

WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Minutes

April 28, 2016

Members Present:

Lin Barnett – Wichita Falls MPO, MPO Director
Ben Filer - Wichita Falls Streams and Valleys, Hotter’N Hell Hundred
Charlie Zamastil, MSU Cycling, Hotter’N Hell Hundred
Davis Powell – City of Wichita Falls, City Engineer
Jack Murphy, City of Wichita Falls Parks and Recreation
Karly Patty, City of Wichita Falls, Traffic
Mark Beauchamp – City of Wichita Falls, Traffic Superintendent
Sandi Flemiy – Wichita Falls Streams and Valleys, Hotter’N Hell Hundred

MPO Staff:

Jaimie Lee – Wichita Falls MPO, Transportation Planner II

Visitors:

A G E N D A

I. Welcome & Introduction

The meeting began at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Barnett welcomed everyone in attendance. Mr. Beauchamp introduced Ms. Karly Patty as a new member to the BPAC committee. Ms. Patty will help Mr. Beauchamp with all things concerning bicycle and pedestrian tied to the City of Wichita Falls.

II. Update on TAP Grant to fund Hike and Bike Trail Connection

Mr. Barnett informed the committee that two projects located in the WFMPO Prioritized Project List received an award of funding from the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant program. He stated that in May of 2015, the City of Wichita Falls submitted six projects total for the TAP grant application. Out of those six projects, the Texas Transportation Commission selected two to receive funding. Mr. Barnett stated these grants would fund the construction of two bicycle and pedestrian trail projects within the MPO boundaries.

The first project is part of the Circle Trail System and covers the section of trail along the Wichita River between the Wichita Falls Bluff Park and Loop 11. Total cost for this project is

\$1,482,354. The second project is on Kemp Blvd. and involves the construction of a new sidewalk, ADA ramps, and the installation of pedestrian traffic signals between Midwestern Parkway and Southwest Parkway. Total cost for this project is \$559,992. Added together, these projects will cost \$2,042,346. Mr. Barnett stated that the Transportation Policy Committee approved adding both projects to the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program back in January 2016. City Council accepted the projects on March 15, 2016. The City will use 4B sales tax revenues to meet the federal requirement of 20% local match. The total needed to fund the local match for both projects is \$415,085.

Mr. Barnett showed the progression of maps developed from 2005 up through 2015 used in the development of the MPO's Bicycle Master Plan. He stated that MPO staff would travel to the ESRI training center in San Antonio later in 2016 to update their training on Arc View, which is the MPO's main Geographic Information System (GIS) software used in the development of WFMPO surface transportation maps. Mr. Barnett stated that MPO staff would rebuild the Bicycle Master Plan map after completing their training.

Mr. Barnett pointed out that the TAP projects were a part of the MPO's Prioritized Project List. He commented that both projects scored highly, which helped them to receive funding from the Transportation Alternatives Program. He reminded the committee that if anyone had a project in mind then to submit it to WFMPO's Technical Advisory Committee for consideration. The TAC vets all projects before adding them to the MPO's Prioritized Project List, which then goes before the Transportation Policy Committee for review and approval. The list remains active for one year then renews in October of each year. Mr. Beauchamp commented that the TAC reviews each project for viability before adding it to the list. He stated that three of the top five hike and bike projects on the list received funding and have gone, or will go, into construction.

Mr. Barnett asked for any questions regarding the two Transportation Alternatives Program grant projects. None were received. The committee moved on to the next agenda item.

III. Update on Bicycle Friendly Community Plan – Mark Beauchamp, City of Wichita Falls

Mr. Beauchamp, City Traffic Superintendent, informed the committee about progress on the Bicycle Friendly Community Plan for the City of Wichita Falls. He stated it was a working plan to meet the requirements needed to establish Wichita Falls as a bicycle friendly community. Mr. Beauchamp discussed several requirements of the community plan including Enforcement, Education, Engineering, Key Outcomes, Evaluation and Encouragement. He commented that if accepted by The League of American Bicyclists the City of Wichita Falls has a real chance of attaining a bronze designation, or even possibly a silver designation.

Mr. Beauchamp discussed some of the state legislation currently moving through the Texas State Legislature concerning bicyclists. One bill involves creating a three-foot separation between vehicles and bicyclists on roads and highways. Mr. Filer stated that more legislation to protect bicyclists is a good thing but the real need is to educate the public about sharing the road with bicyclists. Mr. Barnett commented that the City's Community Development Department would include a bicycle and pedestrian layer on the Thoroughfare Plan map for consideration during the development of new roads and

highways.

IV. Update on Application for League of American Bicyclists Friendly Community Designation – Mark Beauchamp, City of Wichita Falls

Mr. Beauchamp, City Traffic Superintendent, informed the attendees about progress on obtaining the Bicycle Friendly Community designation. He stated the City must submit the application by August 9, 2016. He commented that he would need help from everyone in the room to complete the application on time. He stated the community touches, in a strong way, many of the requirements of the application.

Mr. Beauchamp explained the five principals to become a bicycle friendly community. He stated the Five E's are: Engineering: Creating safe and convenient places to ride and park; Education: Giving people of all ages and abilities the skills and confidence to ride; Encouragement: Creating a strong bike culture that welcomes and celebrates bicycling; Enforcement: Ensuring safe roads for all users; Evaluation & Planning: Planning for bicycling as a safe and viable transportation option. Mr. Beauchamp stated he feels Wichita Falls has a considerable opportunity of becoming a bicycle friendly community. He stated the application is very large and requires only one person to complete it online. The committee discussed various ways for everyone to answer questions on the application. Mr. Barnett commented that if the City could attain a silver level designation it could make the difference when competing for future grants and other funding sources.

Mr. Barnett asked for any more questions regarding the League of American Bicyclists Friendly Community Designation. There were none. He moved on to the next agenda item.

V. Discussion on BPAC Roster and Community Outreach

Mr. Barnett informed the attendees about the importance of having an active Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) that promotes the interests of the community. He stated BPAC has been successful at providing input to the City Council and to the MPO's Policy Board regarding future bicycle and pedestrian projects. He estimated that the BPAC now has somewhere between 15 and 20 members. Mr. Barnett recommended attendees invite additional stakeholders to participate in future BPAC meetings. He stated the next BPAC meeting would take place in September of 2016. Mr. Barnett asked for any comments or questions. Receiving none, he moved on to the next agenda item.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 11:18 a.m.