



West Lafayette Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday March 8, 2012 6:00 PM
Board Room, West Lafayette Public Library

Present: Curt Ashendel (presiding), Jim Bethel, Pat Boling, Stewart Frescas, and Nick Harby.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

2. **Corrections were requested for the minutes** of the previous meeting (January 12, 2012) which were posted to the WLBPC web site (<http://www.westlafayettebikeped.org/Committee/Minutes.html>) on March 8, 2012. None were noted in the meeting.

3. News of developments since the last meeting:

CPC meeting January 24: Curt reported that this covered the 2040 transportation plans for bicycle and pedestrian projects, which will be included in the long range plan for the first time. This very positive development means that as funding and land use opportunities arise, the projects will be easier to implement because they have already been identified and prioritized. These can be viewed on the [APC web page for the 2040 plan](#) and the APC staff is still hoping for more feedback on these (see email addresses on that web page).

West Lafayette parking violation fines going up: The increase from \$15 to \$35 was approved at the March Council meeting earlier this week. This brings the WL fines back into parity with the Purdue University fines. This is a good development for congestion mitigation as it may reduce the number of students who try to commute to campus by car. As came out in discussion, this also may help in the development of new high density housing by reducing the number of parking places required by the city, as neighborhood parking permits, higher fines, and reasonable enforcement efforts should reduce neighborhood resistance to high density developments.

Road School 2012 at Purdue: Curt attended Purdue's Road school this week and reported that there were fewer sessions than normal relevant to bicycle and pedestrian issues, but those that were held were very well attended. Jim said he would communicate this deficiency to this year's co-chair, Darcy Bullock. Curt also suggested that every year there should be a speaker or session devoted to how transportation is done elsewhere (i.e., outside the US, or at least outside the Midwest US), to inject something different.

Changes with INDOT and local roads: Curt reported that in mid-February, the City of Lafayette reached an agreement to take over management of US52 and SR26 within the city limits. This was the result of an initiative within INDOT to move management of state highways within cities to those municipalities, as well as a sentiment within both local cities that they can manage these roads better than INDOT. The hang-up is funding, and while Lafayette reached an agreement, negotiations between INDOT and West Lafayette stalled over the money issue. This can be a major game changer in making these roads more bicycle and pedestrian friendly, but it also removes some safeguards that the local money will be spent in a way that wisely meets the needs for all modes of transportation

(witness the debacle of the horrible accommodations for cyclists on the recently completed Lindberg Road bridge over celery bog.)

Purdue Parking and Transportation Committee - Bicycle Parking: Jim Bethel, who previously was on this committee, has approached the committee about presenting the need for covered and secure bicycle parking on campus for commuters. They have agreed and he will make his presentation at the April meeting. Jim has found many examples from other universities to present. During the discussion of this it was suggested that as many examples as possible should be from Indiana and the Midwest, as these are most convincing to local people. Also, the benefits of cycle commuting should also be presented. Jim plans to send out his slide presentation for comments a few weeks in advance for the committee participants to view and provide feedback to him.

4. Open forum for problems and ideas for new actions

- a. Curt asked Pat about the letter to the celery bog bridge issues and she agreed to work on this if Curt would help by identifying where it should go and also help tweak the drafts.
- b. Stewart indicated that the plate over the expansion joint on the sidewalk of the westbound SR26 bridge over the Wabash river has now fallen as a result of concrete degradation and is now at a large angle from horizontal and makes the sidewalk impassible to mobility assistive devices and is a major trip hazard. Curt said he would identify the proper party to report this to and would report it.

5. Projects of the Committee (only projects with progress will be reported on):

- a. Revised Bike-Ped plan (old plan is [here](#)) – John Thomas told Curt that an updated report was actually done in 2006 (though Curt is still has no evidence of this, and the [plan posted on the APC web site](#) is the original plan from 1997). As a result of this development and the low priority placed on bicycle and pedestrian planning, this may be on hold again. Curt will check into this and see if it can be verified and to put pressure on the APC to carry out a new revision anyway, given that it has been 6 years.
- b. Bike to work day will be held Friday May 18, 2012 – Planning for this event. Pat Boling and Scott Davis are leading this but more helps is needed. If you are interested in helping him with ideas, effort, fundraising, please contact him at sdavis6425@hotmail.com or contact Pat at (boling@purdue.edu) This event shows the community that cycle commuters are important and growing in numbers and that sharing the road (and the transportation funding) is important. We need ideas for how to increase participation and we need helpers to make this happen and get bigger and better every year. Some ideas discussed were to have a more attractive giveaway (such as a bike, or good commuter lights from Hodsons); to have some fun activity, such as taking a sledge hammer to an old gas pump (or perhaps more symbolically, but more practically, a 5 gallon gas can); and possibly a petition drive (for Purdue) and popularity vote and poll about covered/secure bicycle parking options (caged racks in parking structures, covered but not enclosed racks, locked rooms in buildings, and lockers) with the poll trying to find out how much commuters might be willing to pay for secured covered parking.
- c. Bicycle parking at businesses – What the APC is doing on this was summarized, but this may be affected by the status of the Bike-Ped Plan revision. The plan is to also try to incorporate this into a mapping system on the committee's website. Pat also mentioned that this dovetails into the issue of bicycle friendly businesses another project the committee is working on.
- d. Inter-city Trail development in Tippecanoe County: Farm Heritage Trail and Wabash Heritage Trail- Curt broght this up and Nick said he had not done anything about the FHT. Curt said he will be checking into how to get work on this going. The FHT has been included in the map of proposed trails on the draft 2040 transportation plan, and while it is not listed as a project, it is documented as a

proposed facility. The 2040 plan includes (under road projects) development of a trail along North 9th street from Duncan Rd to Swisher Rd (including a cantilevered path on one side of the Davis Ferry bridge), with the trail eventually connecting to Delphi. Also there is interest in continued development of the Wabash Heritage trail both northward from Prophetstown State Park and also southwest from Fort Ouiatenon Historical County Park to Independence. John Thomas said work is ongoing to get the easements on the WHT from Lafayette to the state park changed to allow bicycles in addition to pedestrians.

6. Upcoming meetings:

The next meeting of the Citizens Participation Committee of the Area Plan Commission has not yet been announced, but the next meeting normally would be scheduled to be held at 7PM Tuesday, March 27 in the Grand Prairie room of 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, May 10th at 6pm.

8. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm

These minutes were submitted to the WLBPC website on March 10, 2012 by Curt Ashendel