

Minutes

Pedestrian & Bikeways Full Committee

October 20, 2015

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
Fax 419.241.9116

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Ed O'Reilly called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of July Minutes

A revision was noted on item 3a to change the word minutes to resolution. John Pristash moved that the minutes with correction be approved. Richard Currie seconded the motion. All approved.

3. New Business

a. University/Parks Trail Maintenance Plan Development

The owners of the University Parks Trail, the City of Toledo and the Lucas County Board of Commissioners, have recognized the need for establishing a long term maintenance plan for the trail. This plan will serve as a tool to appropriately plan and budget for routine maintenance and will improve the ability to respond to non-routine maintenance needs that may arise. It will also offer guidance to the Metroparks which operates the trail on behalf of its owners. A working group has been established to develop a draft Trail Operations and Maintenance Plan. The group plans to produce a draft document for review and input in Spring of 2016 with a goal of implementing an approved plan by Fall of 2016.

b. Call for Subcommittee—Developing a New Regional Map Bike Users Map

A workgroup is requested to develop a new bikeways map for the region. TMACOG's most recent update of a user-friendly bike map was published in 2008-09 and is an 8 ½ by 11 inch 14 page booklet. This booklet entitled "Bicycle Facilities Guide for Recreational Riding" focused on recreational riding. The main map contained in the booklet included only existing facilities and a smaller map showed proposed facilities. This guide has been noted to be useful, especially in showing locations of off-road facilities. Its drawbacks are that it is not portable and does not help people understand where to ride (i.e. which streets are busiest, etc.).

A new Toledo Regional Bicycle User Map is intended to be a guide for bicycle users of all skill levels to assist them in selecting routes on the roadway system appropriate for their use. It is intended to be a resource to commuters as well as recreational riders. The new user map will cover the TMACOG Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) area. This includes Lucas and Wood counties in Ohio and the southern townships in Monroe County, Michigan. It is proposed that the new map will offer information to help bicyclists with varying degrees of skill know where to ride. This should include categorizing routes types by degree of difficulty of the route. Difficulty is anticipated to be based on bike level of service criteria such lane width, pavement conditions, speed (posted/effective), traffic volumes, and other attributes as feasible.

Howard Abts, Pat Squire, and Keith Webb volunteered to serve on this subcommittee. Others are welcome to join this group. It is expected to produce a new map by December of 2016. In the interim, an 11x17, two-sided user map will be produced and distributed. This is envisioned as a map that will fold down to smaller "brochure" size. Side one is to have current existing/committed

map (with fixit stations or other elements); side two is some subset of text based resources (i.e. safety tips, rules of the road, equipment & repair, etc. as will fit).

4. Old Business

a. Chessie Circle Trail Development Update

Ed O'Reilly shared trail design plans for crossing Bancroft Street. The City of Toledo has a road improvement project on Bancroft in 2017 and hopes to tie in improvements at that time. The location of utilities is complicating this crossing which is expected to be busy given its location along the University of Toledo campus.

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Chessie Circle Coordinating Committee has been moved from November 11 to December 11.

b. Proposed Bikeways-Update since 2045 Long Range Plan

Lance Dasher shared two updated maps that are now posted as resources on the [TMACOG Ped-Bike Webpage](#). Both maps are intended to show new projects proposed since the approval of the 2045 Long Range Plan. The map of Current Proposed Non-Motorized Projects by Facility Type includes all long range plan projects, committed projects, and existing facilities along with any newly proposed projects. A second map, Current Proposed Non-Motorized Projects by Project does not show the facility type, but instead shows detailed project descriptions. The two maps will be updated on an ongoing basis as committed projects become built (or change) and new projects are proposed.

c. Proposed U.S. Bicycle Routes in the Region—Update and Next Steps

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

5. Member Initiatives Roundtable

- Emily Ziegler noted that the Toledo region now has two new metroparks. Westwinds on Geiser Road (off Eber Road, just north of Airport Highway) which offers the region's first public static archery range. Fallen Timbers Battlefield metropark on Jerome Road in Maumee grand opening is set for October 26. The new park offers historical information stations along a 1.5-mile trail and is also near the trailhead of the Wabash-Cannonball Trail.
- Howard Abts noted that clear and accurate signage is an important priority.
- Dick Kudner asked about the fate of the old railroad bridge over the Maumee River. Owing to the importance of this bridge as part of the Chessie Circle Trail, long range plans call for a viable connection over the river. Plans call for replacing the bridge. A study is now underway to determine any historical significance of the bridge.
- Dick Currie attended a recent Perrysburg City Council meeting and showed the TMACOG 2045 Long Range Plan map for non-motorized projects He reported that several bike advocates were also in attendance and offered suggestions to improve walkability and bikability within Perrysburg.

- Keith Webb mentioned a promotion, “Ride Your Bike to the Symphony”. Riders can show their helmet at the box office to receive a discount of ticket prices for all remaining shows at any of their venues this season. See details on WeAreTraffic.org.
- Pat Squire noted that Maumee Valley Adventurers are shifting gears and will focus more on walking during the winter season.
- John Pristash updated the group on phase 2 of the Sylvania River Trail project. Construction will begin in Fall of 2016 and is expected to be complete by Fall of 2017. He noted that ProMedica made a \$400,000 donation for the trail. The trail extension will follow the north side of the Flower hospital campus, cross the Ottawa River, and go under U.S. 23. It will end on Monroe Street near the Dave White dealership.

Upcoming Schedule (please mark your calendars):

2015 Steering Committee: November 17

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