

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board
Thursday, June 21—6 p.m.
Conway Police Department

Present: Curt Amenta, Jennifer Boyett, Jim Bruce, David Barber, Erik Leamon, Peter Mehl, Greg Reddin, Lynn Schaefer, Michael Yoder

Ex-officio: Finley Vinson

Absent: Jim Holland & Duston Morris (members), Wes Craiglow (ex-officio)

Old Business

1. SRTS sidewalk projects: Sidewalks near Marguerite Vann Elementary and on Carl Stuart Road were approved by the council, but the city has not started on them yet.
2. Bike route: Installation of signage has not been completed but should start next week. Bollards will be installed to replace the gate in Thousand Oaks; a paved section is needed from that area over to the trail. There was discussion of putting extra signs on the part of Salem Road that is congruent with the bike route because drivers of cars need extra warning. Erik thanked Finley for his work with the signs.
3. SRTS grant: David, Michael, and Jim (Bruce) volunteered to form a subcommittee to work on the website that is part of this grant. An upcoming debriefing meeting about the bike rodeo at Marguerite Vann Elementary School on bike-to-school day was also discussed. Members suggested holding bike rodeos at Carl Stuart Middle School and Ida Burns Elementary School in the future.
4. BPAB information on city website: The city website needs to be updated to include new BPAB members and monthly minutes. It was also suggested that the new Conway by Bicycle map be placed on the website in PDF form. **Peter will update the website.**
5. MTB group: BPAB members have in past meetings discussed the formation of an MTB group to pursue care of Cadron Settlement Park trails and the development of bike trails at the old landfill. It was decided that BPAB would encourage CAB to form this MTB group. **Peter and Greg will talk to Chance Norman about this.**
6. State biking advocacy group: Jennifer reported that David “Bud” Laumer from AHTD contacted her to discuss Arkansas’ low ranking from the League of American Bicyclists and the possibility of forming a statewide coalition for bike advocacy. Others across the state are interested, including people from Bentonville, northeast Arkansas, the Ozarks region, and Bicycle Advocacy of

Central Arkansas. Currently 10 to 12 people are involved; the desire is to start with a small core group focused on biking, which will expand later and include advocacy for walkers. Jennifer has reserved a room at the Chamber of Commerce for an all-day meeting on June 29, which will be led by a representative from the Alliance for Biking and Walking. Representatives from the North Little Rock mayor's office and AARP have expressed an interest in being involved, but it was decided that government entities would be invited to participate later, after goals have been established by community representatives.

7. Transportation forum: This item was tabled due to Wes' absence.
8. Walk Friendly Community application process: This application is almost identical to the BFC application, requiring a great deal of data from the police department and city engineering. Peter recommended that before we start working on this application, we make a plan for improvements in the city's "walkability" and then approach the city with a proposal for making the improvements. Greg recommended forming a community task force divided into subcommittees based on the "5 Es," which are also part of the WFC requirements. Erik said that employees at The Sporty Runner might be able to suggest people who would be interested, and Peter suggested contacting Carroll Bishop from Conway Public Schools and Mayor Tab Townsell to find out others who might be interested, since some discussion about walkability took place at Conway 2025. **Michael and Peter will try to set up a meeting with Tab.**

During this section of the meeting, the parking area around Papa John's Pizza came up as a dangerous area for walkers as well as vehicles. There is a new, UCA-owned vacant lot south of the business where parking spaces could be leased to Papa John's, but UCA officials have said that a parking lot will not be built there at this time. Curt reported seeing an accident there recently when a car parked at Papa John's backed out and hit a bus. **Curt will find out the date of the accident.**

New Business

9. Review Purpose and Intent of BPAB: Discussion about BPAB's mission was held. Members' consensus is that we are an advisory board with the purpose of encouraging the City of Conway to take action on problems and possibilities related to biking and walking and to consult with us before finalizing street projects, not to be "down in the trenches" doing the physical work such as creating a mountain-bike park. Peter expressed a need for a city representative to work with BPAB and keep us informed about what is happening around Conway and whether the "complete streets" plan is being taken into consideration. Construction work on Oak Street under I-40 was given as an example, but members were reminded that is a state highway project, not a city project. In the future, the nascent state advocacy group

that Jen is involved in would give feedback about projects such as that one. David reminded members that the comment period on state highway projects from 2013-2016 ends in July. **Greg will look at the plans, write up some comments, and send to our group for input.**

10. Master list/map of problematic cycling/pedestrian areas: Erik is working on a list of “problem areas” around town. He has gotten suggestions via his Facebook page and **will send us the list by email; we should discuss this matter with people around town and email him with additional suggestions.** Items on the list so far:

- A way to cross the interstate from the west to east sides of town is needed. (Currently Siebenmorgen is used for this purpose, but it is very narrow.)
- Robins Street near the baseball field has been striped for parking places where a bike lane was supposed to be.
- Salem Road needs a crosswalk.
- The bridge on Salem needs repair and sharrows.
- Hogan & Irby need traffic calmers.

Gravel on the streets is another issue. Finley said that the city’s two sweeper trucks and two drivers cannot keep up with the demand for street-sweeping, which is supposed to be done once a week but is done once a month at best. Finley suggested that someone from BPAB discuss this problem with Ronnie Hall before drafting a memo or a resolution for the city council.

Jim suggested adding cars parking in bike lanes as an issue on the “problem” list.

11. Bicycle Friendly status: This item was tabled until the next meeting. **Members were asked to look at feedback about our last application for the Bicycle Friendly City designation from the League of American Bicyclists before next meeting.**

12. Next meeting: July 19 at the police department.