

# Minutes

## Pedestrian & Bikeways Full Committee

October 21, 2014

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 July Minutes

Michelle Grigore moved that the minutes be approved. Melissa Hallenbeck seconded the motion. All approved.

### 3. Old Business

#### a. 2045 Long Range Plan: Draft Regional Bike Network with cost estimates

Christine Connell reviewed the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan goal for personal mobility and the policies and initiatives developed by this committee to address that goal. She then recapped the process by which the network was developed. A review of the National AASHTO US Bike Route System, ODOT's primary bike route system, and regional trails was conducted. Input was received via public engagement meetings during the spring and personal meetings with officials from dozens of local jurisdictions during the summer. Stakeholders were asked to provide input about barriers and gaps on the network. Safety issues were also reviewed through an analysis of crash data. This led to a draft network which was posted on the TMACOG website on August 29. Comments were taken for 45 days before revising the draft network which is presented today and reposted on the TMACOG webpage. A table detailing the extents and estimated costs of the proposed network was also presented. Cost estimates will be refined over the next few months.

A suggestion was made to define the word "trail" on maps and other materials going forward to clear up confusion that use of the word trail might imply an off road facility. Trail is frequently used for a named facility that is comprised of more than one facility type. For example, the proposed Trilby-Washington Trail includes bike lanes, sidepath and path.

Suggestions were made regarding developing user maps as a next step and including nearby facilities that are outside the TMACOG transportation planning region.

Dick Kudner moved that the 2045 proposed network be approved and forwarded to the planning team. Michelle Grigore seconded the motion. All approved.

#### b. Chessie Circle Trail Development Update

Steve Day reported that the majority of attendees at the public meeting recently held by the city of Toledo were in favor of the facility. Concerns were expressed about upkeep of the corridor and about vegetation management, especially on fences that border parts of the trail. The city will soon install crushed gravel on the section from Bowman Park to Monroe Street as an interim step. Eventual plans call for pavement of this former rail corridor. This project will improve access for users, maintenance operations, and it will introduce the public to this new bikeway facility.

Additionally, the city of Toledo and University of Toledo are awaiting word on a Clean Ohio Trails Fund application that seeks to address connectivity issues at the Bancroft/Ottawa Park area. Some discussion ensued as to options to enhance connectivity in this area.

The trail stakeholders are working to secure Transportation Alternatives Program funds for paving the Metroparks-owned section from River Road to Glanzman Rd in 2016.

The final, approved development plan for the Chessie Circle Trail is posted at:

<http://tmacog.org/Transportation/ChessieCircle.htm>

#### 4. Member Initiatives Roundtable

- Ali Elatawy reported that the University of Toledo is continuing to develop a bike share program. They have purchased 15 bikes and are working to equip them with GPS systems that are enabled with UT student ID codes.
- Jenny Hanson updated the group on progress toward completing the Safe Routes to School travel plan for Toledo Public Schools. Her group recently held a Walk to School event and supported several Toledo Bikes! Fix It Events.
- John Pristash noted that Sylvania is working with Promedica to address details on the River Trail project.
- Ron Myers reported that the Sylvania-Metamora project to close a gap in the bikeway network is progressing. Also, Lucas County and Monclova Township are awaiting the outcome of a Clean Ohio Trails Fund application for N. Jerome Road to enhance connectivity to the Wabash Cannonball Trail.
- Pat Squire reminded members of the upcoming Tombstone Bike Tour organized the Maumee Valley Adventurers. During the winter, the group shifts to weekly walks --one of which will include the northern section of the Chessie Circle Trail.
- Mike Young informed the group that the Toledo Design Center is supporting bike facility development efforts such as those along Summit and Broadway Streets, and in the future Middlegrounds Park area. He made a suggestion to alter the route of the proposed Overland Trail to go through Woodlawn Cemetery. This drew questions regarding the ability to use such a route 24/7.
- Chris Beaulieu noted that there might be a change of scope to the NS railroad bridge project just south of City Park/Emerald Ave involving pedestrian and/or bike facilities on both sides. Currently the project will provide an additional 10 foot lane on the west side of the bridge deck which will be separated from the roadway by a concrete barrier.
- Dick Currie noted that the citizen Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in Perrysburg is advancing proposals to install bike lanes to fill gaps. He seeks advice and support from the TMACOG ped-bike committee members and also from bike groups in the region.
- Dick Kudner commented on the maps presented for the 2045 Long Range Plan and expressed the need to see how this network connects to other major facilities that are near the TMACOG transportation planning area. Items that could be represented on future maps are the Buckeye Trail corridor, the North Country Scenic Trail corridor, and others.

- Melissa Hallenbeck reported that Sylvania's SRTS grant will continue into 2015. Safe Kids of Greater Toledo recently completed a walk to school event and has made progress on a project to increase student safety patrols at schools in Lucas County. Safe Kids is applying to a Safe School Zone grant to offer a workshop and develop a pedestrian safety improvement plan that would encompass infrastructure improvements.
- Michelle Grigore reported that the half mile connector between the Slippery Elm Trail and Kenwood Avenue is open.
- Vicki Marsh asked where riders can find information about existing trails. Discussion ensued about providing a QR code to the TMACOG map posted on its website and distributing this code to area bike shops. Other useful information needed for the riding public is the location of restrooms and parking facilities.
- Howard Atkinson noted that when the Anthony Wayne Bridge reopens the expansion joints will be bike friendly. He raised two areas where bikeway signage could be improved: 1) directions at the eastern end of the Wabash Cannonball Trail to the south branch; and 2) on Holland-Sylvania at the intersection of the University Parks Trail it is technically impossible for bike to legally follow signal instructions because there is only a through arrow. An investigation of enforcement activity and other signage options at this intersection was suggested.
- Rodney Shultz expanded on the QR concept, adding it would be useful to use these along the trails themselves. He asked for examples of best practices and regional standards for wayfinding. Oregon is evaluating signage options to improve links from facilities to commercial and other destinations. Several resources were recommended including the Chessie Circle development plan, the Monon Trail in Indianapolis, and others.
- Lance Dasher announced that the signage project in the current TIP is being reviewed for deletion. He will have more details at the November steering committee meeting.

#### **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:

November 18, 2014

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