

WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Minutes

November 28, 2012

Members Present:

Lin Barnett – Wichita Falls MPO, MPO Director
Sandi Monson – Wichita Falls Streams and Valleys, Hotter’N Hell Hundred
Robi Christie - Wichita Falls Streams and Valleys, Hotter’N Hell Hundred
Ben J. “Chip” Filer – Hotter’N Hell Hundred, Executive Director
Karen Montgomery-Gagné – City of Wichita Falls, Planning Administrator
Mark Beauchamp – City of Wichita Falls, Traffic Superintendent
Charlie Zamastil – MSU Cycling Team, Director
Glenn Albritton – TxDOT, Traffic Engineer
Matthew W. Smith – TxDOT, Engineer
Michael Smith - City of Wichita Falls, Councilor

MPO Staff:

Donnie Arbeau – Wichita Falls MPO, Transportation Planner II
Jaimie Lee – Wichita Falls MPO, Transportation Planner I

Visitors:

None

A G E N D A

I. Welcome & Introduction

The meeting began at 10:02 AM and Mr. Barnett welcomed everyone in attendance followed by introductions from attendees.

II. Update on Hike and Bike Trail and Future Trail Sections

Mr. Arbeau provided a brief overview along with a PowerPoint presentation and handouts. Subsequently, Ms. Lee summarized recent grant application submittals for the Ohio Street Bridge (rehabilitation) and the Hike and Bike Trail Section from Wichita Bluff Nature Area to Lucy Park.

Discussion on the trail section between Seymour Hwy. and Barnett Road was of particular importance to the committee members. It was determined the issue needed to be brought before the TAC and TPC to raise awareness, promote support, and to develop a plan of action. The project faces a number of challenges dealing with safety, right-of-way, railroad companies, and so forth. BPAC members feel this trail section is a major priority for the community and encourage further discussions with the Texas Railroad Commission and Burlington Northern Railroad. The issue is on meeting agendas for both TAC and TPC meetings in January 2013.

III. Safe Routes to School – Mark Beauchamp, City of Wichita Falls

Mr. Beauchamp provided an overview of the SRTS activities carried out by the Traffic Division and the City of Wichita Falls. The committee was very impressed with the level of outreach the

program has achieved to this point. Mr. Zamastil, on behalf of the MSU Cycling Team, offered their services to assist with the SRTS program. Mr. Beauchamp was receptive to the offer of assistance.

The next issue of importance was in regards to bicycle training and adult education. Currently, there are no certified local trainers to serve the community. Adult education is an activity that suffers from neglect and inactivity, but is a key component for “Bicycling Friendly Community” designation. Ms. Munson and Mr. Filer are working to set-up “train the trainer” classes and acquire certification to hold adult cycling training classes for those in need. The BPAC was supportive of this initiative. Mr. Beauchamp indicated a desire to participate in the training classes and help develop trainers.

IV. Bike Texas Survey Information – Donnie Arbeau, Wichita Falls MPO

Mr. Arbeau briefly reviewed the survey and the survey answers submitted to Bike Texas in September 2012. Due to the fact, the Bike Texas survey represents many facets of “Bicycle Friendly Community” designation; Mr. Arbeau will prepare a thorough review of the survey, Wichita Falls’ status on Bike Texas cycling issues, and highlight areas needing attention. This will be available at the next BPAC meeting in the spring of 2013.

V. Bicycle Friendly Community Designation

The BPAC members were pleased with the progress the community has made in addressing cycling and pedestrians issues. The last 4-5 years have seen numerous improvements for the bike/pedestrian community. However, the committee was unanimous in asserting the importance of gaining a “Bicycle Friendly Community” designation for Wichita Falls. Only three communities in Texas have acquired the designation, but with the annual Hotter’N Hell 100 race, on-going work to complete the Circle Trail, and new Downtown Travel Center in Wichita Falls, the designation was needed.

VI. Updating the (WFMPO MTP 2015-2040) Bicycle Master Plan

Mr. Arbeau informed the BPAC of the upcoming Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update 2015-2040 for the Wichita Falls Metropolitan Planning Organization. This is the long-range plan that guides planning activities for all MPOs. A major component of the WFMPO document is the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP). As an FYI, Mr. Arbeau indicated that MPO staff will work with TxDOT, City of Wichita Falls, citizenry, and BPAC members to update the BMP when work on the 2015-2040 MTP begins in 2014.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 11:48 AM.