



**City of Concord  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Bicycling Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

Monday December 19, 2011 - 6:00  
Central NH Regional Planning Commission

**Call to Order/Introductions**

<u>Committee Members Present:</u>	<u>Committee Members Not Present:</u>
Peter Rhodes (Chair)	Tim Farmer
Andy Baldwin	Rose Culver
Greg Bakos	Jennifer Wierwille Norton
Dick Lemieux	Karen Paddleford
Craig Tufts (CNHRPC)	
Jeff Warner (City staff representative)	

Guests/Friends of the Bicycle Committee:  
Kevin Twombly

**TPAC Bicycle Committee - Review / Accept Minutes**

Minutes from the October meeting were discussed and accepted by the committee.

**Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting will be Monday, January 23, 6:00 at City Hall. Meetings will continue to be the fourth Monday of the month for 2012.

**On-going Discussion and Action Items**

**On-Line Bicycle Route Maps**

The committee was asked to map their ideal 5, 10, and 15 mile rides around Concord. Rides should start at schools and parks in Concord and Penacook and be social rides. Routes for mapping will be selected from the selection provided by the committee.

**City Navigation Map**

Craig distributed a draft of a navigation map for comment. Craig will incorporate the comments and reissue a draft. Craig also wanted input on what educational material to put on the map. Craig will send a couple of links which show sample educational material and route mapping.

**Bicycle Parking**

Jeff gave a brief update on what CNHBC has been doing regarding bicycle parking. To date, CNHBC's effort has been to get up to speed with the efforts that TPAC had previously completed and pursue possible on-street bicycle parking.

## **Education**

- **North-South Bike Route:** With the completion of the North-South Bike Route, TPAC-Bike needs to work on the education portion of the project. Craig will create a draft document which discusses the route, the intent, sharrows, etc. for the committee to review.
- **Traffic Signals:** After TPAC's successful testing of the traffic signals at Spring/Pleasant, Warren/N. State, and Penacook/N. State, Craig will prepare a guide for cyclist which describes how to effectively navigate traffic signals.

## **New Business**

### **Referral to Engineering from City Council - Input from TPAC-Bike**

TPAC-Bike was forwarded the referral which was sent to Engineering regarding cyclist behavior from resident Jim Baer (62 Washington Street). The referral is attached at the end of this document. To summarize the referral, Mr. Baer is concerning the "apparent lack of published rules" and the idea that cyclists do not obey the laws. Mr. Baer also notes how he uses this "3500 pound steel chariot to intimidate them in creative ways."

Individual responses are to be sent to Pete for consolidation into a formal response before the third Thursday in January for the full TPAC meeting. Initial thoughts on the referral included:

- Noting that the NHDOT website includes "Tips for Driving a Bicycle", "Rules of the Road Summary", and the "Don't be a Road Warrior: Don't be a Road Hog!" brochure.
- Bike Walk Alliance, Central NH Bicycle Coalition, and the Program for Alternative Transportation and Health all have information on cycling.
- The response should acknowledge that there is a problem with groups of cyclists riding two or more abreast and not yielding to through traffic in a timely manner.
- An effort could be made to get the Road Hog/Warrior brochure into bike shops and try to encourage them to distribute the brochure with each sale.

### **Bicycle Friendly Community Year End Survey**

The League of American Bicyclists sent Jeff an end of the year survey. The committee reviewed the questions and responded as follows:

1. What was your biggest bicycle-friendly achievement from the past year?
  - Adoption and acceptance of the Bicycle Master Plan and the Merrimack River Greenway Feasibility Study.
2. Please share an interesting bicycling-related stat or fact about your community.
  - 2011 was the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Concord Criterium.
3. Bicycle ridership has grown by nearly 70% in Bicycle Friendly Communities over the last eight years. What best tells the story of the growth in bicycling in your community over the last few years?
  - The increase in bicycle sales and funds raised at the annual bike swaps.
4. What are the visible changes that have taken place?
  - The North-South Bike Route Signing and Markings
5. Please rate the degree to which you agree or disagree with this statement: "The BFC program has been useful as a tool to improve conditions for bicycling in my community."
  - Somewhat agree. The process has helped TPAC-bike focus and organize our thoughts. It has also helped motivate us and budget our efforts.
6. We receive many calls from communities to request to see other good examples of BFC applications. Would your community be willing to share your BFC application with other communities?
  - Yes.

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
CITY COUNCIL REFERRAL SLIP

TO: Ed Roberge

DATE: 12/16/2011

The attached document was received for City Council consideration.

The following action is required:

- Prepare a report together with related documents, if applicable, such as an ordinance, a resolution or an agreement and submit to the City Clerk's Office for inclusion in the City Council's \_\_\_\_\_ agenda.
- You are the only department or committee this communication was referred to.
- Along with your department, this item was referred to the following departments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to contact the City Clerk's Office if you have any questions.

12-8

JA

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Mayor James Bouley.

Some people are like an old penny. They never go away. I plead guilty. You know me well enough to know that when I get an itch, it needs to be scratched. My latest itch is the apparent lack of published bicycle rules.

Concord has a group of dedicated, vocal and zealous recreational bicyclists who have made themselves well heard in the public forum over the past several years. They continue an effective and militant campaign to have their grievances addressed concerning bicycle riders rights and privileges.

I should inject that I find many of these serious bike riders obnoxious and elitists. I don't include those bicycle riders who use their bikes to commute to work or kids who enjoy the freedom that two wheels offer. I'm commenting on those lycra clad chaps riding on their thousand dollar machines who have little regard for the motorists with whom they share roads. Any motorist out on a pleasant Sunday morning drive heading West on Pleasant Street who happens to come across a gaggle of these pompous zealous can testify to the arrogance of these people. They ride two or three abreast on a two lane highway, making passing them dangerous and sometimes impossible. If you honk you horn, you get the infamous finger.

What can be done about them? I have made it a personal crusade to make their lives as miserable as they make mine. While I always obey traffic laws, I use my 3500 pound steel chariot to intimidate them in many creative ways. A better way would be for the city to publish a pamphlet to clearly outline the laws, rules and regulations for all bicycle riders. I don't mind sharing the road with them if we both know the laws concerning our mutual responsibilities.

A pamphlet which details all of the applicable laws concerning the operation of a bicycle on public ways and the safety requirements of the bikes and riders would be helpful. These pamphlets should be available at city hall, the police station and at all shops and retailers in Concord who sell or service bicycles.

I am not well informed about bicycle laws but I suspect that they are few and

rarely enforced. It is almost imposable to find on-line local rules and regulations about bicycle laws. I would hope that you will agree with me that obligating bicyclists to obey traffic signals, red lights and stop signs would be a good beginning. Some municipalities require bicyclists to dismount and walk their bikes across intersections. I like that idea. Another good idea would be to have bicycles registered, just like a motor vehicle. Owners would annually take their bikes to a local bike shops to have it inspected for safety requirements. For a modest fee( \$10, with shop keeping \$7 and \$3 going to the city), the shop would then attach a sticker to the bike frame with a serial number printed in it and the owners info and fee would be forwarded to the city clerk or the police department. This would be useful should the bike be lost or stolen. It may also relieve the police department of having to store all those stolen or lost bicycles. The incentive for the bike shop would be the opportunity to sell accessories or a new bike to customers. It's a win-win situation. Concord has spent time and precious resources to accommodate the complaints of bike riders. I think that it is time for all bike riders to understand that with privileges come responsibilities. A well produced pamphlet that clearly outline their responsibilities is long overdue. It should be produced by the police department and not through some committee. Laws are laws and no committee can change that.

I write this missal in hopes that you can grease the skids to get something done. I would contact my ward representative about this issue but I have had very little success in the past by going that route. There. I scratched that itch.

Sincerely yours, Jim Baer

PS. I see that Low Avenue still does NOT have a street sign. LOL

