

Bicycle Friendly Committee

October 5, 2016 MINUTES

🚦 Welcome, Introductions, and News

- Members greet another.

🚦 The BFC meeting came to order.

- Bill Blessing made a motion to approve the agenda. Pete Stover seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- The June 1st minutes was approved, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- Effective January 2017, Kevin Corbett will take the Chair position.

🚦 International Walk/Bike to School Day Recap

- Nativity.** Low number of participants compared to last year. Not sure if there were any promotions. Committee member is willing to assist in providing a bicycling and walking instructional program.
- Mission Trail.** Higher number of participants.
- Brookwood.** Nearly everyone participates on a daily basis.
- Cure.** Police was not present and it was concerning. Vice-Chair Jennings interviewed several kids and determines that Cure needs bicycling instruction too.
- Corinth.** Had 300 out of 500+ students. Best turnout to-date.

🚦 Cycling Riding Statistics Along Mission Road

- Letter received by Daniel Towle, M.D.

Dear Mayor Dunn and the Leawood City Council,

I almost met my Maker today....again....riding my bicycle on Mission Road.

Traveling north near 140th I was passed by two cars at a high rate of speed, both crossing the double lane dividing line, and the second car was forced to whip back into my lane - cutting me off in order to narrowly avoid a head-on collision with a southbound vehicle. All in all, five lives put in danger by an impatient driver that still had to wait for the red light at 135th as I pulled back alongside.

With all due respect to the Council, in our 40 years of avid bicycle riding, on several continents and in numerous states, my wife Christy and I have never encountered the continual danger level experienced on Mission Road between 137th and 151st. Time and time again impatient drivers force harrowing three abreast situations between oncoming cars and the cyclist - even though we avidly obey rules of the road, travel with rear view mirrors on our helmets, have flashing tail lights, stop at lights, and never ride two abreast.

I can understand to a degree road budgets, partner financing, and the multiple factors that go into road improvement decisions. Finances come and go, budget timetables come and go, but in my career as a physician I have seen numerous lives end. There is no coming and going with human life.

I will save this letter for the future. I pray it doesn't become an instance of diplomatically having to say...."if only they had made the improvement sooner".... because I am very confident that in the future Mission Road will see a tragic loss of a bicyclist or motorist on this stretch of road. It is amazing it hasn't happened yet.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Towle, M.D.
Leawood resident since 1993

- Chris Rues commented that there were 4 bike/vehicle crashes this year in the city. There were 6 crashes last year. Leawood has a very low crash number compared to cyclists in the metro. Rolling stops are the main causes of these crashes. Members discuss improvements on Mission Road which is slated for bike lanes and a 10 foot wide path in 2023.
- Debra Filla suggested a staff report on the metrics in the next 3 months to share with council.

ATTENDEES

5:30 pm • Leawood City Hall
4800 Town Center Drive
Main Conference Room

Members

- Vacant, Chair
- Alicia Jennings, Vice Chair
- Bill Blessing
- Kevin Corbett
- Bill Day
- David Harwood
- Pete Stover

City Staff

- Brian Anderson
Parks Superintendent
- Marica Putman
Administrative Graphics Tech
- David Ley, City Engineer
- Phil Goff, Police Officer
- Chris Rues, Police Officer
- Mark Klein, Planning Official

Guests

- Debra Filla, Councilmember

- Bill Blessing summarized the plan's priorities based on prior meetings:
 1. Future road projects to include bike lanes and/or walks where planned.
 2. Prioritizing main routes to school, accelerated based on what was learned.
 3. Increase awareness of Leawood's park system and work to implement the 2 recreational loops, and signage from the Self-Propelled Plan.
- Members discuss the current situation, possible options that are in the master plan and those not.
- **Action Items: Chris Rues will review the number of cycling/vehicle accidents on annual basis to spot repeats and patterns. Bill Blessing will meet with Brian Anderson to prepare an annual summary similar to the one he just mention in the meeting.**

✚ Main Routes to Schools Project

- Please note: Safe routes has been changed to Main Routes. The concern is that the word "Safe" routes imply that the route is safe and insured.
- Vice-Chair Jennings voiced that parents are asking when they are going to see some progress (signage, sidewalks).
- Debra Fillg commented what Gareth Matthews has done with Mission Trail, which is to get the principal involved. She suggested that members meet, provide the principal and PTA rep their documents and explain that he/she would like to work with the school and parents along with volunteers and city staff to accomplish main routes to schools for safety concerns. Members continue their discussion and suggestions.
- Bill Blessing asks that the committee ask staff to create a matrix listing school officials and city staff info (email addresses, phone numbers, etc.) and what needs to be done and what has been done. Ten elementary schools and two middle schools.
- Brian Anderson suggested two phases. Phase 1 is to create a committee of school officials, PTA, city staff, and citizens to determine where kids walk/ride (identifying those streets). Phase 2 is school driven. The school oversees the daily use of the primary routes to school program. Brian Anderson shares examples of how staff have requested biking and walking improvements recommended in the bike pedestrian plan with regard to new commercial development or renovation.
- Mark Klein explains the application process. The applicant makes an application to Planning; they come with a plan that has been reviewed by engineers and architects. Planning reviews and comments on the plan. Planning does not initiate what it looks like or where it is placed.
- Bill Blessing suggests an initial meeting to gather allies/teams to build a committee with a second meeting as a work session to make things happen and grow the program. Similar to Brian Anderson's suggestion.
- Members continue to discuss the infrastructure, getting people involved in the project implementation and issuing notifications. They also discussed problem examples from various schools.
- **Action Items: To schedule and have Gareth Matthews lead the Mission Trail process of getting schools involved in documenting primary routes to school with meetings, letters, etc. Work with Gareth Matthews to provide document the process based on his experience and desire to replicate to all elementary and middle schools. Include ideas such as asking schools about programs to encourage walking and biking to school to help prioritize which schools that the committees will work with. Another idea was a school survey to all parents to receive their impression/concerns/ideas about walk/bike to school. Staff to create a school matrix.**

✚ Tomahawk Creek Parkway Kermis (Bicycle Race Event)

- First event's bicycle race comments were good. The community part (festivals) needs more emphasis. The general public event had limited publicity. Discussed that it started as a bike race only with the committee wanting to add a festival to it. Would like it to be a bike festival with a bike race (the race contingent on weather conditions) going forward.
- L.L. Bean sent out lots of positive tweets about the event.
- The City of Leawood did not have to pay any expenses. Race expenses were paid by the race promoter and sponsors.
- Debra Fillg encouraged Brian Anderson to include in a staff report to educate council about the idea need for budgets and how it supports our application to be a Bicycle Friendly City.
- Members discussed festival improvements, a different date, making it an evening event, budget planning, etc.

✚ City Department Reports

- David Ley received a sidewalk petition for 93rd Street from Mission to Wenonga. Minimum requirement is 75%. The Public Works Committee did a cost estimate of \$600 for 10 years for each property owner causing people to back out. The petition fell below 50% and as a result the governing body recommendation was not to proceed with the sidewalk installation. A brief discussion concerning the area trees and street.
- Mission Road has two petitions. The first one is from 124th to 123rd Street for a sidewalk on the west side from Brookshire to the trail and the second is from the trail to 119th Street. Both will be presented to the Public Works Committee in November. If the second one gets approved, the CARS program will fund it (Johnson County funding at 50%).
- In a couple of weeks, David Ley and Joe Johnson are meeting with Leawood Elementary concerning a traffic signal crosswalk and parents parking along High Drive for pickup. Kids are not crossing at the crosswalk; instead of walking to the actual crosswalk that is 130 feet away, they are crossing where there is a sidewalk cut to the road where parents are parking across the street. The school would like another traffic signal and Public Works is reluctant to do this. The school wanted a 2nd crossing guide. Public Works did a count and found only 6 people crossing there in the morning and 20/30 plus kids crossing later. The counter was frantic because these kids would cross without looking. The school requested to remove the one traffic signal and to provide another at that location. The traffic signal is leased through KCPL. Member discussion revolved around parental responsibility, options such as a principal's letter to parents, and no parking times signage along High Drive.
- Brian Anderson reported that this year's employee benefits package provides employees who commute by bike \$20 per month for bike expenses, encouraging biking on a regular basis. To his knowledge, Leawood is the first municipality in KC to offer such a program. Great job by the Human Resources Department.

✚ Thank You

- Members thanked Pete Stover for his time and service; Pete is moving to Michigan and this was his last meeting.

✚ Adjourn

- The meeting ended. The next regular BFC meeting of December 7, 2016 is being rescheduled to November 2nd, 2016.