

Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes October 22, 2012 4:00-5:30 PM

Providence Chamber of Commerce Board Room, 30 Exchange Terrace, Providence, RI

All BPAC members present, Sheila Dormody (staff), Hilary Kraus (guest from JWU Staff), James Baumgartner (guest and blogger of Car Free PVD) and Sgt. Paul Zienowicz (guest PPD Traffic Commander).

Meeting started at 4:05 pm.

1. Allens Ave and the challenges of biking on this route were discussed. It serves as the main route between the JWU campuses travelled by faculty and students by bicycle daily. There is a fast traffic speed of around 45 mph (posted speed limit is 35 mph). Additionally, cars and trucks block the bike routes around the recycling centers, schools, and local businesses. Furthermore, glass and scrap metal bits litter the shoulder of the road. Hilary Kraus reported frequent flat tires on her commutes. Debris on the street gets cleaned once a year by DOT. It's a state road.

Public Comment:

- Eric Army suggested via email to Eric Weis that BPAC contact Councilmen Aponte about this issue.**
- A letter to Councilman Aponte will be drafted by Jef Nickerson about biking on Allens Ave (lay away trucks and Aponte contacting Allen's Ave businesses).**
- JWU representatives would like to calculate the impact of biking on**

the student body of JWU to get estimates of ridership.

- Discussion about BPAC working with the police to educate and work with businesses to enforce laws around biking.**
- Make recommendation to Daniel Baudouin that they sent a few members of police force to bike police training camp in Connecticut.**
- Issues exist around biking around schools areas during drop off and pick up hours.**
- Sgt. Paul Zienowicz says he will email his officers about ticketing cars parked in the bike lanes and cross walks.**
- A letter to DOT will be drafted by Matt Moritz about cleaning the bike route on Allens Ave.**
- Eric Weis will look into flanges that cover slippery, old trolley car railings.**

2. Snow removal issues and solutions were presented by Jef Nickerson. Snow removal is a challenge for residents on snowy days. Snow plows on roads often pile snow into wheel chair wells at the corner of roads.

- Sheila Dormody suggested BPAC look up in the MuniCode for Providence ordinances under the search words “snow patrol” to find out the proper snow removal issues and to look into the Adopt a Hydrant program.**
- Jenn Steinfeld will invite Peter Gaynor to the next meeting to talk about community engagement snow removal and associated safety issues.**
- Eric Weis will reach out to City of Cranston about clearing sidewalks.**

- Ask Dave Everett about how to report snow shoveling issues and who to talk to.
3. Complete Street plans and the Road Bond were presented by Eric Weis. Bill DeSantis of VHB (consultants for the city's bicycle plan and Complete Streets), are currently overlaying the mapped streets of the Road Bond (repaving). Those will be out by the next BPAC meeting
 4. Bike Parking possibilities were presented by guest James Baumgartner. How can we reach out to businesses to buy/install bike racks at their store fronts? The city currently has funding for downtown bike parking through the Providence Foundation and the CMAQ project (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality). Other groups that have requested bike rack funding from other sources for their local businesses include Bike Newport (contact Bari George) and Westminster St. businesses (White Electric and NUA). It seems likely that rack funding can be requested by the city's merchants' associations. Thayer, Atwells, and Hope Street Merchants Associations, and the local Universities would be good candidates to speak with on this issue. Additionally, Matt Moritz of RIBIKE (RI's bike advocacy group) offered to attend merchants' association meetings. It was suggested that representatives of various merchants associations gather at a BPAC meeting for a presentation on the benefits of investing in bike racks.
- Jenna Yu will find out the specs for placing bike racks on public sidewalks.
5. Biking Ordinances/Regulations were reviewed. General

consensus of the BPAC group was that the state biking laws should be used in place of the current biking ordinances. The group asked Matt Moritz to have RIBIKE provide suggestions on changing state code. BPAC will ask the mayor's policymakers and legislative chair to put the bike ordinances on the agenda for their next meeting.

- RIBIKE will make suggestions on state ordinance changes.**

Submitted by Jenna Yu, 10/26/12

Edited By David Everett, 11/19/12/Approved 11/19/12