

Minutes

Pedestrian & Bikeways Steering Committee

July 18, 2017

8:00 a.m.

TMACOG Boardroom



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

Ed O'Reilly called the meeting to order.

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

Steve Atkinson moved that the minutes be approved, Terry Waltzer seconded the motion. All approved.

3. New Business

a. Safety Update

Staff provided information on statewide pedestrian fatality rates. Noteworthy details are that in 2016 there were 139 pedestrian fatalities and this is the highest annual total in 10 years. Also, nearly 40 of these fatalities involved hit-skip (driver fleeing the scene). Staff then presented a 4-year summary of pedestrian crashes for Lucas and Wood Counties broken out by fatalities, serious injuries, and property damage only. As with the statewide figures, pedestrian crashes are trending upward in recent years.

The committee discusses strategies that could reverse this trend and focused on education, policy and infrastructure solutions. A campaign to encourage people to stay in their vehicles if they break down or have an accident on the freeway could reduce this type of fatality. Continued emphasis on complete streets policy adoption at the local level could also help. Infrastructure solutions such as more sidewalks, especially on bridges, can help keep pedestrians out of motorized vehicle travel lanes.

The committee expressed an interest in reviewing the Lucas/Wood county data on a map and also to have this broken out by youth v. adult and proximity to schools. They also asked if the SPAM committee could report on hot spots and how these are being addressed.

b. Active Transportation Planning at the State and Local Level

TMACOG was successful in an Active Transportation grant application to purchase several more bike and pedestrian counters. Anyone interested in having counts done should contact staff.

TMACOG is involved with a Toledo-based Active Transportation Team including YMCA of Greater Toledo, Toledo Public Schools, the City of Toledo, and the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department—Creating Healthy Communities. This effort is coordinated with a statewide initiative led by The Ohio Departments of Health and Transportation and is part of Ohio's Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Key goals are to increase the safety of active transportation users (pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users); and to increase the number of people participating in active transportation.

c. Proposed Revisions to Ped-Bike Committee Operating Procedures

Staff presented revisions to operating procedures for discussion. Meeting frequency will be changed and the full and steering meetings will be consolidated into full committee meetings. It was recommended Article X of the draft be change to show that the committee meet bimonthly in odd numbered months. Pat Squire made a motion to approve the draft as amended. Steve Day

seconded. All approved. The draft will now go to transportation council for consideration. Members instructed staff to work to notify jurisdictions and members not present at today's meeting of the proposed changes. Effort to encourage representatives from jurisdictions and TMACOG's members should continue.

4. Old Business

a. Chessie Circle Trail Development Update

People are using the newly paved Metroparks section in what appears to be large numbers. Metroparks is working to present the final look for kiosk panel content and trail signage to the committee for its approval. The Maumee River Bridge removal may be delayed as details regarding the removal are still under review.

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

Just 1 of the 21 jurisdictions, Plain Township, has yet to approve a resolution. Of the 20 jurisdictions that have approved the resolution only Waterville Township has yet to provide a copy of its resolution. Staff will continue to work with these two jurisdictions and will provide a report on progress around the rest of the state when information becomes available.

c. Regional Bike Users Map Development

Comment boxes and paper maps have been distributed to all area bike shops. The bike shops are also helping to get the word out about the electronic version of the comment map. Christine will present the project to the Toledo Area Bicyclist club board and will promote it at the Court Streets Connect event. It will be promoted at events throughout bike month. All committee members are urged to provide comments and to help encourage others to do the same. Locations such as gyms, Y's, and libraries were suggested for collecting data. MS Bike to the Bay was also recommended.

d. Recap of Bike Month 2017

Many thanks to all who helped create and staff this year's events. Thanks to TARTS for offering a rider discount for a week for users who brought their bikes on the bus. There will be two ride locations in the region for the Ride of Silence and both had large turnouts.

5. Member Initiatives Roundtable

Chris Beaulieu provided an update on the next section of multi-use trail to be constructed along the Anthony Wayne Trail. A multi-use trail currently exists between Western Ave and South Ave. Next April this will be extended from Western to City Park Ave/Emerald Ave. This is part of a larger plan to add a multi-use trail between Maumee and Toledo along the Anthony Wayne Trail.

Steve Day added that resurfacing on the Anthony Wayne Trail from Glendale Ave to South Ave is a priority. The multi-use trail will continue from South Ave towards the zoo, change sides of the road at the zoo and continue on to Glendale. He emphasized how critical it is to acquire right-of-way as it becomes available and well ahead of anticipated construction. The complexities and cost of acquiring right-of way at the same time as construction can lead to delays.

Jenny Hansen noted that the Safe Routes program made a successful application to the Active Transportation program for \$250,000.

Steve Atkinson announced that TARTA is holding a series of open forums. The next one is Monday July 24 at 5:30 at Sanger Branch Library.

Terry Waltzer announced that Maumee Valley Adventurers bike club is looking for volunteers and riders for its upcoming Irish Hills tour on September 17. Go to

<http://www.mvadventurers.org/> for details on this ride and the Tombstone ride in October.

Dick Kudner updated the group on Perrysburg's desire to create an all new bike plan. He encouraged TMACOG staff and committee members to get involved with this initiative.

John Pristash updated the group on the Sylvania River Trail construction. The project will go to bid in September and a late fall ground-breaking is expected.

Mike Young asked for an update on the Toledo Bikeshare initiative. Emily Zeigler reported that ODOT is currently reviewing the right-of-way details.

Lance Dasher noted that right-of-way issue have delayed the bike share launch until next spring. A CMAQ funding round has generating some applications including one to create a connection to Swan Creek, and another to install a path in the Marina District near Front Street.

Ed O'Reilly noted that TMACOG is to explore negotiations to acquire the Clinton Secondary stretch of abandoned rail. This would have the effect of extending University Parks Trail and connecting to the Chessie Circle Trail He reiterated the importance of building and maintain pedestrian facilities on bridges because rivers and railroad tracks present significant barriers to pedestrians.

6. Events & Announcements

- a. International Trails Symposium in Dayton, May 7-10, 2017.
<http://www.americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium/2017>
- b. National Walking Summit in St. Paul, MN September 13-15, 2017: <http://walkingsummit.org/>

2017 Ped-Bike Meeting Schedules:

Pending approval of new operating procedures the new schedule for the remainder of the year will be September 19 and November 21. Check TMACOG webpage for most recent updates.

Chessie Circle Coordinating Committee: January 13, ~~March 10~~, May 12, June 16, ~~July 14~~, September 8, November 10