



## West Lafayette Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday November 11, 2010 6:00 PM  
Board Room, West Lafayette Public Library

Present: Curt Ashendel (presiding), Stewart Frescas, Nick Harby, and Andy Hirsch

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.**
- 2. Corrections were requested for the minutes** of the previous meeting (September 9) which were posted to the WLBPC web site on November 11. None were noted in the meeting.
- 3. News of developments since the last meeting:**

A CPC meeting held September 28 to discuss (a) the proposed solutions to the problems found in the US52 corridor study (covering Nighthawk to CR500W) and (b) an updated list of construction projects scheduled to start this year. Curt distributed the list of projects and summarized the proposed solutions. A public information meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 15 at 2PM in the Tippecanoe Room of the County Office Bldg to present these. The presentation slides are available on the APC-Transportation Planning Website ( [http://www.tippecanoe.in.gov/egov/docs/1289415872\\_249481.pdf](http://www.tippecanoe.in.gov/egov/docs/1289415872_249481.pdf) ) and a copy was passed around at the meeting. Andy mentioned that Chip Blatchley had publically proposed that an elevated crossing be constructed over US52 near the Salisbury intersection to improve safety for pedestrians. This was also discussed and Curt suggested that Chip attend the public meeting to present his ideas during the Q&A part of the meeting.

Curt reported that the contract for the US231 construction will be let on December 8<sup>th</sup>. This will take 2.5 years to complete, and has been a long time coming. When completed, it will set into motion a series of road turnovers to the City of West Lafayette from INDOT, including all the state roads in the City except for US52 and possibly parts of SR43. The roads will likely be improved by INDOT prior to the turnover, and thus planning is underway for Happy Hollow road and Soldiers Home Road improvements. Plans for SR26 in the Village and through campus are already in the Purdue Transportation Plan. Plans for Northwestern Ave north of Lindberg are part of the US52 corridor study. Plans for any changes to the remaining roads to be turned over (mostly Northwestern Ave and River Road) have not begun.

The plans for Happy Hollow Rd were summarized by Curt. They are quite preliminary at this point, and are proceeding prior to Soldiers Home Road because of the perceived need for pedestrian improvements on it. The road will have two traffic lanes and there will be enough right of way for only one trail (only 8 feet wide and 6 feet in some parts) one side and only one striped bike lane, rather than one in each travel lane.

Others news – by participants present:

Andy noted that the work on the Lindberg bridge over the bog will be starting soon and asked when the work would be finished. Curt checked this after the meeting and found that it will close from around

Thanksgiving this year through about August 1 next year, when the new bridge is expected to open. The plan for the bridge is 2 vehicle lanes and a multiuse "trail" on one side, behind a barrier.

Curt noted that the KB&S rail crossing was not improved this past summer as indicated by Opal Kuhl. The owner probably decided to wait until Lindberg is reconstructed and widened in 2 years.

Stewart discussed the upcoming Lafayette City Council meeting (Monday evening, Nov 15) where he plans to present his positive feelings about the planned improvements to upper Main Street that include bump outs and bicycle parking.

Jim Bethel (who could not be present) sent Curt information about plans at the national level (USDOT Secretary LaHood and Adventure Cycling and AASHTO) to implement a national system of interstate and regional bike routes that will be numbered, signed, and monitored for quality of service. Presumably this will allow for actions such as signed detours and realignments as needed. A slide presentation on this was provided. The presentation document is here:

<http://www.westlafayettebikeped.org/Committee/Documents/2010/USbikeroutesys08.pdf>

#### **4. Open forum for problems and ideas for new actions**

No problems were raised.

#### **5. Projects**

Only three of the six projects were discussed.

- a. UZO amendment for new high density area in WL and its impact on bicycle parking by businesses.

Curt explained the background on this (which was presented at the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting), and gave an update that while it has been passed by the APC and Lafayette, the West Lafayette Council is likely to veto it for reasons unrelated to the bicycle parking issue. However, the bicycle parking recommendations are what the Committee is working on, and Curt shared some information found by Sarah Hubbard after the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. That information is here:

<http://www.westlafayettebikeped.org/Committee/Documents/2010/BikeParkingData.pdf> Stewart suggested that the bike racks being installed by Lafayette (see image here:

<http://www.westlafayettebikeped.org/Committee/Documents/2010/CityBikeRack.jpg> ) may not be sturdy enough to stand up to vandals that tend to be prevalent in West Lafayette. The extensive discussion was concluded with Curt indicating he would do more research and send a draft of the proposal out by email to participants for feedback. The goal is to try to get something to David Buck by January.

- b. Bike to work day 2011

The status is that planning has not yet begun but should, since May 20, 2011 is coming up fast. Andy said he would talk to Bill Arthur and Pat Boling to get planning going on this. Curt offered his help with using the web site for this.

- c. Bike maps/bike parking (new project)

This project is still not well defined and consists of both preparing level of service road/trail maps (or mapping on line) and maps/lists of businesses with bicycle parking (and perhaps type of parking) as

well as an effort to encourage businesses to add bicycle parking and to upgrade the quality of racks. It may be that this effort will eventually be linked to the UZO guidelines effort and the City's role in facilitating bike parking in the high density zone. Curt noted that technology today makes the map project feasible, and that some larger cities have been doing this for some time (e.g. Seattle: [http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/docs/bike100221\\_mainmap.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/docs/bike100221_mainmap.pdf) ). After the meeting Andy sent Curt a similar type of map of Boulder, CO: [http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/files/bike\\_ped\\_map.pdf](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/files/bike_ped_map.pdf).

## **6. Upcoming meetings:**

The next scheduled APC CPC meeting likely will be held on November 23 (Tuesday) at 7:00 PM in the County Office Building.

The next WL Traffic Commission meetings are at 5:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the WL City Hall

The next APC Technical Transportation Meetings are at 2pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the County Office Bldg.

## **7. Other business and announcements**

The next meeting of this committee will be Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

## **8. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm**

These minutes were submitted to the website on November 14, 2010 by Curt Ashendel.