

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

January 9, 2014, 5:30pm

INCOG Large Conference Room, 2 W 2nd St, Ste 800, Tulsa, OK

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, INCOG Large Conference Room

1. Roll Call

Quorum present

Members: Jane Ziegler, Joani Dotson, Matt Liechti, JD Walker, Mike Wozniak, Stephen Lassiter, Nathan Leigh, Officer Craig Murray, Anne Domin, Mike Schooling

Guests: James Wagner (INCOG), Ray Pearcey (Tulsa Voice/Oklahoma Eagle), Jonathan Harris

2. Approve December meeting minutes

3. Overview of BPAC members

Jane shared a document listing all of the current members of the BPAC for review.

Stephen Lassiter indicated that John May was no longer participating.

Group agreed to have list of members with email addresses distributed to BPAC membership.

Group agreed to have members listed on the INCOG BPAC web page, along with a contact email address for inquiries (Kasey St.John's email address will be used).

A link to the "918BPAC" MailChimp group will be placed on the INCOG BPAC web page so that interested parties can "subscribe" to BPAC communications.

Mike Schooling will work with Kasey St.John to affect these changes to the INCOG site.

4. 2014 BPAC Goals

Jane briefly reviewed the goals presented to the Tulsa City Council on 12/6/2012 and discussed progress made and opportunities to continue efforts toward achieving these goals. The final recommendations can be viewed at http://www.incog.org/Transportation/BPAC/BPAC_Council_Recs_FINAL_120612.pdf

Goal 1 Receive silver bicycle-friendly status from the League of American Bicyclists and bronze status from Walk Friendly Communities by the end of 2017.

Progress noted:

Tulsa's Bronze status was re-confirmed through 2017 in response to the recent re-application by INCOG on behalf of the City of Tulsa. James shared that the League's president, Andy Clarke, will be in Tulsa on Friday, January 17th, and will participate in a van tour of Tulsa where he will offer input regarding the League's re-approval at the Bronze status and what can be done to improve conditions prior to the 2017 application cycle. Following the tour, a round-table discussion will be conducted in the large conference room at INCOG's offices where Andy will share thoughts and answer questions for BPAC members, members of the Bike/Ped Master Plan Steering Committee, and representatives from the consulting firm that will be preparing the plan.

James Wagner shared information about the Walk Friendly Community designation. This is a program of the US Dept of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, managed by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center in Raleigh, NC (<http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/>). James indicated that the application process requires a good deal of data collection. He will renew his familiarity with the program and provide information to the BPAC in the near future.

Goal 2 Achieve a 50% reduction in preventable fatal and injury crash rates for pedestrians and bicyclists by year end of 2017.

Progress noted:

No concrete efforts in 2013, but discussion of participation in a Vision Zero program for Tulsa later in the meeting will directly address this item. Officer Murray noted that Tulsa had 13 pedestrian deaths in 2013; the largest number in at least the last five years. He has been approached by Councilors Cue and Steele about working with Cox Cable in 2014 to produce a public service announcement regarding pedestrian safety to air on Cox stations.

Goal 3 Triple Tulsa's bicycle commuter mode share by the end of 2017 and achieve a 10-fold increase by the end of 2022. Raise Tulsa's walking commuter mode share to 3% by end of 2017 and 4% by 2022.

Progress noted:

Efforts to boost participation in public meetings addressing the Improve Our Tulsa initiative played an important role in the allocation of over 4 million dollars for implementation of recommendations resulting from the current Bike/Ped Master Plan efforts.

Goal 4 Dedicate a minimum of 7% of transportation funding to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, beginning with the next funding package and annual budget.

Progress noted:

Guesstimates of those present suggested that the 4+ million in the Improve Our Tulsa program for biking and walking likely represent near this percentage of transportation funding.

Goal 5 Develop and begin implementation of public education campaigns designed specifically for the general public and for law enforcement officers by 2014 and a campaign for Tulsa area public school students reaching 75 percent of schools by end of the 2014-2015 school year.

Progress noted:

No concrete results noted, though goals for 2014 discussed later in the meeting included efforts to produce in-service training materials for local law enforcement and increased participation by Tulsa Public Schools in BPAC efforts.

Jane asked each of the subcommittee chairs to share a brief outline of their thoughts on goals for 2014.

A. Enforcement/Policy Subcommittee

Mike Schooling expressed the desire to work with Officer Murray and others at the Tulsa Police Department to produce materials for use in communicating a common understanding of Tulsa's bicycling related ordinances and Oklahoma bicycling statutes throughout the force through printed materials or, perhaps, a brief video production.

Mike also indicated that the BPAC's ordinance change recommendations were still being pursued, though opposed by the City Prosecutor's office. He expressed an interest in contacting sympathetic legislators and the Attorney General's office in Oklahoma City to further our efforts to directly recognize cyclist's road rights.

B. Encouragement subcommittee

Mike Wozniak indicated that he will be seeking active participation by BPAC in INCOG planning of an Open Streets event during May, National Bike Month. "Open Streets" (<http://www.activetrans.org/openstreets>) is a ciclovía-like event where city streets are closed to traffic and cyclists and pedestrians take to the streets and enjoy their temporary car-free status. INCOG is tentatively working on a May 11th event (Mother's day). The following Friday, May 16th, is National Bike to Work Day.

Mike and James described the concept of "Bike Trains" in which volunteer "conductors" lead cyclists, picking up additional riders at designated stops along a prescribed route taking all to the Open Streets celebration.

Mike also indicated that he will work with the Advocacy subcommittee should Vision Zero plans/activities be planned/executed by BPAC.

Also, Mike reported being contacted by the owner of Bicycles of Tulsa who is interested in partnering with the City to supply one or more on-street Cycle Aid Stations, a product of Saris Parking (<http://www.sarisparking.com/product/cycle-aid-station/>). Guthrie Green was proposed as a potential location for one and Jane indicated she had contact with the Green folks and can work with Mike or Bicycles of Tulsa regarding this possible location.

C. Advocacy subcommittee

Stephen Lassiter expressed an interest in finding a way to leverage ongoing street improvements to provide visible bike/ped efforts before the Bike/Ped Master Plan is completed and funds from Improve Our Tulsa become available. Matt Leichti indicated that he does and will continue to encourage evaluation of opportunities for bike/ped improvements in current and future street work, particularly related to any work identified for "multi-modal" streets (indicated as such on the City's Comprehensive Plan) and arterial streets that fall into the Complete Streets realm (<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets>).

Stephen indicated an interest in working to approach local business owners prior to public meetings addressing street changes that include bike/ped considerations.

Stephen, representing Tulsa's Transportation Advisory Board, presented a resolution to Tulsa's City Council regarding adoption of a Vision Zero program. Stephen was asked to develop a draft plan for participation by the BPAC for consideration at the next or a future BPAC meeting. Vision Zero "... is the Swedish approach to road safety thinking. It can be summarized in one sentence: No loss of life is acceptable." <http://www.visionzeroinitiative.com/en/>

5. Discussion of BPAC adoption of Vision Zero

Discussion continued regarding Vision Zero. Matt Leichti expressed concerns that a goal of "zero" was unattainable and, like other broadly stated goals, might reduce the likelihood of concrete action being taken seeking clear objectives.

Recognition by others that the stated “goal” might be difficult (impossible) to attain did not dampen interest in the statement. Much discussion followed and Stephen agreed to return to the BPAC at the next or a future meeting with a draft proposal of how BPAC might endorse or engage in a Vision Zero related initiative.

Stephen shared that Tulsa Public Schoolboard member, Gary Percefull, met with him and was enthusiastic about engaging TPS in the Vision Zero initiative. Stephen will continue to work with the TPS as BPAC considers what role it may play in the effort.

6. Updates

Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan

James Wagner, INCOG, said he will provide an update at each BPAC meeting regarding the progress in developing the master plan.

There will be a public kickoff of the planning process in late February or early March. An on-line mapping tool will be provided as part of the planning process to allow citizens to suggest areas for facilities or improvements.

“Walk Shops” (walking workshops) will begin in late March or early April. These are public gatherings providing opportunities for citizens to have input to the plan’s creation. Plans will be to hold these “walkshops” in the early evening, beginning at 5:30pm or so. At least four walkshops are planned for Tulsa and another for each of the ten communities participating in the master planning effort.

Pedestrian deaths and possible PSA

Officer Craig Murray reported that he’s been approached by Councilors Cue and Steele to assist with a video providing pedestrian safety guidance. In light of Tulsa’s 13 pedestrian fatalities in 2013, the Councilors would like to produce this with Cox Cable and have it run on their channels.

7. New Business

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