

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting
Saint Cloud Public Library Array Room
July 11, 2018

Attendees: Janine Foggia (Sherburne County Public Health); Kurt Franke; Ben Thoele; Alex McKenzie, APO; Joseph Mueller, APO; Noah Voigt; Alison Henning, APO/BPAC Chair; Brian Gibson, APO Executive Director; Vicki Johnson, APO.

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Chairperson Alison Henning presided.

Expectations of the BPAC

Mr. Gibson explained the history of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization (APO) and of similar organizations – Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) – and the need for public input in determining the vision for regional transportation. Mr. Gibson further explained the role of APO staff, the APO Board, and the APO's Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Gibson discussed the formation of the BPAC as a means for TAC members, primarily comprised of city and county engineers, to hear from citizens on bicycle and pedestrian issues within the planning area.

Ms. Henning provided a hand out on regional goals and objectives found in the APO's Blueprint 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The highlighted goals and objectives in this hand out were related to active living and bicycle and pedestrian issues.

Mr. Gibson defined the purpose of the BPAC as a way to bring concerns and ideas to APO staff and to help advise the TAC on issues pertaining to bicycle and pedestrian concerns.

Safe Routes to School

Ms. Henning and Ms. Johnson explained the planning grant Saint Cloud Area School District ISD 742 had been awarded in April. This grant would cover the development of SRTS plans for the district as a whole and site specific plans for each school.

Ms. Henning stated work on the plans would begin around July 1. Alta is the consultant for this project. Alta is taking on the districtwide plan and four to five site specific plans. Ms. Henning hopes to shadow the lead consultant on this project in order to replicate a similar process with the remaining individual school sites.

Ms. Henning stated the BPAC could potentially have a role in this process. Ms. Henning said the BPAC's scope of work with SRTS would be more of an evaluation role (example: defining roadways around the school as safe or hazardous for walking). Ms. Henning said she believes work with the BPAC on SRTS would begin around spring 2019.

Mr. Frank said he hopes that bike lanes could potentially be put on 10th Avenue in Waite Park. He also stated that he hopes this looks at the bigger picture with more bike lanes and routes to area schools.

Mr. Gibson explained that the scope of work for each of the schools would be done in about a quarter-mile radius.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts

Ms. Henning said APO staff conducts manual bicycle and pedestrian counts at 23 locations across the planning area. There are also seven automatic bicycle counters in the area.

Counts are done twice a year – once in the spring and once in the fall. Ms. Henning explained the process of how to do a bicycle and pedestrian count which included a PowerPoint presentation.

Regional Bike Plan

Ms. Henning explained the new Federal requirements about performance-based planning. In terms of bicycle and pedestrian activity, Ms. Henning said the APO is looking at ways to evaluate pavement conditions for off-road trails. She stated APO staff is looking for a way to be more systematic and objective about evaluating off-road trail conditions. Ms. Henning provided a handout on an off-road path/trail assessment matrix she had created. This matrix evaluates trails/paths by water/drainage, vegetation/clearances, pavement condition, and signage/pavement markings.

Ms. Henning is seeking feedback on the proposed matrix and is looking for suggestions on how to improve this. Mr. Frank said in the Twin Cities there is a bicycle/trailer that travels around and captures pavement quality. He was wondering if this technology would be possible in the area.

Open Discussion

Mr. Thoele stated that cities and counties need to think about the operational costs to maintain an off-road trail or path. He stated that especially during the winter months, trails are often cleared last. He also feels that various jurisdictions dump roadway snow and ice on the trails. He stated that roadways need to be plowed better, especially the on-road bike lanes.

Mr. Thoele also discussed curb cuts as well.

Mr. Frank discussed the matrix as being a report card for the various off-road trails and paths. Ms. Henning explained that there is potential for using a smartphone app to point out locations that are in need of attention and having them mapped in real time. Mr. Thoele said many communities are using Twitter to do this.

Mr. Gibson said that once APO staff have some data on the conditions of the off-road bike paths and trails staff will be able to start seeing trends (like deteriorating pavement conditions) which could lead to policies.

Mr. Frank stated the APO's website page on bike/ped needs to be updated.

Mr. Thoele stated that 2018 might be the year of the bike. He said various bike organizations like Bike CCloud have started within the area. In addition lots of people are riding bikes and wanting to get together to discuss issues.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Vicki Johnson on Oct. 29, 2018.