

SCPDC Active Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes | 2012

Date: Wednesday, May 09, 2012

Attendees: (11)

Josh Manning, SCPDC
Cassie Parker, SCPDC
Dennis Hebert, LADOTD
Lyle Leblanc, LADOTD
Emery Chauvin III, LADOTD
Chris Pulaski, TPCG
Steve Romano, St. Charles Parish
Shane Landry, St James Parish Gov't
Keri Walker, St. James Parish Gov't
Wendell Voisin, TPCG Transit
Visula Amrhein, Buchart Horn, Inc.

Agenda Item #1

Introductions

Introductions took place at the request of J. Manning.

Agenda Item #2

Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update

J. Manning then gave a brief update on the Bike and Pedestrian Plan which grew out of an agenda item from the MPO Policy Committee meeting. The South Central Planning and Development Commission was asked to create a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian meetings began on February 8, 2011, in which it was decided that it may be more beneficial to meet with each individual parish for ideas on the plan. Based on the conversations with each parish, a list of proposed and existing routes was compiled.

J. Manning presented a PowerPoint presentation of each parish's map with proposed and existing bicycle and pedestrian routes.

Assumption

- Bayou L'ourse Road (LA 662) – big shoulders for potential bike lane/sidewalks, striping and signage projects
- 10 10 a couple of routes down to Lake Verret
- LA 70 Pierre Part Store (from the bridge)
- Extension of the Acadia Road Project in Lafourche Parish
- Napoleonville has an existing sidewalk which is a Safe Routes to School project

Lafourche

- Along LA 1 (most of that traffic takes the back road)
- City of Thibodaux: Loop in the Park, LA 1- Larose down to Golden Meadow (there is a park in Golden Meadow that the route could potentially tie into), Acadia Road, and Audubon Road.

(There is no connection with the Northern routes because we have the same issue in Lafourche Parish as in Terrebonne Parish – How do you cross the Intracoastal?)

Terrebonne

- Southdown area- Summerfield, Valhi Boulevard
- Southdown Mandalay and US 90 (Bayou Country Cyclist group currently ride these routes)

C. Pulaski informed the committee of the FHWA Recreational Trails Grant that TPCG applied for to implement the "Southern Loop" which is an outback starting at the airbase along Hwy 56 (East-side). There is an existing soft ball field complex that will be utilized as the trail head since there is already parking space available. Furthermore, there is ample shoulder space on Highway 56 until reaching the Boudreaux Canal area. Once reaching Bayou Salle Road, it would be a shared road situation; therefore, signage would be used. He also explained that both shoulders of Highway 56 will be striped for the bike lanes.

L. Leblanc stated that he did not see any markings on the map for Bull Run Road. He further states that it seems that this particular road is very popular to bike riders. J. Manning explains that there is an existing path (shared road) on Bull Run Road.

J. Manning explained that routes will be identified in this plan, then text will be added to explain what could possibly be done to make these proposed routes safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.

L. Leblanc asked if there was any consideration in creating exclusive bike trails, possibly on levee tops, rather than shared roadway. J. Manning explained that there was not a parish that embraced that idea. L. Leblanc explained that he would be willing to take his family to ride a bicycle on a levee top, but would never bring them to ride on some of the proposed roads, such as Bull Run Road because it is not safe.

C. Pulaski explains that where Valhi blvd and South Hollywood meet up, there is a combination of dirt and paved, approximately 7 miles long, off- road bike and walking trail.

Discussion ensued concerning safety issues of bike trails on certain roadways.

St. Charles

J. Manning moves on to explain plans for St. Charles. S. Romano states that many of these projects were currently included in St. Charles comprehensive plan. J. Manning further states there are quite a few existing routes due to the hard work that St. Charles has done.

S. Romano stated that there is an opportunity to make a connection between the roadways in the Lakewood area and the levee bike path. From his understanding, a large amount of West bank's population resides in this area. He further explains that on Lakewood Drive, there are numerous pedestrians and individuals that travel by motorized scooter in this area.

St. James

- Bike Trails on the Levee tops
- Projects in Vacherie and Gramercy were mentioned
- Bike Lanes on 3125 and 3127

St. John the Baptist

J. Manning commented that it would be great to have the three river parishes connected. He then mentioned that the "Ring Around the Lake" would offer users a more scenic route. No one from St. John the Baptist was present to comment on the plans.

Agenda Item #3

Updated Maps – Identified Routes, Schools, and Parks

J. Manning stated that he will continue to research location of schools and parks and add them to the maps. He also would like to include any Transportation Enhancement, Safe Routes to School, or Recreational Trails Project(s) that are not currently included on the map. He further states that it is time for the projects to begin being prioritized and ranked.

Agenda Item #4

Project Maps

J. Manning explained that, due to an impromptu meeting, he was unable to complete the project specific maps; however, he will inform the parishes when the maps are completed.

Agenda Item #5

Next Steps?

It was suggested that the parishes, along with the local cyclist enthusiast, would be the best persons to prioritize and rank the paths that would be most beneficial to the parish.

Agenda Item #6

All individuals present at the meeting received South Central Planning and Development Commission's 2012 meeting schedule.

Agenda Item #7

Next meeting date is scheduled for **Wednesday August 8, 2012 10:00 A.M.**