

# Minutes

## Pedestrian & Bikeways Committee

October 18, 2016

8:00 a.m.

TMACOG Boardroom



Toledo Metropolitan Area  
Council of Governments  
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### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Vice Chair Emily Ziegler called the meeting to order.

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

Mike Young moved that the minutes be approved, Ron Myers seconded the motion. All approved.

### 3. New Business

#### a. Metroparks Bike Share Proposal

Emily Ziegler presented the highlights of a Bike Share proposal spearheaded by Metroparks. The project includes about 100 bikes. The system doesn't use large bike-share style bike racks; instead each bike has a lock and GPS system. There are 17 hub areas planned for the downtown Toledo area. More could be added later. Several partners have committed to this initiative. TARTA has signed on to handle maintenance and repositioning, The Downtown Toledo Improvement District (DTID) will support TARTA's effort and provide marketing. The Toledo Mud Hens and ProMedica have committed to ongoing funding and Metroparks will provide a key role in getting the system established. TAP funds are being sought. Committee members had questions about how far one could ride the bikes out of the urban core, and what key destinations would be reachable.

#### b. Transportation Alternatives Program project award update

Lance Dasher presented a summary of the nine applications was distributed along with the list of the projects recommend for funding. There are some questions that need to be answered in order to determine what year the projects will happen. The next step will be to present the recommendations to the TIP committee. It was suggested that TMACOG do more outreach to get the word out about funding rounds in the future. It was also recommended that a bike map, distributed via bike shops, would help raise awareness among the general public about resources.

#### c. TMACOG Design Use Definitions: Time for an Update?

Christine offered a proposed update to the bicycle facility classification system currently used by agencies and jurisdictions in the region. This classification includes two new facility types; Separate Bike Lanes, and Shared Lanes- No Provisions. It also changes the names of some previous categories to try to make clearer what is included in each. There were no objections and new definitions will begin to be used on maps going forward.

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

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

The Chessie Circle Coordinating Committee met on September 9.

The portion of the trail owned by Metroparks from River Rd to Glanzman will be paved by May of 2017. A public open house will be held Wednesday, October 19 from 5-6:30 at Beverly Elementary school. The next section that has funding committed to it is from Bowman Park to University Hills Blvd in Toledo, and that section will be constructed in 2021.

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

ODOT has indicated a renewed focus on this and now hopes to have the project submitted to AASHTO for certification in spring of 2017. TMACOG has requested further guidance from ODOT on how the signage is to be handled (who pays for the initial signs) for this project because right now we don't have anything certain to tell the jurisdictions. Once ODOT provides guidance work on gathering resolutions from the affected jurisdictions will begin. In the meantime ODOT has altered the locally developed route slightly near Waterville to make use of the Blue Trail through Fallen Timbers Park, and then the Jerome Road side path in order to get to the Wabash trail. It was noted that the original route makes use of a 4-foot paved shoulder on Waterville-Neapolis and would also include going through the Blue Creek preserve and by a bike shop in Whitehouse before connecting to the Wabash. If possible the route should stick to the original plan, although either route is acceptable.

##### **c. University/Parks Trail Maintenance Plan Development**

A draft plan has been presented to the trail owners who will need to finalize a few details and determine whether they will form a coordinating committee.

##### **d. Regional Bike Users Map Development**

A new timeline for this will be developed in light of other projects that had higher priority. We are reviewing the approach but are still committed to both a print and online version of the map. It was noted that bike shops in the area are very eager to have a map to distribute to their customers and to help organize and grow the number of people in the region interested in bicycling.

##### **e. Ohio House Bill 154**

HB 154/SB 192 provides that when a motor vehicle passes a bicycle the safe passing distance to the left is three feet, and alters the protocol for proceeding into an intersection that has malfunctioning traffic lights. HB 154 passed the House in May by a convincing majority, and was referred to Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Labor Committee on September 28. The full Senate is not scheduled to meet until November 15. TMACOG staff will monitor this closely. All are encouraged to contact members of the senate committee and senate president to urge passage. The TMACOG resolution in support of passage has been forwarded to elected officials.

## 5. Member Initiatives Roundtable

- Steve Atkinson noted that bike racks on TARTA busses are being upgraded from 2 to 3 positions and that for busses with either full racks or no racks typically riders will be able to bring their bikes on board.
- Jenny Hansen reported that 8 schools and nearly 400 students participated in the fall walk/bike to school event. This is double the participation of last year. The event featured basic bike repairs, safety checks and helmet fittings at no cost to children and their families. In fact the fall program was so popular that the TPS SRTS program is now looking for grants & donations to replenish its helmet supply. They will be applying for a new ODOT SRTS infrastructure grant after the first of year. Right now the infrastructure subcommittee is reviewing the existing list, identifying any new projects, and prioritizing the list.
- Lance Dasher mentioned that a call for members for the Bike Month subcommittee will soon be made.
- Ron Myers discussed the particulars surrounding the decision to install a Bike May Use Full Lane sign on Monclova Road. Initially a separated path was to be installed by the Fallen Timbers developer. However, it has recently come to light that the developer was relieved of this commitment. Since there is no funding currently available to do a path in this location the BMUFL signage is appropriate. On other projects, Ron reported that the Monclova Township side path is completed. The Sylvania-Metamora road bike project is slated for construction in 2017. The McCord Road underpass will open on 10/31. There will be an educational campaign regarding proper use of the roundabout for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. Ron reminded the committee that experienced bicyclists should take the lane through a roundabout; others should dismount and use the sidewalk as pedestrians. A review of options to create a connection between the Wabash North Fork and Monclova Elementary is underway.
- Terry Waltzer announced the final tour of the year for the Maumee Valley Adventurers, the Tombstone Ride, is this weekend. It is a family oriented 38 mile ride.
- Mike Young shared a best practice used in Europe for exiting a vehicle called the Dutch Reach. By reaching across your body with your right hand to open the car door, you are in a better position to turn and look, especially for passing bicyclists. This kind of simple behavior change can lead to improved safety. He noted that this might be a useful message during the 2017 bike month.
- Steve Day reported that the side path on Arlington between Byrne and Detroit is complete. Also complete is a portion of the Anthony Wayne Trail side path between South and Western. The city is trying to do as many projects as they can as road projects arise which means that facilities are being installed piecemeal. This incremental approach can cause frustration for the general public, reinforcing the notion that Ped-bike committee members should try to attend public meetings and open houses on bicycle projects whenever possible. The complete streets policy is also very helpful in getting these projects in place.
- Tony Maziarz noted that the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department is working on a bike rack project through a Creating Healthy Communities project.
- Amy Abodeela added that bike racks were installed at the Believe Center in south Toledo, the health department office, and the Corner Store in east Toledo. They are planning more fix-it events in underserved communities and seek committee member suggestions on ways to grow and fund these activities and facilities.

- Jim Izbiski would like to be involved in activities that offer more education for the general public and wants to see more organized rides of different types to build awareness about bicycling.
- Jordan Justice is interested in getting involved in outreach to the bicycling community. Next April he is interesting in leading a local “30 Days of Biking” group.
- Dick Currie shared that the Perrysburg slow rollers group is going well. He has a strong interest in working with Perrysburg leaders to develop a formal bike plan for the city.
- Dick Kudner reminded everyone that the North County Trail, which extends from the Dakotas to Vermont, passes through our region and makes use of a portion of the Wabash Cannonball Trail.
- John Pristash that the grants are now in place for the proposed addition of the Sylvania River trail. The last few details are being worked out.
- Emily Zeigler announced a Middlegrounds Friday Get Fit program which involves a walk around the park during lunch hour. The single track trail at Oak Openings is developing. Volunteers have helped to construct 5 miles of the trail so far. They hope to have part of the trail open by next spring and are looking for more volunteers. The application to the GE Healthy Cities grant program was successful. Phase 1 includes a 1 year mentorship program and a \$25,000 award. The goal of the project is to implement the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Downtown plan.

**2016 Schedule: Steering Committee: November 15**

**2017 Ped-Bike Meeting Schedules:**

**Full Ped-Bike Committee** (Quarterly on 3rd Tuesdays): January 17, April 18, July 18, October 17

**Steering Ped-Bike Committee** (Quarterly on 3rd Tuesdays): February 21, May 16, August 15, November 21

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