

Minutes-Final
TCBA Advocacy Committee
Sept. 12, 2018 Meeting
League of Michigan Bicyclists, 410 S. Cedar St. Suite A, Lansing, MI
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Attending: Mike Unsworth, Jeanne Wright, Lenny Provencher; Dan Stockwell; Tim Potter; Art Slabosky; Dale Freeman, Steve Leiby

Guest: Dave Goodman

- I. Call to Order at 6:30 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda --done
- III. Old Business:
 - A. Safe Intersection Infrastructure at MSU:
 1. Mike sent an e-mail to Stephanie O'Donnell, MSU Police's transportation engineer, on Sept. 5, but have received no reply
 2. Tim reported that work on a traffic signals upgrade at Harrison Road and Kalamazoo Street (same intersection where Dr. Kobe crashed) uncovered a sinkhole. MSU's treatment of this situation has created an unsafe condition for pedestrians. Mike will add this example in his e-mail to MSU.
 - B. Advocacy Budget:
 1. Ride of Silence:
 - a. \$200
 - b. Mike will ask Diana Tweede and Carole Prahinski if either of them would want to chair the planning.
 2. Bike Films Screening:
 - a. \$750.
 - b. Kevin will be spearheading the effort and try to line up sponsors.
 - c. It will be held in February or March
 3. Bike Repair Sessions:
 - a. Mike will ask the City Rescue Mission if we can make it a year-round activity.
 - b. \$350 (\$60 for lease of spaces in the old Clara's parking; \$250 for parts). Jeanne will check with Scooter's Holt Pro Cyclery to see if we can get wholesale prices for parts
 4. Bike Happy Hour—The Committee thought that the money should come from the TCBA main budget. The cost would be about \$400.
 - C. Business I-69 (Saginaw Street) Corridor in Meridian & Bath Townships

1. Newton Road will have bike/ped access through the median; Towner will not
 2. MDOT has not responded to our request that it consider the “North Carolina example” for the Marsh/Saginaw intersection. Mike will follow-up.
- D. Road construction signs blocking pedestrians and cyclists on sidewalks and bike lanes:
1. Mike has sent out an e-mail to MDOT to a situation on M43 in Meridian Township.
 2. He will contact East Lansing, MSU, and the Ingham County Road Department in the next few days.
 3. Art will try to get Chris Cook give a version of his presentation on intersections at a future meeting.
- E. Coleman Road extension between Wood and West Roads—
1. Based on Dan and Tom’s sighting of heavy machinery on this stretch of two-track, Mike did a reconnaissance on Labor Day weekend.
 2. As was demonstrated in the photos, there is no road construction activity. The activity Dan & Tom saw was likely the everyday movements of Sanches Construction and the cement plant.
- F. Harrison Road’s new bike lanes south of Lake Lansing—Dave will ask East Lansing for its policy on loading & unloading on city streets, bike lanes, and sidewalks. He will also ask about how well a policy is enforced.
- G. 2018 Survey of Political Candidates:
1. Mike is finalizing the Excel spread sheet from which the survey will be sent. On September 13, the Clinton County Clerk provided the candidate e-mails that it did not post on its web site. The survey should be distributed by the end of the month.
 2. The final list of questions is in Appendix 1.
 3. We discussed having a question about changing the “85th Percentile Speed” method (See: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref_mats/fhwas12004/ “Engineering Approach” section) and determined that it was too complex for a survey question.
- H. Bike Safety Projects/Billboards—
1. As of a couple days ago, our “5-Foot” poster was still up on Cedar but no longer on MLK
 2. Phil spoke with Adams Outdoor Advertising. They can post the Jill Byelich graphic for \$500 in two locations for a month.

3. The Committee recommends that TCBA do the Byelich graphic next spring when drivers are more in need of being reminded about bicyclists. It also thinks that Advocacy could contribute a portion of the cost if the TCBA Board doesn't want to pay the full amount.

IV. New Business—MSU Developments

1. The Farm Lane bridge over the Red Cedar River will be re-built in 2020. This will be part of a general project that will upgrade Farm Lane from Auditorium to Wilson Roads. The result will be adequate bike lanes through the entire length of this major north-south corridor.
2. MSU will be upgrading the south bank of the River Trail between Farm Lane and Bogue Street. A widened bike pathway is included.
3. Special moped parking appears to have eased congestion at campus bike racks.

V. Meetings Updates:

A. Moving Mid-Michigan (www.movingmidmichigan.org) Public Forums

1. “The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will produce “The Greater Lansing region's 25-year outlook on the specific transportation needs in our area.” It is required by the Federal government for area governments to receive federal assistance for infrastructure projects.
2. An introductory MDOT PowerPoint included slides that showed Newton Road (NMT access through the median) and Towner Road (no access through the median)
3. There were several needs and goal-setting exercises. Stay tuned

B. MSU Mobility Plan:

1. President Simon requested a plan that would cover the technological, social and cultural aspects of getting around campus.
2. It appears that the current Board of Trustees has not “bought in” to the initial draft.
3. Most of the presentations focused on Autonomous Vehicle research performed by various academic groups. There was also the usual talk of “breaking down silos” between campus units
4. The concept of the MSU campus being used as a “real world test ground” for technological developments:
 - a. The now vacated buildings at Spartan Village could be a temporary test area until the buildings are demolished
 - b. Designating the entire campus as a test ground since it contains conditions ranging from rural (campus farms) on the south to

high urban density on the north. It may make MSU competitive in getting outside funding.

- C. CATA Bike Share Feasibility Study Steering Committee Meeting (attended by Mike on site; Tim via a creaky phone conferencing app):
1. Conducted by the Toole Design Group (<http://www.tooledesign.com/>) for CATA.
 2. Goal: “The [overall] Plan will help CATA and partnering organizations understand the region and its communities’ optimal model for bike share and will develop a road map towards implementation...’
 - “The next step in the region’s development as a bicycling community
 - “Cost-effective way to get more people riding”
 3. Timetable: Started in August, with a Final Report completed by January 2019. There will be several meetings with efforts to engage all levels of stakeholders
 4. Participating Organizations:
 - a. Attending: MSU (4), CATA, McLaren, Sparrow, City of Lansing (Andy Kilpatrick), Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau, Delhi and Meridian Township Parks directors, City of East Lansing, Associated Students of MSU, LMB, and TCBA
 - b. Not at meeting: TCRPC (Laura Tschirhart), Ingham County Parks millage coordinator (Melissa Buzzard)
 5. There were breakout sessions on goals, potential users, and technology selection
 6. The group decided to continue with this feasibility study while monitoring commercial introduction of scooter/bike share operations
 7. There was some discussion of Bird (www.bird.co) electric scooters & Lime (www.li.me) electric scooters and bikes. Two unanswered questions: Is this a fad? Are scooters cut the demand for bike share?
- VI. Announcement—Due to physical condition and family commitments, Mike will step down from the post of Advocacy Committee chairman in January 2019. He will create a list of Committee activities.
- VII. Next Meeting: October 10

APPENDIX 1

2018 Questions for Local Candidates

- When streets and roads are being rebuilt, will you support the inclusion of accommodations for non-motorized users (Complete Streets), even though this means some added costs?
- Will you support better education about non-motorized use of streets and roads for motorists and law enforcement officers?
- Will you support building trails and pathways for non-motorized users?
- The State Legislature recently passed a law that requires motorists to give bicyclists a minimum of three feet when passing. While this new law is a significant accomplishment, traffic experts argue that a five-foot minimum provides increased protections. Do you support amending the statewide standard to five-foot? Do you support local five-foot safe passing ordinances?
- Are there any comments you would like to add about topics related bicycling?