

MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
Bicycle and Pedestrian Sub-Committee
Minutes – April 27, 2023

Members: John Beatty, Tom Mullaly, Bill Bertram, Amanda Tabin, Jonathan Smith, Gaylene Rhoden, Mark Thuot
Staff: Dave Mack, Lance Mueller

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by MACK at 4:05PM

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2022 MEETING

Motion/second by BEATTY/MULLALY to approve the meeting minutes from the April 28 meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

4. INTRODUCTION OF MPO PLANNER LANCE MUELLER

MUELLER introduced himself to the committee and gave a description of his experience and background.

5. METRO AREA BIKE MAP UPDATE

MACK mentioned how the map was initially created in 2013. The committee discussed the purpose and intent of the map. It was discussed that it is there to show the regional connections within the Wausau metropolitan area. It was discussed whether a paper map is still needed. A suggestion was made that the MPO should look into developing a phone app. Recommendations were made by multiple committee members that the MPO should continue to pursue both options of updating the paper map and creating a digital method to use the map.

6. BIKE/PEDESTRIAN DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM - COUNTER LOCATIONS

The MPO has a total of 9 trail counters. A map showing the location where 5 previous counters were placed was presented and the committee was asked for their input where the other 4 counters should be placed. Potential locations pointed out by the committee were Camp Phillips Road, Ross Avenue, Northwestern Avenue, Cedar Creek Trail, Trillium Trail, Mountain Bay Trailhead, and Old 51 (Near Boardwalk). It was also pointed out that we may look into apps that utilize GPS data to see where the high bike traffic is.

7. COMMITTEE SURVEY RESULTS

MACK discussed the results of the survey sent out in March. It was initially sent out to between 30-40 people and 14 responses were received. A general discussion was had regarding what time of day is best for the meeting. It was pointed out that if meetings are held at 4:00PM then a certain portion of the population who work at that time will not be able to attend the meetings. There was also a discussion about how the meetings are currently held in a hybrid format (online and in-person).

8. FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE

There was a discussion about how average attendance for the Bike/Ped. committee over the last 5 years is 6 people. MACK mentioned that the lack of meeting participation of this committee has made staff look at other options for the group. This committee is a sub-committee of the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and that bike and pedestrian issues could be discussed through that committee by having a few meetings a year with the TAC. The options discussed were having a few TAC meeting agendas include only Bike/Ped.

Issues during the year, or have Bike/Ped. Issues on every TAC agenda. The format has not been finalized yet.

9. COMMUNITY UPDATES AND AREAS OF CONCERN

- a. Aspirus – Bike helmet fittings and free helmets distribution flyer handed out. Events to be held in Wausau, Kronenwetter, Weston, and Rib Mountain. Teaching safe biking signs are also going to be placed in family use areas within the communities.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD

11. ADJOURN

Motion/second by BEATTY/TABIN to adjourn the meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent. Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by:
David Mack
Program Manager/MPO Director
Marathon County
Conservation, Planning and Zoning/Wausau MPO