



West Lafayette Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday January 14, 2016 6:00 PM
Board Room, West Lafayette Public Library

Present: Curt Ashendel (presiding), Jim Bethel, Stewart Frescas, and Carl Griffin.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

2. **Corrections were requested for the minutes** of the previous meeting (November 12, 2015) which were posted to the WLBPC web site (<http://www.westlafayettebikeped.org/Committee/Minutes.html>) on January 14, 2016 and also provided at this meeting. No corrections were noted in the meeting.

3. News of developments since the last meeting

- a. The last meeting of the [APC Transportation Planning](#) Citizens Participation Committee (December 1, 2015) involved several items. Stanton Lambert, Executive Director of the Wabash River Enhancement Corp gave a detailed report on the status of the riverside development and redevelopment in the Cities. This includes significant redevelopment of industrial and commercial land to much more mixed use, including small shops, business offices, and restaurants, including the new waterfront development in Lafayette between the Myers and State Street bridges. Notably for cyclists and pedestrians, WREC plans to add three new bike-ped bridges across the river. One, to be visually stunning, will be at Mascouten Park (near Happy Hollow Rd) in WL to the new parkland on the previous Lafayette municipal golf course. The second will be at the site of the former Brown Street bridge, and the last to be added onto the existing Rail bridge, just south of the State Street Bridge. Information about WREC's [master plan for the urban corridor](#) is available on WREC's web site: <http://www.wabashriver.net/>. There was also a presentation about Regional and National Bicycle Routes, including numbering of the national routes. More info is available on the national maps from [Adventure Cycling National Corridor Project](#) and for [US Bicycle Route 35 in Indiana](#) and from INDOT for [other regional maps of routes in Indiana](#) (planning managed by Indiana Department of Natural Resources). In the report on INDOT's updated 18-month contract letting list, a contract has been let for construction of about 3 miles of Wabash Heritage trail within Prophetstown State Park. This will be paved or boardwalk and has a completion date of June 3, 2017. Also Teal Rd (SR 52 in Lafayette) reconstruction is slated to be let in October 2016. The design has not yet been finalized, but INDOT has been responsive to comments urging including a complete sidewalk network.
- b. At the CPC meeting it was announced that the 2010-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan will be updated this year (2015-2045). The current version of this forward looking document is available the link titled "2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update" on the [APC Transportation Planning web page](#). The current version's title is "2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan - Completing Our Streets" and chapter III describes the vision and objectives for this, as well as detailed ideas for projects and performance measurements for the six objectives. John Thomas indicated this will be on the agenda for the January 26 CPC meeting. In particular any comments about chapter 3 ("Completing Our Streets"), but especially the missing Guiding Principles and updates to the objectives and comments about the performance measures would be greatly appreciated. The CPC is a public meeting and anyone may attend and make comments. If you can't be there, but have comments, they can be sent to [John Thomas at the APC](#) or to Curt who will relay them at the next CPC meeting. This is an

important opportunity for advocates to impact future planning in highly significant ways. Curt presented some of his ideas for new objectives, including:

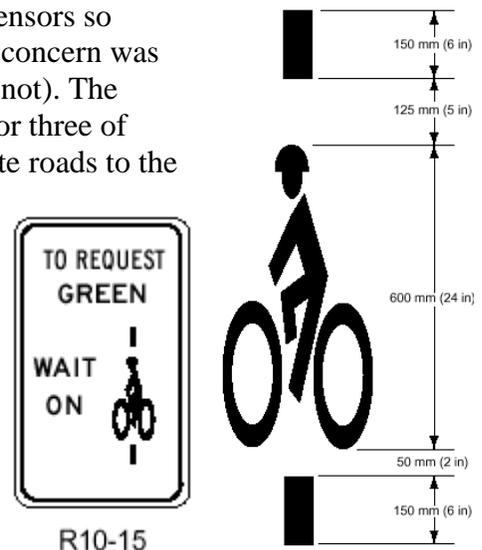
- Creation of one or more coordinators for cyclist- and pedestrian- policies and projects within the APC and/or the Cities and County.
 - Prioritizing using funds for facility retrofit projects in order to complete the existing networks of cycling and pedestrian facilities, rather than relying completely on set-asides from new road or total road reconstruction projects.
 - Recognizing the need and supporting sustained funding for a sustained education effort to enhance awareness of pedestrians and cyclists and the safe use of our streets by all users.
 - Strengthening and harmonizing the Complete Streets policies of the APC, Municipalities, and Tippecanoe County such that as many future projects as possible – irrespective of funding source – are done under a consistently strong goal for completing the streets for all users.
- c. The continuing meetings about improving the safety of cyclists on the Harrison bridge and throughout the cities (hereafter referred to by the name County-Cities-Cycling meetings) involved another meeting on December 15th. In addition to the status reports about Teal Rd reconstruction (by INDOT), the Myers Bridge, and potential actions for improving the Harrison Bridge, there was a detailed presentation of the State Street Project and a new North River Rd project by WL Dir. Of Public Works David Buck. The State Street project is a \$122.7M project involving State Street from Tapawingo to US231 and the Ring-road system around campus – including converting several one-way roads near campus to two-way roads, but not including North River Rd. It is to be done as a public-private partnership with much of the design to be done during the project. The bids from two vendors are due on Dec 21 with a decision in April 2016, and construction starting in the summer. The completion is anticipated to be in 2019. The project includes a two-way protected bike path along State Street which will be raised to be at sidewalk level, a multiuse trail from near the intersection of Harrison with Martin Jischke to South River Rd partially away from roads, as well as changes to Martin Jischke between Harrison and US231 to make it more ped and bike friendly. The new North River Rd project is a \$25M project to eliminate on combined sewer overflow point. It will put a large pipe for the combined sewer under the southbound part of N River Rd between the treatment plant and Quincy, with modifications to N. River Rd that include protected bike lanes at street level, a raised median (and ped refuges) as well as new traffic signals. Some of this project is still being designed, particularly the part dealing with the Wiggins/Fowler approach and the ramps to the Harrison Bridge. The contract for this has been let with construction to begin in March at the State Street intersection with expected completion in November 2016.
- d. The agenda for the next CCC meeting (January 19) indicates it will focus on the Safety Education program funded at \$30,000+. The scope of this was already identified to include a PR campaign to improve safety by targeting all road users, including drivers. It was noted that during a webinar on designing roundabouts to be safe for pedestrians, vehicle speeds through the roundabout are key to the design. Thus, getting driver cooperation to stay within the speed limit specifically for the safety of other road users should be one of the objectives of this campaign. It would certainly improve riding on the Harrison Bridge. This project is still in the very early stages, but is likely to be developed quickly. Curt would like to get everyone's input on this so please email your thoughts to Curt.

4. Open forum for problems and ideas for new actions

- Stewart commented that he had been asked about why the multiuse trail along North River Rd stopped at Robinson. Though there will be a project this summer on North River Rd that will create protected bike lanes on the road as far north as Quincy (perhaps more) – see item 3c above, that trail does continue across North River Rd where it becomes the start of the main Wabash Heritage Trail (The trail to the north of Robinson is an Extension of the WHT). From that trailhead on the east side of N River Rd, it goes towards the river, under the Harrison bridge and then along the river (behind apartments), and enters Tapawingo Park where it joins that Park's paved trails and makes its way to

under the Myers Bridge and the State Street bridge as well as emerges to Tapawingo Drive to get to State Street itself. There have been complaints in the past that the trail along the river is not well lit and potentially unsafe at night, making the improvements to North River Rd (item 3c - to be done this year) all the more important.

- Jim asked about markings at intersections for inductive loop sensors so bicyclists know where to position their bikes. In particular his concern was about the lack of consistency with these markings (present or not). The problem was caused by INDOT, which controlled all but two or three of signalized intersections in WL until the recent handover of state roads to the City. INDOT refused to add special loops for cyclists and also never marked the positions of the loops that are there, though they usually – but not always – added new loops whenever the road was repaved (and thus those locations were visible as cuts in the pavement.) WL is now in control of almost all signalized intersections (except US231) and has shown it is willing to mark the loop positions and in some cases may be installing special loops for cyclists. This has been done at the most recently updated intersections (Notably Cumberland with Salisbury and Navajo with Salisbury.) The symbol used is shown here (from the MUTCD). Perhaps the City should be encouraged to install some informational signage (also shown here, also MUTCD) at these intersections until these become so common that the signs are not needed.



5. Projects of the Committee discussed

None were discussed.

6. Other business and announcements

- The next meeting of the APC CPC is scheduled to be on Tuesday January 26 at 7:00 pm in the Grand Prairie Room of the Tippecanoe Office Building.
- The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for Thursday January 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

7. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:06 pm

These minutes were submitted to the WLBPC website on January 17, 2016 by Curt Ashendel