jurisdictions to review the routes and make adjustments. Local resolutions of support will be sought. Advocates and the TMACOG ped-bike committee are encouraged to provide input as well. Once finalized, routes will be submitted to AASHTO for certification. Thereafter, routes may be altered as new facilities come on line.

Route 25 enters Ohio in Cincinnati and is planned to end in Detroit. Routes 30 and 40A follow east-west routes through the region. The routes make use of a variety of facility types and are part of a

larger initiative being advanced by ODOT to establish a statewide network of signed routes that will accommodate long distance cycling and will form a backbone for local connections. Committee members noted that Route 40 and Route 40A are so far apart in our region that for all practical purposes they would not be considered alternatives to each other. It was further noted that the "A" designation can be confusing to users. The question was raised as to whether or not there is a possibility to label 40 and 40A with different numbers.

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

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

Metroparks is finalizing their construction plan for the portion of the trail from River Road to the new Beverly School near Glanzman Road. Public involvement is possibly going to take place in September with construction beginning in early spring.

It may be that Alro Steel is more open to the possibility of seeing the active portion of the track near their facility abandoned. Discussion between Alro, the city, and UT is recommended to assess the situation.

##### **b. University/Parks Trail Development Update**

A field review of the fences along University Parks Trail was conducted on May 21 during which it was noted that a wide variety of situations have evolved along the edges of the trail and the fencing. For example, in some places people are dumping yard waste, while in other places it appears that people are meticulously maintaining the area around the fence including even planting ornamental shrubs on the trail side of the fence. Vegetation has grown around and on the fence in several locations and in many places the fence is falling into disrepair.

Metroparks maintains of the trail on behalf of the city and county and has been striving to make ad hoc repairs. As the cost of maintaining the aging fence begins to rise, a mutually agreeable plan to address the fence condition is needed.

A question was raised as to whether fencing in general will also become an item that the Chessie Circle Trail owners will need to address.

A side comment was made regarding a growing sink hole on the U/Parks trail and what plans there were to address it.

##### **c. Bike Month Update**

Lance Dasher thanked the bike month subcommittee for its work on organizing events and developing marketing for Bike Month 2015. There was great media coverage from all local TV stations. This committee may be reconvened to review options for revising and reprinting the Drive Your Bike brochure that was heavily distributed during bike month.

#### **5. Member Initiatives Roundtable**

- Pat Squire reported that for the first time in the 40 year history of the Portage River ride it had to be cancelled. The cause was flooding brought on by heavy rains.
- Emily Ziegler announced that the Side Cut Trail bid was awarded. The trail should be completed by the end of the 206 construction season.

- John Pristash updated the group on phase 2 of the Sylvania River Trail project. It should go to bid late summer with construction to begin in early spring of 2016. Phase 3 through the Lourdes property is still in discussion.
- Dave Zenk discussed the Middle Grounds Metropark project and highlighted plans to incorporate bike friendly improvements along Ottawa Street from the Middle Grounds site to Promenade Park. He also reported on plans to provide access to Wiregrass Lake on Eber Road near Frankfort Road in the Oak Openings corridor.
- Bethany Deakins noted that the TPS STRS team is awaiting work on their request for \$approximately \$397,000 for infrastructure improvements.
- Dick Currie commented on the trail portion of the planned Riverside Park project in Perrysburg. A COTF application has been submitted for this project and announcements are expected in October. He expressed the sentiment that east-west bike lanes in Perrysburg are lacking and added that new parking arrangement son Second street make it difficult to envision bike lanes there.
- Christine Connell announced that registration is available for a 2-day Designing for Pedestrian Safety Course to be held at TMACOG on September 28-29. The course is led by Ohio LTAP and is part of the FHWA-NHI curriculum. There is no registration fee, but there is a cap of 30 people. Interested parties should register as soon as possible. For registration information visit:  
[http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Planning/LocalPrograms/LTAP/FlyersJuly09/Designing\\_for\\_Pedestrian\\_Safety\\_-\\_NHI.pdf](http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Planning/LocalPrograms/LTAP/FlyersJuly09/Designing_for_Pedestrian_Safety_-_NHI.pdf)
- Terry Waltzer asked if TMACOG plans to issue a new bike facilities guide. Staff plans to produce a tool that area bicyclists can use to locate facilities in the region.
- Rodney Shultz noted that Oregon has plans for a facility from Seaman Road to Brown Road that will follow the utility easement east of Pearson Park. Oregon may construct the portion from Starr to Navarre in spring of 2016 and then on to Pickle Road where plans call for creating bike lanes.

#### **Upcoming Schedule:**

**Full Committee:** Quarterly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays:

2015: January 20, April 21, July 21, October 20

**Steering Committee:** Quarterly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays:

2015: February 17, May 19, August 18, Nov. 17