



Benton County Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Benton County Roads Advisory Committee (RAC)

MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC) ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)

May 11, 2017

7:00 p.m. ~ 9:00 p.m.

Sunset Large Meeting Room

4077 SW Research Way
Corvallis, Oregon

Josh Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Committee Members Present: Suzanne Remillard, Kenny Reynolds, Chuck Kratch, Ken Dryden, Walt Prichard, Rick Robinson, Keith Hastings

Committee Members Absent: Bob Durst, Vince Nowell, Jim Luebke, Jim Patton, Steve Slover, Ed Gerding, John Luna, Ed Rajeski

Staff Members Present: Owen Millehrer, Cathy Williams (Recorder), Josh Wheeler, and Jim Stouder

Guest(s) Present: Xan Augerot (Commissoner), Larry Bardell

I. Introductions

II. Agenda Review

III. RAC - Approval of April 2017 Minutes – motion to approve made by Kenny Reynolds, seconded by Ken Dryden, unanimous approval.

IV. BAC – Approval of March 2017 Minutes – not enough members present to have a quorum to approve minutes.

V. Public Input

VI. Bikeways – Josh Wheeler gave presentation and led discussion.

Bikeways commonly does not exist in right-of-way and also called bike path. Is used for bicycles, pedestrians, skateboards, scooters (general non-motorized). Can be in the right-of-way, typically 10' minimum, requires separation from roadway. Problems include roadway crossings, out of sight/out of mind, and safety from assailants. Additional problems include driveway crossing and access to emergency vehicles. Attendees added that visibility for motorists to see bicyclists and pedestrians at clear zones are blocked by trees, parked vehicles, etc. Concerns expressed regarding the "assumed" right-of-way by drivers, depending on state laws which vary, whether driver or bicyclist/pedestrian. Overgrown trees/shrubbery interfere with vision and clearance requirements, which causes maintenance issues. There was specific hazards mentioned surrounding the round-about and by the fairgrounds. Also the speed differences of the forms of transportation being together in the same areas. The uncertainty of unmarked areas of signs or lights, etc. to help identify and sight distance requirements.

Construction Funding – motor fuel tax not allowed, very likely requires grant funding, ConnectOregon uses lottery funds.

Maintenance Funding – motor fuel tax not allowed, could use Parks Department general funds.

How else can we fund them? Suggested ideas are sales tax and registration fee for bicyclists, Parks revenue (property tax or discretionary funds).

Current projects – Corvallis-Albany Bikeway is currently being discussed. ~~The~~ Midge Kramer Path is an existing bikeway. ~~Irish Bend Covered Bridge exists on Midge Cramer Maintenance is east of here.~~ Josh informed the Committee that we received a grant for Irish Bend ~~these~~ and it ~~they~~ should be completed this summer or next.

Josh stated that after receiving recommendations from other meetings for public input, we are going before Commissioners on Tuesday, May 16th for the Corvallis-Albany bikeway ~~16th~~, so they can make decision in June of whether or not to proceed.

Brainstorm – what projects would you like to see in the TSP? Suggestions included Bell Fountain and Bailey Branch.

VII. Bike Lanes – always located in the right-of-way, exist adjacent to the driving lanes, usually 5' in width. Require lanes on both sides of road, can be used by pedestrians but not typical, should not be used by motorized traffic, 2' shoulders are typical but not required.

Issues with bike lanes – Josh asked for input by attendees and responses included speed/size of cars on path versus road creates more of accident, car doors hitting bicyclists, traffic lights potential for bicyclists to go against signals, bicyclists hitting parked cars, recycling/garbage carts, leaf piles.

Construction Funding – motor fuel tax allowed, general fund (property taxes) NOT allowed, discretionary funds allowed (other types of taxes without use restrictions), STIP Grant funds could be used, usually need special funding.

Maintenance Funding – motor fuel tax allowed, general fund NOT allowed, discretionary funds allowed, 1% of MFT should be used on bike lanes.

Problems with bike lanes – includes safety, chip seals, and maintenance.

Current projects – includes Independence, Crescent Valley, and Alpine.

Brainstorm – what projects would you like to see in the TSP? Suggestions included Southfork, bike lanes in rural areas (depending on location) or additional 6" of shoulders.

VIII. Vehicles vs. Bicycles (Transportation Comparison)

Passenger vehicles – the bigger vehicle (should they have the right of way?), must look for all conflicts (other vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians – but do they?), #1 method of transportation in 2017 (but bicyclists want cars off streets).

Bicycles – Has right-of-way in Oregon but not in other states (how do we educate?), must look for all conflicts (other vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians – but do they?), 10% of Corvallis residents bike to work, 1.5% off Albany residents bike to work.

Buses – only use roadway, can carry a couple bicycles, is a sustainable practice.

~~Bicycles – hard to be seen on roadway, some use trailers, is a sustainable practice.~~

Farming/Logging Traffic – want bikes off streets, place debris on bike lanes and paths, could be a safety issues for pedestrians and cyclists.

Bicycles – hard to be seen by large vehicles, maintenance is not common by Public Works, want to be able to ride rurally for recreation or commuting.

Bicycle Priorities – Share the road? Not to share the road? Healthy clean air? Commuting or recreation? Safety?

Other Vehicles Priorities – Share the road? Not to share the road? Get somewhere faster? Storage to move many people or goods? Farm to Market industry reduced conflicts? Speed?

IX. Collaboration

How do we work together? Input by attendees included: ~~Too many~~Possible information resources, provide informational materials to Corvallis school students and people purchasing new bicycles, newsletter blurbs, bulletin boards with safety tips and rules, and add points on maps.

Do we have a common goal? It was suggested to have monthly meetings to communicate consistent information to everyone.

Can both groups be advocates? It was agreed that coordination of community events to promote awareness was definitely a possibility.

Does it have to be bikes versus everyone else? Encourage riders to wear brighter clothes and/or reflective tape (many wear black) for better visibility.

X. Next Meetings :

- BAC: September 14, 2017
- RAC : June 20, 2017

XI. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.