

A meeting of the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee was held on Wednesday, July 29th, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Cloud Library. Listed below are the attendees:

Dean Loidolt	CMCOA
Jim Vierzba	LeSauk Township Resident
Tammy Campion	City of St. Cloud
Kurt Franke	St. Cloud Resident
Sue Siemers	MnDOT
Lowell Olson	St. Cloud Resident
Charlotte Stephens	St. Cloud Resident
Rick Schultz	St. Joseph Resident
Marney Kurfman	City of Sauk Rapids
Cathryn Hanson	APO staff
Michelle Musser	APO staff

The committee discussed the ongoing desire to increase involvement of local jurisdiction staff in the planning process. In order to better facilitate city and county staff involvement it was suggested that rather than meeting exclusively at night, that the Committee alternate between day and evening meetings. This may also accommodate citizens that are interested in participating on the committee, but that work or have other evening commitments. The establishment of an annual meeting schedule was discussed; meeting eight times total per year, four times in the daytime and four times in the evening. APO staff would like to propose that evening meetings be held in February, April, July, and October; and the daytime meetings in March, May, September, and November. Please feel free to offer any suggestions or feedback.

Tammy suggested that the Committee designate a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson that would be responsible for facilitating the meetings and to serve (Chairperson) as the liaison to the APO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Jim Vierzba, from Le Sauk Township, has offered to serve as Chair and represent the Committee at the August meeting. The appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair will be discussed further at the next Bike/Ped meeting on August 26th.

Staff noted that a Committee representative is needed to make a brief presentation at the September meeting of the State Nonmotorized Transportation Advisory Committee (SNTAC). The meeting is in St. Cloud on Friday, September 18th and Saturday the 19th. Tentatively, the presentation is scheduled for Friday.

Discussion ensued regarding the development of a Metro Area Bike Map; the goal of this map would be to clearly illustrate system gaps. APO staff will be undertaking this project and inventorying sidewalks in 2010.

Dean Loidolt provided information on the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) funds. The program was developed in response to the 2007 MN Legislature's request to develop a plan for statewide health promotion to reduce rising health care costs. Following a competitive application process, state funding was granted to MN communities through community health boards and tribal governments. Grantees will address policy, systems and environmental changes in four settings: schools, work-sites, health care and community. Dean is working closely with the City of Buffalo (Wright County) on this initiative. Since our meeting, APO staff has learned that Benton, Sherburne and Stearns counties also applied for SHIP grants; the grantees will not be officially named until mid-August.

Kurt Franke noted that he is attending Weekend on Wheels in Winona and is participating in the Traffic 101 course. He asked that the Committee receive monthly reports about area bicycle and pedestrian accidents. Kurt also noted the September SNTAC meeting and the possibility of the Committee organizing a bike ride for the meeting participants.