

Nampa Bicycle & Pedestrian Citizens' Advisory Group
Minutes
May 20, 2008

Attendance: Jerry and Barbara Hull, Worth Montgomery, Tyler Welshimer, LaRita Schandorff

Review of May 16 Bike/Walk Day

At least 18 different businesses were represented by those who registered. List has been added to the bikewalknampa.org website. Other data will be added when it is compiled and received from Tyler Welshimer. Thank you notes will be sent to all sponsors. Report and brief slideshow will be presented at future council meeting. Recommendations for next year included using time-line that will get planning started earlier, securing additional sponsors, identifying and focusing on 10 key persons or businesses who will be enthusiastic supporters of the event. Everyone felt it was a positive first attempt and good start for next year. **Kudos and thanks to all the great NBPCAG volunteers who distributed posters, secured sponsors and equipment, took photos, and spent time "hanging out" at the Celebration Stations on May 16: Jerry and Barbara Hull, Worth Montgomery, Adam Haynes, Paul Greear, Julia Jones, Kathleen Cookman, David Clements, Tyler Welshimer (my apologies, if I left anyone out!).**

Report on Midland Striping Decision

Additional information was shared from May 16 follow-up conversation between LaRita and city staff regarding the May 5 city council decision to restripe Midland with 5 - 10 foot lanes (with a center turn lane) rather than 2 - 10 foot lanes and 2 - 14 foot outside lanes (no center turn lane) that would allow shared use. One question asked of staff was clarification of the status of the Bikeways Plan that appears in the current Nampa Comprehensive Plan (according to the Bikeways Plan, Midland is designated as a shared use bike route). Here is a summary of the city staff's response:

- Both the Nampa Comprehensive Plan and the Bikeways Plan are "fading" in light of a transportation plan that will be developed in the next year.
- This decision is an interim solution and will only affect Orchard to the boulevard.
- The long term goal, when funds are available, is to widen the street to a width that will accommodate shared use.
- Advocacy and monitoring of the Bikeways Plan appears to be assigned to no one on the city staff.

After much discussion it was decided by the group that this was not an acceptable response and a formal request for reconsideration should be made to the city council at the earliest possible date for the following reasons:

- 1) This decision is not in keeping with the Nampa Comprehensive Plan (2004), nor the Bikeways Plan(2001).
- 2) The Bikeways Plan is still in effect and even in the event of a new plan (which is at least 1-2 years away), Midland will continue to be a preferred route for getting from the south side of the city to the major shopping areas on the boulevard.
- 3) Even interim traffic solutions need to take all modes of transportation into consideration.

4) Creating 5 - 10 foot wide lanes will not eliminate bicycles from Midland, they will just be forced to "take the lane". Mature, confident cyclists will do this, but most will be too intimidated and discouraged, once again, to use bicycles for transportation.

5) Some on the council made this decision based on the assumption that cyclists who still wish to travel this route could use the sidewalk. Although sidewalk use is allowed by Idaho Traffic Law, it is not recommended for numerous safety reasons.

6) Although this decision is interim and only affects 1 mile of roadway, it is symbolic of the priorities and mindset that continues to prevail in Nampa traffic decisions. This is a low-cost opportunity for the city council to demonstrate to the Nampa community that they really do want to support and encourage multimodal transportation. Striping the road with 4 lanes would accomplish the goal of increased motor vehicle traffic flow and also provide wider, safer outside lanes to encourage and support those who choose to use a bicycle.

Belle District Criterium/ Team Dobbaccio Memorial Day Race

Attempts were made to contact Dobbaccio person but without success. Due to lack of information and low attendance at this meeting there was a consensus that we would be unable to provide any support for this event this year.

LeBow Bike Tour - group registration

It was suggested that NBPCAG might have 8 or more persons who are planning to ride in this benefit tour and we should look into registering as a group so that riders can take advantage of the discount.

Action Items:

Tyler - compile data from Bike/Walk day registration and submit to LaRita for publishing on the website.

LaRita - draft request to submit to city council regarding the Midland striping decision.

- find or develop time-line for 2009 bike/walk day.
- send out thank you notes to all sponsors of 2008 bike/walk day.
- develop report on bike/walk day event to present to city council.
- contact NBPCAG email list about LeBow group registration and collect.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.