



West Lafayette Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday May 9, 2013 6:00 PM
Board Room, West Lafayette Public Library

Present: Curt Ashendel (presiding), Pat Boling, Michael Dick, Whitney Dios, Stewart Frescas, Nick Harby, Aaron Madrid, and Zoe Neal.

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

2. **Corrections were requested for the minutes** of the previous meeting (March 21, 2013) which were posted to the WLBPC web site (<http://www.westlafayettebikeped.org/Committee/Minutes.html>) on May 7, 2013 and also provided at this meeting. None were noted in the meeting.

3. News of developments since the last meeting

- APC Citizens Participation Committee meeting held March 26, 2013. This primarily discussed the 5 year transportation improvement plan. It was noteworthy that bike-ped projects are now included in this and their funding is programmed in the same manner as for road projects. This allows for the bike-ped project funding levels to be able to be set based on the percentage specified in the complete streets provisions passed in 2012.
- WL ordinance on a Safe minimum distance for passing of bicyclists and WL trash ordinance. Aaron discussed the status of the safe passing ordinance: That it passed the first reading and will be reviewed by the traffic commission before the second vote. The trash ordinance was approved but the restriction on placing yard waste out “early” (more than 24 hours before pickup) was removed. While this impacts cyclists somewhat, the impact is almost always minor.
- INDOT community input (May 7 meeting) and Submission of comments by the public on Bike and Pedestrian Suitability documents, which consist of Rating Criteria and an Analysis Map (due 5/31). Curt said that he will send out the links for these so everyone can submit feedback.

4. Open forum for problems and ideas for new actions

- Nick: The air pump in the repair stand in front of Chemistry on the Purdue campus is not working in that it won't seal on the valve stem. Dan Staley will be called about getting this repaired.
- Aaron said that BicycleLafayette has started up a local sign up for the National Bicycle Challenge that is being run by the League of American Bicyclists.
- Pat Boling suggested that as a project that we identify the top 3 (or 5 or 10) intersections that are the most Unfriendly to bicyclists and/or pedestrians and start a lobbying campaign to get them improved. This was discussed and considered a reasonable approach, since intersections seem to be slow to get improved and it seems that additional pressure from public outreach might speed this up.

5. Projects of the Committee (Only the following projects were discussed)

- a. Bicycle Challenge, Bike To Work Day (May 17): The flyers are out, plans for the two locations are set except for some of the refreshments. Curt will post the poster to the WLBPC website.
- b. Bicycle Friendly Community application to League of American Bicyclists and Walking Friendly Community Application – Status: Curt is still doing the prep work on this.

- c. Counting cyclists and pedestrians to determine long term trends in commuting, including biking and walking to schools by schoolchildren. Status: Curt did counts at two choke-point locations on the prescribed dates (May 7 and 8) and the data were presented at the meeting (the report is attached). The report also shows the Tippecanoe county Census Bureau Community household survey commuting transportation mode data compared to the national statistics. These show that bike mode share among non-transit riders in the county was 0.86%, slightly higher than the national average of 0.66%. For walking, the county's share (5.81%) was much higher than the national average (3.09%.) Curt's counts, averaged for both locations, showed bicycle and walking modes having 1.95% and 1.06% respectively (without any adjustment for motor vehicle occupancy.) Curt said that the numbers will depend very strongly on the locations chosen, and an accurate number depends on counts being done at many locations. Locations ideally should not be biased to favor or disfavor any one mode, and should avoid redundantly counting the same people. Some sites are suggested in the report, though additional sites would be beneficial. The counting is easy to do if done at a sight line, but may need two people when done at a busy 4-way intersection. Counting all modes at the same time gives a direct mode-share result, without the need to estimate vehicle mode from other data. Aaron said he plans to do numerous counts at various locations around the county during the summer.
- d. Farmer's market table. Bev Shaw (Development Department, City of West Lafayette) invited us to participate in the weekly Farmer's Market (Wednesday afternoons), by providing information at a table to be provided free by the City. Aaron said that Bicycle Lafayette would be there many of the weeks this summer to pass out copies of the bicycle ordinances. Aaron also indicated that Bicycle Lafayette is working on getting maps of the community made that show level of service for cycling and these also will be handed out when they are ready.

Other projects, not discussed include Web site development, Snow Removal advocacy, Advocacy for bike safety legislation at the state level (increased penalties for injuring or killing a vulnerable road user), bike parking at businesses, bicycle friendly businesses, intercity trail development, guidance to the APC and City of West Lafayette on business bike parking in the land development code, and helping with preparing a revised bike-ped plan for the county.

6. Upcoming meetings:

- The next meeting of the Citizens Participation Committee of the Area Plan Commission has not yet been announced, but the meetings are normally scheduled every other month (starting in January) on the 4th Tuesday. If held according to this it would next meet on May 28, 2013. They are usually at 7PM Tuesday in the Grand Prairie room of the County Office Building. (It turned out later that this was in the Commission meeting room.)
- Aaron reminded everyone to attend the WL traffic commission meeting to be held at 5pm on Tuesday May 21st to support the Safe Bicycle Passing Ordinance that is to be discussed there. It is held in the City Hall lower level conference room.
- The APC technical traffic committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2PM in the West Lafayette City Hall lower level conference room.

7. Other business and announcements

The next scheduled meeting of this committee is July 7.

8. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:33 pm

These minutes were submitted to the WLBPC website on May 7, 2013 by Curt Ashendel

Bicycle and Pedestrian Mode Share West Lafayette Counts During May 7-8, 2013

For Context, from US Census Bureau American Community Survey (2011 data):

For workers who commute to work:

Primary Work Commute Mode	Tippecanoe Co	All US
Bike	0.84%	0.63%
Walk	5.65%	2.93%
Transit	2.72%	5.22%
Vehicle	90.80%	91.22%

For workers who commute to work other than by transit:

Primary Work Commute Mode	Tippecanoe Co	All US
Bike	0.86%	0.66%
Walk	5.81%	3.09%
Vehicle	93.34%	96.24%

Counts done May 7 and 8, 2013 5:00 to 7:00 pm in two locations in West Lafayette:

Raw counts by mode	5/7 Lindberg & N. Salisbury intersection	5/8 N. Salisbury just north of Payless entrance	Total
Bike	67	39	106
Pedestrian	31	27	58
Vehicle	2812	2473	5285
Total	2910	2539	5449

Mode shares: Bike: 1.95% (2.3% 5/7 vs 1.53% 5/8)
 Ped: 1.06% (1.07% 5/7 vs 1.06% 5/8)
 Vehicle: 96.99%

Note that vehicle counts should be adjusted for occupancy (typically 1.07 to 1.11)

Observations:

Some pedestrians and a few cyclists are multimodal (transit riders)
 Walking is more common with very short trips (< ~0.5mile)
 Cycling is more common with short trips (< ~1mile)
 Peak commuter traffic is 4:30 to 6:00pm, not 5-7

Conclusions:

Counting is not difficult but it is time consuming.

Mode share will vary by distance from destination and by bicycle friendliness of route, so must count at many locations. For accuracy these should be as “independent” (non-overlapping sets of commuters) as possible.

Counting vehicles produces mode share directly without requiring vehicle counts and traffic models. However, counting vehicles is difficult for one observer at high volume (multilane) road sight lines or intersections.

For next time:

For a “good” coverage of routes used by all vehicles, need to count at several choke points (for cyclists) and main road routes (for vehicles). To avoid multi-counting multi-modal people, do not do counting anywhere within 1 block of campus or 1 block of Sagamore Parkway west (the two major destinations).

Recommendations for count sites:

Intersections:

- Lindberg and N Salisbury
- Robinson and River Road
- Cumberland and Yeager
- Northwestern and Cherry Lane
- Tapawingo and SR26
- Grant and Harrison
- Kalberer and Salisbury

Sight lines:

- Grant between the two parts of Stadium
- Harrison Bridge
- Myers Pedestrian Bridge

