

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Fox Cities and Oshkosh Urbanized Areas Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Steering Committee

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
1:00 p.m. – Elisha D. Smith Public Library, Menasha, WI
Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Committee Members Present

Kurt Eggebrecht.....City of Appleton, Health Department
Bill Lecker City of Appleton, Parks and Recreation Department
Benjamin Krumenauer City of Oshkosh, Community Development Department
Mike KadingTown of Menasha, Parks and Recreation Department
Tom Walsh.....Fox Cities Greenways
Matt Halada.....Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Northeast Region

Staff Members Present

Melissa Kraemer Badtke ECWRPC
Mike Patza ECWRPC
Dave Kress ECWRPC

1. Introductions, Statement of compliance with Wis. Stats. Ch. 19, Subchapter V, Sec. 19.84 regarding Open Meetings

Ms. Kraemer Badtke began introductions and stated that the meeting was in compliance with Wis. Stats. Ch. 19, Subchapter V, Sec. 19.84 regarding Open Meetings.

2. Review and Action on the Summary of Proceedings from May 28, 2014

A motion was made by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Lecker to approve the May 28, 2014 summary of proceedings. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion on Feedback and Comments Received on Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Kraemer Badtke provided the group with a handout documenting all of the comments received at the recent public information meetings. The two meetings, held in late July, received some media coverage and were well attended. She highlighted key points from the public input, including an interest in facilities along these corridors: STH 47 between Appleton and Menasha, STH 21 and Washburn Street on the west side of Oshkosh, and CTH II / Winchester Road. Public feedback also identified a need for more bike parking and cyclist education. Mr. Lecker mentioned that the City of Appleton is interested in converting rail trestles to trails near the Fox River. Mr. Eggebrecht suggested working with local police departments on positive reinforcement activities, such as ice cream tickets for wearing a helmet. Mr. Walsh added that he would like to include roundabout education for cyclists. Mr. Halada mentioned that the Outagamie County Greenways group is considering buying a trail counter. Mr. Krumenauer added that the City of Oshkosh is also interested in data collection, as the information can help garner support for future projects. Mr. Walsh pointed out that gathering quantifiable data could be an emphasis for 2015. Mr. Krumenauer added that coordination with towns is also something that needs to be addressed, as many key corridors travel through areas where municipal boundaries are scattered.

4. Discussion Regarding Comments on the Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Kraemer Badtke asked if the group had any other comments that were not already covered during the previous agenda item. Mr. Eggebrecht suggested tapping into the Weight of the Fox Valley initiative as another possible source for data.

5. Discussion on Implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Kraemer Badtke explained that staff would like the Committee to identify potential implementation actions for the remainder of 2014 and 2015. Examples include high-priority corridors to examine further, as well as short-term non-infrastructure projects. Mr. Walsh asked about ECWRPC's role in implementation and stated that representatives from Weight of the Fox Valley and Activate Fox Cities could also be involved. Mr. Kress asked Committee members whether they would like to remain engaged in implementation, and the group was receptive to that idea. Mr. Walsh suggested that a corridor from Oshkosh to Appleton – along CTH A, Commercial Street, through central Menasha, and STH 47 – should be a high priority. Mr. Krumenauer recommended breaking this corridor into sections to make it more manageable. Ms. Kraemer Badtke asked if W. College Avenue, near the Outagamie County Regional Airport and Fox River Mall, would be a good candidate corridor as well. Mr. Lecker stressed the importance of getting other municipalities, especially those not typically engaged in bicycle and pedestrian planning, to the table. Mr. Eggebrecht mentioned that getting major employers on board could help move projects forward. Mr. Halada added that large institutions, such as UW-Oshkosh and Lawrence University, should also be involved. Ms. Kraemer Badtke asked for thoughts on non-infrastructure priorities. Mr. Krumenauer reiterated that counts are important to justify future projects. Mr. Walsh suggested a focus on bicycle and pedestrian education. Mr. Eggebrecht added that local police departments should be proactively involved. Mr. Lecker recommended that consistent resources be produced, such as maps and web-based applications. Mr. Eggebrecht described a bike tool station in Wausau, which could be replicated in the Fox Cities and Oshkosh.

6. Discussion and Potential Approval of Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Kraemer Badtke explained that approval of the plan will be put on hold until the next meeting, so staff can incorporate public comments and additional feedback from the Committee.

7. Update on Ongoing/Upcoming Bicycle and Pedestrian Events and Programs

Mr. Patza mentioned that he and Mr. Walsh will be leading bicycle safety lessons for refugees new to the Fox Cities in the coming weeks. Mr. Kress added that a City of Oshkosh Riverfront Visioning Workshop will be held on August 20th.

8. Next Meeting Date

Ms. Kraemer Badtke will send Committee members a link to a Doodle schedule. This will be used to determine availability and select a date to meet in September.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Halada and seconded by Mr. Lecker to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.