



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved BICYCLE FACILITY MAINTENANCE POLICY WORKGROUP

NOTICE: A POTENTIAL QUORUM OF THE PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE/MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION MAY BE PRESENT

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL-110 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:14 p.m.

Members Present: 3 - Michael W. Rewey; Scott Kolar; Aaron S.P. Crandall;

Staff Present: 2 - David Dryer, Traffic Engineering and Kathy Cryan, City Engineering

Other Participants: 2 - Grant Foster and Peter Gray

A. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

B. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS - None

C. NEW BUSINESS

C.1. Workgroup charge, process, and public participation.

The Workgroup Charge and Strategy document was reviewed. Once the Group identifies low-cost improvements for bike facility snow removal, they could make a request to the Streets Division for the coming winter. Work on creating a policy could be done at later meetings.

C.2. Identify low cost improvements to bicycle facility snow removal to implement for the winter of 2014-2015.

Snow removal on off-street bike paths is not bad. When snow removal problems with certain portions of paths were reported, they were typically improved.

Currently, downtown streets with "no-parking" seemed to be plowed to clear to the median line rather than cleared to the gutter pan. Heat from motor vehicles melted snow and spray from vehicles dropped slush and snow back into bike lanes. Perhaps a change in practice is needed, such as making a second pass while plowing.

A list prepared by Rewey of possible low-cost improvements was discussed. Along with those shown on the document, two non-core streets were added, Aberg Avenue, and Fish Hatchery Road (from Wingra to the Beltline, depending on which jurisdictions were responsible for different portions of this stretch.) Fish Hatchery Road was important, because until the Cannonball was completed, there was no alternative bike route.

It was suggested that a couple of pilots be undertaken, to plow bike lanes adjacent to parking on certain streets. E. Johnson Street from Butler to Brearly, and the section of Bluff Street with marked bike lanes that extends the bike boulevard, were identified as possible streets for the pilots.

It was suggested that the Workgroup develop a list identifying what they are requesting the Streets Division to do on streets that do not have parking. Perhaps the UW snowplowing policy, which includes plowing to the gutter pan, could be used to help draft this list.

Dryer provided a document that outlined the City of Madison Public Works policy for snow removal, which also identifies agencies' areas of responsibilities. For example, Parks is responsible for State Street, Engineering is responsible for sidewalks and bike paths, Streets is responsible for streets. Cryan noted the was created as an internal working document, in order to get the different agencies on the same page.

Policy changes without fiscal impacts could be made without a formal process. Changes with fiscal impacts would have to go to the Council for approval. It would be helpful to define more specifically what the Workgroup is asking Streets to do.

Other ideas:

- The current Streets Division policy (as shown online) indicates that bike lanes are not cleared unless they impinge on motor vehicle traffic lanes. Perhaps rather than saying they will not do any clearing of bike lanes, the policy could say that Streets would try to do clearing of bike lanes when possible.
- Add bike lanes to the current tiered system for snow removal, which could identify high priority spots for snow clearing and low priority areas that could do without plowing. It seemed reasonable to propose that Streets try to get bike lanes cleared within 4-5 days after a snowfall event.
- Related to bike lanes adjacent to parking areas where it was difficult to get parkers to move their cars, maybe something could be done with "post and tow".

Rewey said he would write up the low-cost list they had just discussed to present to PBMVC, and to ask for input from the Streets Division.

C.3. Next meeting and agenda

- Solicit comments from Streets Division regarding the idea of making a second pass.
- Prepare a draft policy about plowing on streets with no parking.
- Discuss the problem of snow from private driveways being pushed into bike lanes (onto the street).
- Discuss the possibility of clearing snow around bike racks.

Three possible dates for next meeting: 9/15, 9/17, 9/18. Rewey will check with Streets Division staff to see which date they could attend.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.