

Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council
Minutes of June 20, 2007 Meeting

- 1) **Introductions and approval of the minutes of the March 21, 2007 meeting.**
- 2) ***Bike 2015 Plan: Reports on the progress in implementing Chapters 3 & 4***
 - a) **(C. Gagnon):** Report on bicycle parking implementations. Plans to install 250 bike racks by August 31, 2007, with another 150-200 by December 31, 2007. Additional bicycle parking has been provided at strategic Red and Brown line areas to encourage more bike and bus ridership during the reconstruction of these transit lines. A new system for addressing abandoned bikes is needed; suggestions requested by August 1, 2007.
 - b) **(A. Malick):** Report on plan implementation at the CTA. CTA personnel have been trained about bicycle access. Bus drivers start "Share the Road" training sessions in July. Nearly all CTA train stations now have outdoor bike parking, and 82 have indoor bike parking! Four out of the eight reconstructed stops on the Dan Ryan line will have indoor parking, as will many reconstructed Brown line stops. Bike-to-Transit and Bicycle Racks on Buses guides are now included in packets of information given to new city residents. This information was also featured on a cable access show recently.
The challenge in maintaining bus bike racks is currently being addressed. If a bus bike rack malfunctions, one should take note of the bus number and call (888) YOUR-CTA or Amy. Some claims have been made against the CTA regarding bus bike rack malfunctions, but the bike racks are "use at your own risk."
 - c) **(M. Elmer):** Report on the new summer position of Bike-to-Transit Ambassador. In this position she does bike education and counts at CTA stations, bus bike rack maintenance, and bus driver education. Planning organized rides from south side stations to the Loop.
 - d) **(G. Davis):** Report on high-capacity bike parking to be established at four CTA train stations—Damen, Jefferson Park, Sox 35th, and Midway. Each will hold 50-100 bikes. Call for bids will go out soon.
- 3) **Updates**
 - a) **Mayor's Office of Special Events (A. Davis):** Bike to Work Day went well. Bike valet services have increased every year—8,189 cyclists valet parked in 2006; more expected in 2007. Bike valet is now offered at about 12 downtown events. Weather appears to greatly influence the number of users. A criterium bike race is planned for Sunday, July 27, 2008.
 - b) **Chicagoland Bicycle Federation (Ethan Spotts):** The 6th annual Bike the Drive went well, despite early showers. This was the first year it was sponsored by Bank of America. Fundraising came close to last year.
 - c) **Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (T. Murtha):** People can comment on the latest plan between the next meeting on June 26, 2007 and July 19, 2007. It is slated to go out in August and be approved in October. They are working on many things such as a Desplaines River Trail, an I-355 trail, McHenry County trail gaps, regional bikeway plans in Kane County, and DuPage County plans. Funding for two subregional plans for FY2008 has been secured.
 - d) **Chicago Department of Transportation (K. Privett):** Large amounts of highway funding program funds have been rescinded—a substantial amount of money that was authorized for the next few years has been *deauthorized*. For example, \$300 million or more will be taken away in FY 2009.

- 4) **On-street Bikeways (G. Davis, M. Amsden):** Ten miles of bike lanes and shared lanes have been established this year. The hope is to do 3-5 more miles. Seventy miles of signage has also been installed. Colored bike lanes are being put in at 9 locations; some are already complete at Elston/Division, Dearborn/Chicago, and Lincoln/Webster intersections. The colored bike lanes are part of a federal experiment, and Chicago is only the second place in the country to try them out. An extensive analysis was completed in choosing the green color and the thermoplastic material used in the lanes. They are more slip-resistant than asphalt, cannot be damaged by snow plows as the material is melted into the pavement, and should last for 5+ years. This project cost about \$100,000. Federal CMAQ funds were used; no city funds were necessary. Next summer CDOT will conduct an analysis of user behavior around the colored bike lanes through counts and video analysis, as well as crash data. CMAQ funded on-street bikeways to be established in 2008 and 2009. The location of the lanes is driven by the *Bike 2015 Plan*, with priority destinations near schools, adjoining municipalities, transit stations, over waterways, to and within the Loop, and to other trails. A map of current and proposed bike lane locations was passed out. Fifteen miles of bike lanes are planned for 2008. In 2009, CDOT will have to look for more creative bikeway designs since there may not be streets that are “easy” to put bike lanes. Possibilities include removing a travel lane on four-lane streets and creating rush hour bike lanes.
- 5) **2007 Bicycling Ambassador & Junior Ambassador Programs (E. Willobee, C. Short):** Six ambassadors are working for the summer of 2007. Between May 14 and June 1 they went to 27 Chicago events, educating thousands of people about how to bicycle safely and helmet fitting 1,100 people. Twelve to fourteen high school students will work as Junior Ambassadors between June 26 and August 3. They will visit 175 Chicago Park District summer camps (out of 215) attended by 5 – 15 year-old children in order to teach bicycle safety and encourage bicycling. The Bicycling Ambassador program received an award from the Illinois Safety Council.
- 6) **Training Taxi Drivers to Share the Road with Bicyclists (A. Woodall):** A pilot “Share the Road” education module was launched at the taxi training school at Harold Washington College. It includes a 25-30 minute lecture, with discussion. After the pilot, the class will be required for all people training to drive taxis in Chicago. In the future, bicycle questions will be included on the exams required to become taxi drivers. (This change comes at a good time since the tests were being changed.) This project is a partnership with IDOT, the Department of Consumer Services, and Harold Washington College. The City of Toronto’s taxi training is the model being followed.
- 7) **IDNR & Highway Traffic Safety Grant Funding (B. Thompson, B. Gomberg):** [grant summary info] IDOT support for the *Chicago Bicycle Safety Initiative* will allow an increase from 6 to 8 Bicycle Ambassadors in 2008 and new, important bicycle education and enforcement initiatives.
- 8) **Major Taylor Trail Opening & Clean-up (K. Holt, K. Privett):** Many cycling groups showed up to the ribbon-cutting event for the trail. It is now open and is maintained by the Chicago Park District. On July 21, 2007 a clean-up of the trail will occur with all volunteers welcome. Although the trail is open, an extension to 95th Street is not yet complete.

Minutes prepared by Jessica Thompson