



## July Meeting Minutes

### July 21, 2022 (Virtual Meeting)

Bob McBride called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

**Member attendees:** Bob McBride (Chair), Karl Hassler (Treasurer), Mark Deshon, Brian Bahnson, Dave Saunders, Paul Baumbach, and Michael Smith

**Partner liaison attendees:**

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

DelDOT: Paul Moser

University of Delaware: Chelsea Finch (Employee Health & Wellbeing) and Bill Wentz (Police)

City of Newark: Mike Fortner and Josh Solge (Planning & Development), and Jean Almonte (Police)

Delaware Greenways: Adam Crosby

Bike Delaware: John Bare

## Reports

### ***BikeNewark Engineering Committee update***

The committee met yesterday (July 20) to deal with some safety issues and get updates from City staff on some of the projects with which BikeNewark has been involved.

Mark Deshon mentioned that the City had received \$12,500 from the Delaware Bicycle Council for its grant application on a potential bicycle-related improvements project on Chrysler Avenue. The money will be used to help fund a feasibility study similar to the one that was done for Wyoming Road. Engineering consultants will be hired, and project funding will be sought from the city's transportation improvements capital budget.

Mark reported that the committee discussed safety problem areas on Casho Mill Road and the planned disappearance of bike lanes at the pedestrian-refuge island on Cleveland Avenue, now under construction. Both locations may need signage and other amenities in order to compensate and make these areas safer.

Two connectors are now being planned to link the Emerson Bridge bike/ped path to the Pomeroy Trail. The county will provide a good bit of the funding for this project, which is already included in the City's fiscal 2023 budget.

The committee's full meeting notes are included at the end of these meeting minutes.

## ***Wyoming Road engineering feasibility study preliminary report***

Subsequent to Rybinski Engineering 's presentation at our May partnership meeting, there was a similar presentation to City Council preceded by a public information session. City Council was heartily in favor of the project. Next, the City will be making choices among the options presented. BikeNewark will need to hear from Public Works about which options it chooses and why. We hope to see the options *before* they proceed.

## ***Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Committee update***

The TIP Committee did not meet this month. It is continuing to review the choices included in the Transportation Improvement District and the impacts on bike transportation, such as improvements in shared-use paths. There should be a Council workshop that will follow.

## ***Delaware Avenue construction progress update***

Current construction includes closure of the north half of the intersection at South College Avenue, closure from there to East Main Street, and closure from Tyre Avenue east to Library Avenue. Improvements to the Pomeroy Trail junction and beside Newark High School are in progress. No holdups or problems are reported in the construction.

We may wish to assemble partners—DelDOT, UD, City of Newark, in particular—to create a committee to address educational issues with public well before the project is complete. We'll need to get information to students about upcoming changes to this busy road. UDPD should be part of this process, as this is all related to safety. UD's Office of Communication & Marketing should be helpful in getting the word spread quickly. Mark volunteered to help with this for BikeNewark. Ideas included yard signs, e-blast to lists from local State Representative and Senator, presence at UD New Student Orientation, information distribution through the Landlords Association and The Newark Partnership, and publication in the *Newark Post*. Mark felt strongly that the information content should be consistent and coordinated. Paul Moser shared with attendees a draft of an information vehicle that DelDOT is developing. He agreed to send this to BikeNewark as soon as it is approved.

## **Events**

### ***Review***

- Bike to Work Day (May 20) report — Christine Schultz did an excellent job organizing this event. Though attendance wasn't as high as it could have been, it was a fun event, seemingly enjoyed by all. There were ten BikeNewark members there, along with more than 40 others.
- The Newark Partnership/Newark Historical Society trail ride (June 6) report — The group that turned out for this event was an enthusiastic for local history. This might become a good co-sponsorship activity with another civic group partner as a way to experience local historical/cultural sites and events (e.g., a ride to Cooch's Bridge historical area/museum).
- First Friday Ride (July 1) report — Bob reported that there were seven riders, but two of them abandoned the ride early. The attendance may have been compromised by the rainshower that occurred an hour before the ride. The five riders who completed the ride enjoyed it.

- White Clay Creek State Park (WCCSP) Trail Etiquette Days (May and July) report — Bob attended two sessions and talked to park users about sharing trails and cycling interests. He had very good conversations during the July session with cyclists and walkers, as we shared the day with the WCCSP Ass't Superintendent. Most attendees were not from Newark but recognized the Emerson Bridge and the Newark Bikeways as a very positive development for the city.
- Academy Street Concert Series (May and June) report — No one in attendance at the meeting reported on this event.

## Planning

- Bike to Work Day — Do we want to do more than a one-day event? We need to recruit employer teams again. We were disappointed that no one from Bloom or Chemours attended this year, despite having been informed.
- Bike to School Day — Do we want to sponsor a special Safe Routes to School ride? The challenge for BikeNewark is to spread this to more schools (e.g., Newark Charter, West Park Place, and Newark Center for Creative Learning).
- Bike to UDairy Creamery, Bike to Fireworks, etc. — Possible event ideas included Bike to UDairy Creamery, UD Museum, UD Botanical Garden, bike to concerts, Parks & Rec. events, WCCSP, bike to fireworks, and/or other outdoor activities. No one jumped at any of these.
- Involvement in summer/fall community partner-organized or collaborative events
- Newark Community Day 2022 (September 18, 2022) — We were assured by Mike Fortner that, as usual, our table will be located near that of partners Newark Bike Project and City of Newark. It was suggested that we create materials with QR codes for this and similar events.
- Fall Bike Safety Checkpoints at UD — We usually organize for an event in September or October and need to schedule this ASAP. Mark suggested having it during the week following Community Day. Mark will schedule this with Bill Wentz prior to our August partnership meeting.

## Treasurer's Report

Karl Hassler presented this report on the screen for the attendees. As of the May meeting, the balance was \$4,424.66. One membership was added in May, and there was no activity in June. Three reimbursements were made in July, and the ending balance is \$4,231.71.

<b>Beginning balance 5/20/2022</b>		<b>\$ 4,424.66</b>	<b>\$ (0.00)</b>	<b>\$ 4,424.66</b>
Additions:				
5/20/22	Membership - M Smith		10.00	
5/31/22	Interest	0.04		0.04
Total additions		0.04	10.00	0.04
Deductions:				
5/20/22	PayPal fee		0.84	
Total deductions		0.00	0.84	0.84
Surplus (deficit)		0.04	9.16	9.20
<b>Ending balance 6/16/2022</b>		<b>\$ 4,424.70</b>	<b>\$ 9.16</b>	<b>\$ 4,433.86</b>
<b>Beginning balance 6/17/2022</b>		<b>4,424.70</b>	<b>9.16</b>	<b>4,433.86</b>
Additions:				
6/30/22	Interest	0.03		0.03
7/21/22	Transfer PayPal-WSFS	9.16	(9.16)	
Total additions		9.19	(9.16)	0.03
Deductions:				
7/13/22	R McBride - BTW Day food [5]	94.48		94.48
7/14/22	M Deshon - Wordpress license [6]	48.00		48.00
7/19/22	J Solge - BTW Day food [7]	59.70		59.70
Total deductions		202.18	0.00	202.18
Surplus (deficit)		(192.99)	(9.16)	(202.15)
<b>Ending balance 7/21/2022</b>		<b>\$ 4,231.71</b>	<b>\$ (0.00)</b>	<b>\$ 4,231.71</b>

## **Old and New Business**

### ***Bicycle Friendly Community application***

Mark reported that the initial meeting for planning to complete the city's Bicycle Friendly Community application took place on July 15. Mike Fortner, Josh Solge, Heather Dunigan, and Mark Deshon attended. They began reviewing the daunting, 80-page online application and decided to begin reviewing the shared file individually and completing info where possible prior to their next meeting and from there determine how to and who can fill the "holes."

### ***Bike Delaware legislative progress and upcoming statewide election***

John Bare reported that the Delaware legislature passed an e-bike bill toward the end of the legislative year. E-bike bans on trails in Sussex County have been under consideration and are still being discussed.

When asked about surveying candidates for public office, John said that Bike Delaware does not endorse candidates but asks about candidates' ideas about bicycling in surveys before elections. In terms of responses, Bike Delaware hasn't had much success with respect to Sussex County races, but they have in New Castle County.

### ***Safe bike parking project proposal in collaboration with The Newark Partnership***

The purpose of such a project would be to create a flexible proposed plan for safe and secure bicycle parking within the City of Newark and on the campus of the University of Delaware in conjunction with community partner organizations.

A list of what was discussed follows on the next page. A more complete proposal incorporating the ideas listed there will be introduced at a future BikeNewark partnership meeting.

### ***Emerson Bridge dedication***

On Wednesday, August 10, at 11 a.m., the new bike/ped bridge that spans the White Clay Creek adjacent to Paper Mill Road, which has been in use for quite some time now, will be formally dedicated with a ribbon-cutting and speeches by Secretary of Transportation Nicole Majeski and state and local officials. Parking is available at Curtis Mill Park off Paper Mill Road. Prospective attendees are urged to RSVP to [DOTPublicRelations@Delaware.gov](mailto:DOTPublicRelations@Delaware.gov) by Friday, August 5. BikeNewark suggests biking there to avoid a parking hassle.

Adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Minutes by Bob McBride and Mark Deshon

## **BikeNewark Secure Bike Parking Proposal: Ideas that we want to include in a shared project**

**Purpose:** To create a flexible proposed plan for safe and secure bicycle parking in the City of Newark and on the campus of the University of Delaware, in conjunction with community partner organizations.

### **Scope of the Work:**

Survey best practices for secure bicycle parking in University cities about the same size as Newark.

Create a preliminary survey of available bicycle parking on campus and in the city, both secure and non-secure.

Estimate the current and future needs for secure parking for several stakeholder groups.

- UD students/staff and visitors
- Commercial organizations in various shopping areas
- Commuting bicyclists coming to jobs in Newark
- Casual recreational cyclists coming to Newark for leisure activities such as restaurants/ concerts/sporting events, et al.
- Cyclists passing through Newark and/or staying in hotels in the city
- Short-/medium-term visitors coming to UD or other businesses for business reasons

Identify appropriate secure bicycle parking techniques and technologies to meet current and future stakeholder needs.

Include stakeholders in the planning process through several techniques.

- Information posting and Interactive online surveys
- Public information meetings
- Direct field research at appropriate places and times

Develop recommendations for implementation of a secure bicycle-parking plan, and review these with appropriate planning bodies active in the City of Newark and the University of Delaware.

Create a potential budget that would meet the needs identified in the recommendations.

Identify and approach funding sources.

### **Additional ideas we should include in planning for secure bike parking:**

Improving bike parking at schools

What about churches and other nonprofits?

Relationships to City of Newark parking facilities

UD survey sent in 2014 could be included in future research.

Bicycle Friendly Community application also asks information about secure parking. Is there an incentive program for retrofitting older bike parking?

Lots of old information about this has been discussed with UD.

Approach Lang Development for bike-infrastructure information on their existing/new projects

The Grove at Newark project is investing some \$50K in bike infrastructure.

Some Urban Bike Project interest in Wilmington and at Delaware Center for Horticulture

A more complete proposal incorporating these ideas will be coming to a future BikeNewark meeting.

## **BikeNewark**

### **Engineering Committee meeting notes – July 20, 2022**

Attending were Mark Deshon (chair), Karl Hassler, Helga Huntley, Dave Saunders, Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO), Tim Filasky (City of Newark Public Works & Water Resources), and Joe Spadafino (City of Newark Parks & Recreation)

#### **Casho Mill Road issues**

A couple issues involving infrastructure-related bike safety were discussed.

- 1) The new infrastructure involving the Casho Mill Road railroad underpass needed addressing. Helga Huntley and Mark Deshon are concerned that the islands on the north and south sides of the underpass have created potential dangers for bicyclists, as vehicles are moved around the islands. Tim Filasky showed DelDOT's engineering plans, and we discussed options for improvements that would increase safety for bicyclists. Suggestions included adding flexible delineators, green-backed sharrows, green-painted surface treatment on the bike lane at pinch points, and/or new signage alerting motorists to look for bicyclists in the lane. Consensus was that some combination of these suggestions.
- 2) The vehicle parking issue on the block between Nottingham Road and Church Road was discussed. Mark insisted that improving safety along this single block for bicyclists would encourage more young bicyclists from the neighborhoods north of Nottingham Road to bike to school. Tim noted that it would be the City's work to propose a solution to DelDOT. Mark requested that the city work on such a proposal that would satisfy the need and not take years to accomplish. A few possibilities were discussed: a small painted bike lane between parked cars and the curb, widening the sidewalks to create an off-road bike/ped path, and a raised (curb-level) profile lane between parked cars and the curb.

#### **Wyoming Road project update**

The final study report from Rybinski Engineering presented bicycle-improvement options for four sections of the Wyoming Road corridor. Tim reported that the city has added funding to its transportation capital improvement budget for this project. DelDOT consultant Matt Buckley and DelDOT's Paul Moser will likely be involved with respect to Library Avenue intersection project options.

#### **Potential Chrysler Avenue project**

Tim reported that the City has received \$12.5K from the 2021 Delaware Bicycle Council infrastructure improvement grant for a Chrysler Avenue project feasibility study. He showed images of possible cosmetic stormwater amenities, which would enhance the attractiveness of this wide road. Grant application suggestions included a two-way protected bike lane on the south side of the road from the service road to Bradford Lane. Heather Dunigan suggested that bike amenities be extended to Apple Road, which would benefit more students of West Park Place Elementary School. Tim mentioned that the City may be able to get financial support for such a project built into its transportation capital project funds.

## **Newark Bikeways signage issues**

Mark reviewed a couple issues: the need for timely replacement of stolen signage and identifying who has the signage that has been removed during DelDOT projects along Cleveland Avenue and Casho Mill Road. Tim said he'd follow up and see what the status is on the latter-mentioned signs.

## **Cleveland Avenue mid-block island issue**

Helga asked about the apparent disappearance of the bike lane in front of Herman's Meat Market, as the construction has continued on Cleveland Avenue. Mark reminded that the plans include bike lanes on either side of Cleveland Avenue from Paper Mill Road all the way to New London Road, although he said that disappearing lanes still constitute a problem along this corridor. At the aforementioned planned mid-block refuge island, bike lanes will likely disappear and may need some surface paint treatment and/or sharrows to help mitigate this problem.

## **Northeast Bikeway connectors to Emerson Bridge**

Helga also asked whether plans for connecting trail from the Emerson Bridge would simply parallel Paper Mill Road up to the Cleveland Avenue intersection. Joe Spadafino indicated that there would be one pathway that starts along Paper Mill and cuts into Olan Thomas Park to connect with the Pomeroy Trail and another pathway that turns right after coming off the Emerson Bridge path and continues through Kershaw Park to meet up with the Pomeroy Trail there. He said that the Emerson Bridge project had been completed under budget and that New Castle County had agreed to help fund the connectors, which are in the City's 2023 budget.