

Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2012

1. Call to order – The meeting was brought to order at 7:12pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue. Committee members present were Kevin Hill, Bob Krzewinski and Richard Murphy.
2. Introductions
 - a. Audience participation – Ian Klepetar of Bicycle Benefits (www.bicyclebenefits.org) attended the meeting giving a description of the service he set up where a cyclist pays \$5 for a Bicycle Benefits sticker (mainly for their helmet) and then can get discounts from program cooperating businesses. In Ypsilanti, Bicycle Benefits offers discounts so far at B-24s Café, Beezys, Café Ollie, Corner Brewery, Dos Hermanos, Harvest Kitchen, Ypsi Cycle and the Ypsilanti Food Coop.
3. General business
 - a. Agenda approval – A motion was made by Richard Murphy, seconded by Bob Krzewinski, to accept the agenda, with no objections.
 - b. Approval of September meeting minutes – A motion was made by Richard Murphy, seconded by Bob Krzewinski, to approve the September minutes, with no objections.
 - c. Committee communications received – None.
4. Old business
 - a. Complete Streets improvements update - City Planning Department will be checking on the status of bicycle symbol signs to be added below/above “Share The Road” signs placed around the City earlier in the year.
 - b. Downtown bike routes-signage-maps – No new updates.
 - c. Additional bike parking hoop locations – Kevin Hill indicated that a Downtown Development Association (DDA) survey map of existing bicycle parking hoop locations was complete. Kevin indicated that a letter to the DDA from the Committee should be sent indicating where additional bike parking hoops should be located so these can be included for possible DDA funding in a larger streetscape improvement project. Bob Krzewinski will send such a letter on behalf of the Committee.
 - d. City Non-Motorized web page – No new updates.
 - e. 2012 Non-Motorized Committee Priorities
 - Eastern Michigan University information table – Bob Krzewinski set up a bicycling/walking information table at EMU on September 21st in the Student Center.
 - Fall/Winter non-motorized input session – People will be encouraged to attend the November Committee meeting to give public input on desired non-motorized improvements or problems. This will be the first item on the November meeting agenda.
 - Library bicycling/walking section additions – Bob Krzewinski talked with downtown Ypsilanti Library branch manager Joy Cichewicz who indicated the downtown library would be more than happy to expand its bicycling/walking book library. Bob will do a rough inventory of what books are presently available and then make recommendations to the library for additional biking/walking books (including children’s books) and also urge that individuals buy recommended books and make a tax-free deduction to the library.
 - Library bicycling/walking programs – The Committee, along with Bike Ypsi, will give a cold-weather bicycling talk at the downtown Library on Saturday, November 10th at 2pm.
 - Bike Friendly Community application – No new updates.
 - f. MDOT Michigan Avenue HAWK crossing survey – A survey of people walking from the stairs from Riverside Park at Michigan Avenue, crossing the road and then into Water Street, was done by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in September. Results of the survey will be used by MDOT for a potential Border To Border Trail HAWK (High-intensity Activated crosswalk) street crossing signal at the east end of the Michigan Avenue bridge across the Huron River.
 - g. Green painted bike lanes – Locations were discussed for a potential green-painted bike lane with a possible location being College Place on the campus of Eastern Michigan University. Bob Krzewinski will research the lanes further.
 - h. Cross Street construction completion event – Bob Krzewinski will check with Stan Kirton of the Public Services Department on a possible “grand opening” of West Cross Street (west of the Water Tower) which would allow walking and bicycling on the reconstructed street before it is opened to traffic.
 - i. Forest Avenue Bike Lane – Forest, between Prospect and River Street, still has a very low usage of cars using parking spots, space that could be used for bicycle lanes to fill a gap of lanes on Forest (Forest has bike lanes east of Prospect and west of River). Bob Krzewinski will work with the City Planning Department over the winter on possible bike lane additions to this section.
 - j. City Road Diets – The City Planning Department is continuing to work with MDOT on possible “road diets” to Huron and Hamilton Streets, eliminating a traffic lane in sections and replacing that lane with vehicle parking and/or bike lanes. The Department will keep the Committee apprised of action on this issue.
 - k. Cross Street Bike Lane – A discussion was held on possibly making the current Cross Street bike lane into a two-way bike lane.
5. New Business

- a. Planning Department update – Bob Krzewinski talked with Teresa Gillotti of the Planning Department today with items discussed included in the meeting agenda/minutes.
 - b. Grove Road reconstruction – Richard Murphy gave an overview of plans to reconstruct Grove Road south of I-94 which will include non-motorized improvements. Bob Krzewinski will contact Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission staff on possible Border To Border Trail improvements in conjunction with Grove Road work.
 - c. Committee re-appointments – Currently all Committee members terms of office expire in January 2013. Kevin Hill, Bob Krzewinski and Richard Murphy all indicated at the meeting they would be willing to serve again. Bob Krzewinski will coordinate appointments/re-appointments with the Planning Commission so that half of the appointees in January 3013 will serve for one year with another half serving for two years. This staggering will insure that unlike the situation at hand now, all Committee members terms will not expire all on the same date.
 - d. Bicycle Rentals – Setting up a bike rental service in the City. Possible ideas floated was working with EMU, encouraging Ypsilanti Cycle set up a rental program or working with the downtown Library. Bob Krzewinski will contact Ypsilanti Cycle on this issue.
 - e. Halloween – Kevin Hill invited the Committee to have a table at the downtown Halloween fair on October 26th. Bob Krzewinski will coordinate this.
6. Other Items – None.
 7. Adjournment – A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Kevin Hill, seconded by Richard Murphy, with no objects. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.