



**Citizen Advisory Committee
March 30, 2010
5:45 – 8:00 p.m.**

**The Heights
8001 Dale Ave.
Richmond Heights, MO 63117**

Meeting purposes:

1. Meet each other and the project team;
2. Provide an overview of the BMP planning process, timeline and the role of the CAC; and
3. Brainstorm ideas about goals of the BMP.

Attendance

Members

Shana Albright
Nancy Battersby
John Cameron
Stephanie Co
Gary Crews
John D'Agostino
David Fiedler
Joseph Gallo
David Gipson
Peter Hovey
Christopher Ludwig
Rob Mosbey
Robert Maltby
Benjamin M. Niesen
Gerry Noll
Wes Ridgeway
Shelley Smith
Cary Steinmetz
Seth Teel
Joe Torrisi
Sarah Turner
Romona Taylor Williams
Jeremy Wofmeyer
Sarah Worthington

Project Sponsor and Core Partners Staff:

Susan Trautman, Executive Director, Great Rivers Greenway
Todd Antoine, Deputy Director for Planning, Great Rivers Greenway
Lonny Boring, Project Manager, Great Rivers Greenway
Carey Bundy, Project Manager, Great Rivers Greenway
Laura Ellen, Missouri Department of Transportation
Patrick Owens, Project Manager, Great Rivers Greenway
Jennifer Allen, Trailnet

Project Team:

Paul Wojciechowski, Project Manager, CH2MHill
Beth Quindry, Public Engagement, Shockey Consulting
Julie Padberg-White, Public Engagement, FPA Group

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Susan Trautman, Executive Director for Great Rivers Greenway, Todd Antoine, Assistant Director for Planning, Great Rivers Greenway and Paul Wojciechowski, BMP Project Manager/CH2MHill introduced themselves and thanked the group for coming.

CAC Member Self Introductions

CAC members introduced themselves providing their name, the type of riding they do and one thing they hope to come out of the BMP planning process.

The Committee is a diverse group of individuals from across the St. Louis metropolitan area who do all types of riding – some commute, some ride for exercise, some ride as recreation to/from destinations, some ride for recreation as a way to explore the urban environment, some bike with kids. A few have experience planning and implementing bicycle facilities for municipalities.

CAC members commented on what they would like to come out of the process. Several comments were made multiple times as indicated with an asterisk below: more bike paths, more connected paths and more people on bikes.

- More bike paths/more connected paths***
- More people on bikes***
- Safer Routes
- More bike lanes
- More bike lanes in St. Charles
- Bicycling promoted more
- More connections to trails
- Connecting to public transit
- More youth riding
- More people comfortable with riding on the road
- Safe conditions for kids
- Significant education campaign*
- Safer intersections and busy streets
- Employers with policies that encourage cycling
- Mind shift away from exclusively cars on the road to accommodating bikes as well

- Make sure this is a regional plan – connecting destinations throughout the region
- More trails [This suggestion sparked a comment: the BMP will be a plan for on-road cycling facilities so more trails will not be an outcome – related issues that could be included would be connecting trails to on-road facilities].
- More livable community.

Bicycle Master Plan Overview Presentation

Paul Wojciechowski presented information on the Bicycle Master Plan. The presentation provided background on bicycle planning in St. Louis, how the BMP effort is structured and how it will move cycling forward, and the roles of the Citizen Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee in the process.

Group Activity: Goals of the BMP

Beth Quindry explained the activity. CAC members were assigned to small groups in order to mix types of riders and geographical representation. Each group discussed four questions. Answers are summarized below. Asterisks indicate repeat mentions. Following individual discussions, the group got back together and one group reported out for each question.

Question 1: What type of bicycle facilities are you most comfortable riding today and why?

Types of facilities

Shared lanes***

Bike lanes***

Shared use paths ***

Low traffic roads**

Most roads unless very high traffic**

Trails**

Anything is fine***

Roadway with nothing on it (this individual is used to sharing the road with motorists on facilities without road markings for cyclists)

Issues/Why are certain facilities better than others?

Not comfortable on:

Bridges/low shoulder on bridges

Dedicated bike lanes where there are a lot of pedestrians

High traffic roads**

Rural roads with narrow shoulder

Comments

Cyclists have a right to the full lane.

Motorists lack sensitivity for bikes.

Question 2: Name three goals for the Master Plan.

- Connectivity****
- Safety****

- Education of motorists/bicyclists/public officials***
- Eliminating or improving accessibility issues for bikes around barriers like intersections, rivers, highways**
- Raise the profile of bike culture*
- More facilities like bike racks, lockers, etc. – at schools, shopping centers, etc.*
- Education for businesses/Employer support (showers/racks/etc)*
- More education/coordination with public works departments for all aspects (planning, construction, maintenance)*
- Transformation in mindset/cultural shift → biking is a legitimate mode of transit and roads are not only for cars*
- More opportunities for scenic, interesting rides/bike tours of architectural/historical sites*
- Promote biking as a fitness option, especially for kids*
- Improved signage*
- More people on bikes*
- Measurable group (75%) could get to where they need (places of interest i.e., restaurants, grocery stores, etc) by bike within 2 miles of home
- Connecting on and off road facilities
- Better connections to transit
- Greater buy-in from municipalities in planning and development
- Inclusivity in the process especially in low income areas
- Reporting on incidents

Question 3: Name three outcomes you would like to see in your community as a result of the master plan.

- See more riders/increase bike traffic****
- Additional routes – bike lanes, signs****
- Fewer accidents*
- Shift in mindset (be green – more like a city such as Seattle)*
- More bike racks*
- More events/programming/activities*
- Policy changes: detours during construction projects, cyclists using drive-thrus*
- Convenient places to pick up emergency supplies/vending machines with bike supplies near Metro stops*
- Mandatory bike education/safety in schools*
- Within 5 years, see a measurable change in communities/areas that have moved to minimal auto use
- Be able to ride to a trail v. driving your car to a trail
- Changing perceptions: short commutes by bike are easy
- More acceptance of cyclists
- Fill gaps in greenway trails
- More off-road paths
- Integration of different modes of transportation/education about the opportunities

Location specific suggestions

- More trails in South County near Jefferson Barracks
- Bike lanes on narrow roads like St. Paul in Wildwood

Question 4: What would you like to gain from being part of the CAC?

- Meet other cyclists and exchange information**
- Being part of a transformation that is visible – help create change*
- Foster the idea of healthy, active and livable communities*
- Learn more about technical aspects of developing bike facilities: bike lanes, design elements, etc.*

- Education on all sides, particularly decision makers – elected officials, staff building projects, etc*
- Make cycling safer for kids
- Input is effective and see the plan develop
- Foster a better understanding of the benefits cycling has to offer the region – reduced congestion, improved health
- Leaders in the region take a better view of alternative forms of transportation and livable communities
- Learn about existing trail systems
- Find interesting places to ride
- Assist with integrating interests of all user types
- Chance to have input and be “in the know” on what’s going to happen

Question 5: Other comments.

Note: if comments recorded for this question matched responses for Questions 1-4, they were combined with like responses.

- Enforcement. Will we become more focused on that as time goes on?
- Push for support of Complete Streets.
- Focus on one community – try pilot project to show what could be done.
- Political connection – lobbying/advocating for the Plan

Wrap Up and Next Meeting

Paul Wojciechowski thanked the group for coming. The next meeting was said to be tentatively set for Thursday, May 6th at the Heights.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.