

**STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH**

March 30, 2012

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Pat Coluzzi on Friday, March 30, 2012 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Pat Coluzzi, Jim Ellison, Cindy Lovett, Lorraine Zellers, Dennis Diehl, John Gauger (left meeting at 10:50 a.m.)

Absent: Bill Sargent, Kathy Osterholm

Audience: Ryan Mavity of Cape Gazette

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Jim Ellison, to approve the Agenda with the deletion of the February 3, 2012, February 18, 2012 and February 24, 2012 Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the February 3, 2012, February 18, 2012 and February 24, 2012 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting were not available for approval.

Correspondence

There was none.

Review progress on Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan with Delaware Greenways.

Jeff Greene of Delaware Greenways has been in contact with Sharee Davis who is currently the New Jersey Department of Transportation Pedestrian/Bicycle Coordinator. She will be retiring to the Rehoboth area and is interested in participating in pedestrian/bicycle activities here in the City.

Jeff presented the improvements document for the Committee to review. Although the alternatives have been left in the document, there was concern about which alternative should be shown for the northern gateway. Technical Memorandum 3B is virtually done. This document has education and enforcements ideas in it. The timeline for this project is one more month for technical work; and then in April, the Committee is scheduled to meet with the Board of Commissioners and start the adoption process. Design of the document will need to occur in May with completion by May 31, 2012. Jeff has received traffic volume data from DelDOT for all the roads in the City that the State owns. He will also be using the predictions for future increases in bicycle/pedestrian activity from the State. A separate document will be provided of the calculation for the average use of trails/roads by bicyclists and pedestrians.

Pat noted that the Committee needs to prioritize the immediacy of the bike network/boulevards. Jeff will provide the prioritization in the document that the Committee recommends. Connectivity issues with bicycle boulevards. Pat had attended a summit meeting with DelDOT, lobbyists, water taxi people, etc. and voiced concern about the bicycle trail ending before crossing the bridge when coming into the City on Rehoboth Avenue. She has been in contact with Representative Pete Schwartzkopf who has agreed to pay for the plates to be put on the bridge to continue the trail into the City. DelDOT's plan was to put in concrete on the bridge. An analysis of the load will also need to be done. DelDOT is against removing the bumpers on Silver Lake Bridge because the bridge rails are not crashworthy. Another summit will be held on April 26, 2012 in Dover, DE with the Governor, Secretary of Transportation, DelDOT, etc. Pat with Greg Ferrese and City Engineer Bob Palmer regarding the crosswalks, and Bob will be providing estimates. With regard to eliminating the vehicle parking spaces on Baltimore Avenue and First Street, Bob recommended not to have the bicycle parking stations on the road on First Street because it is too dangerous. He recommended extending the sidewalk, putting in bulb-outs and installing two (2) parking stations on them at the southwest and northeast corners on Baltimore Avenue. Monies are available for this project. The Board of Commissioners agreed to remove two vehicle parking spaces. They also disagreed to installing a crosswalk across Rehoboth Avenue at Fourth Street because of safety, and four parking spaces would need to be eliminated.

Sketches of the crosswalks on Rehoboth Avenue will be included in the document.

The suggested edits and comments from the Committee were:

1. Eliminate the off-road trail near the ocean from the document.
2. Expand and put prioritizations in Tech Memo 3B which consists of the cost estimates and education program.
 - a. List the projects with descriptions and prioritizations for the first year, mid-term and long-term, etc.
3. Identify bike boulevards on a map and put up signage. Not all of the bicycle boulevards will be implemented this year.
4. Make the connection between Dewey and Lewes, and that needs to be accomplished.
5. The use of a map showing connectivity for bike enthusiasts and vacationers.
6. A map that shows connections to attractions outside of the City such as Gordon's Pond, Dewey Beach, and bicycle parking not located on Rehoboth Avenue.
7. Determine the bicycle boulevards to be implemented this year.
8. Bicycle parking should be located all over the City, especially at City Hall. Parking stations are needed on areas that can expand as needed.
9. Bicycle network/boulevards to be shown on the initial map.
10. Determination of whether the City can start the production of a uniquely designed street sign for the bicycle network. Signage could be made by the City's sign shop.
11. Bike lanes cannot be proposed the first year. Small sharrows limited to where the busiest areas are can be proposed the first year.
12. Connectivity over the Silver Lake Bridge can be shown on the map with a note to use caution when bicycling/walking across the bridge.
13. Signage at the Silver Lake and Canal Bridges coming into the City and going out of the City.
14. Have a special section in 3A that talks about First Street activities. This section would have a map and all the specific recommendations for first year implementation. The rest of the boulevards would be mid-term, and the Silver Lake Bridge would be considered long-term.
15. Bike boxes should be taken out of the main report. (page 7)
16. Silver Lake Park should be taken out of the main report. The land is zoned as open space. (page 9)
17. More than two alternatives have been identified for bicycle traffic to/from the west. (page 13)
18. At the beginning of the plan, there should be a statement to note that this document is a plan which will be implemented in phases.
19. Two maps will be done – this year's map and an ultimate map of the bicycle network/boulevards. As the plan is implemented, the map will change.
20. More bike racks are needed, particularly along the beach. It was recommended that Mel Craig, Public Works Director, be in attendance at the next meeting to discuss bike racks and their placement.
21. Delete the tables throughout and consolidate them into a table of cost estimates.
22. In regard to the bike boulevards as a reasonable approach, signage and traffic speed data is needed in moving forward.
23. Have a discussion to calm traffic on particular streets before the bicycle boulevard decision is made. Police Chief Keith Banks attends the Commissioners' meetings and can indicate whether traffic calming devices are needed on particular streets.
24. Incorporating the path on the canal side of the museum where the proposed water taxi would be located with the bicycle/pedestrian plan. (page 24) The bike path is not in the water taxi plan. Leave the path in the plan. The biggest problem with the water taxi plan is parking.
24. In regard to the Northern Gateway trail, move it off of the plan. (page 27) The two-way and one-way bikes lanes would be left in the plan as an option.
26. With regard to a two-way bike lane in the center of the street on King Charles Avenue, it would be the only place in the City where this would occur. Eliminate Fig. 27. (page 36) and the accompanying text.
27. Removed the pedestrian plaza at the Boardwalk from the plan. (page 40)
28. Leave Turtle Bridge in the plan. It is a low priority in terms of immediate work. Put a sign up at Turtle Bridge for people to walk their bikes across the bridge.
29. Replacement of Turtle Bridge would be a long-term, low priority.
30. Possible meeting with DelDOT regarding the crosswalks on State Road. (page 47)
31. Tentatively determine what the next two phases would be to discuss during the winter months with regard to implementation, study what is being used, and get the information out to the public. A

bicycle map, street signage and inroad markings need to be implemented this year.

Jeff discussed with the Committee the educational program. Many cities have implemented bike walk ambassador programs. A program geared to visitors would need to be designed. State College, PA will be implementing this type of program in the next fiscal year. It's budget includes \$21,000.00 for the first year and \$6,000.00 in the year thereafter which would be for part of the salary for the coordinator and buying helmets and shirts for the ambassadors. Transportation enhancement monies were received to cover the first year. This program would entail having ambassadors on the streets talking to people, run activities, coordinate with schools, bike rodeos, training courses, etc. The ambassadors are the city's representatives to the bicycle community. Literature and maps could be distributed by the ambassadors. They could appear at community functions such as the Farmers' Market, events at the Convention Center, etc. Public service announcements could be broadcast on hotel channels along with the possibility of local television stations airing them. There could be a webpage on the City website dedicated to bicycling which can be easily linkable to tourist websites. Realtors could be distributors of the maps.

The consensus of the Committee was to have bicycle ambassadors. The Committee could sell this concept as an ambassador program geared to bicycles/pedestrians. It was suggested to get the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street involved along with the Committee and the City to develop this program. Ambassadors could be stationed at the kiosk on the Boardwalk in the morning hours to help people. One of the buildings in Grove Park could also be used. The program could be tied in with scouts, service groups, high school, etc. It was suggested that a meeting be held with Main Street and the Chamber of Commerce. Funding could possibly be allocated to Main Street to hire a person as a coordinator.

Jeff will put the draft document of Technical Memorandum 3B together by April 11, 2012 and forward it to everyone. Pat noted that the plan could be introduced at the Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting on May 7, 2012 and adopted at the Regular Meeting on May 18, 2012.

Walkable/Bikeable Delaware will be held in Dover, DE on April 26, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Update on Plan for Beautification of Rehoboth Beach.

Lorraine provided an update on the Beach Bloom Project. Estimates were received from Envirotech and Warren Goldie to present to the Commissioners. The Commissioners supported the proposed projects, and monies have been allocated in the budget. Lorraine had talked with Todd Fritchman regarding the need for the initial soil results. John Martin of DNREC had concerns about permeability issues, and he recommended that another test should be done. The results were received from John which involve more excavation. Lorraine is awaiting cost estimates from Todd for the demonstration rain garden with/without further excavation. It was suggested that the City employees could possibly do the excavation to eliminate more of the cost. The estimates for the Beach Blooms from Warren Goldie were for the City side of Canal Bridge, Lake Gerar Bridge, Bandstand and Boardwalk., He had suggested doing hayrack planters on the rails which was estimated to be \$8,000.00. An estimate was given for lamppost planters on the bridge in the amount of \$2,600.00. A meeting of the ad hoc committee will be held on April 9, 2012 to discuss the project and to meet with the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street, Camp Rehoboth, etc. to solicit volunteers. Barrels could be done at the Bandstand and Boardwalk instead of the hayracks. Lorraine talked with Marcus of Sposato regarding an estimate on watering and planting. The City has a tank truck and an employee for watering the planters. Warren is willing to work as an overseer. The priority is the demonstration rain garden in front of City Hall and rain barrels at Canal Bridge. It was recommended to continue to keep the ad hoc committee in place which would be overseen by the Streets & Transportation Committee.

The Farmers' Market will be planting flowers along the fence to the entrance of Grove Park at the end of April 2012. The planting information should be shared between the ad hoc committee and the Farmers' Market.

Cindy Lovett has received permission from Marie Sadler of DNREC to trim the beach grass along the Boardwalk on April 4 or 6, 2012.

Pat noted that a bike trail will be done next to the rail from Lewes to Georgetown. The bike path that is a continuation from Gordon's Pond will occur.

Discuss items to be included on future agendas.

Items to be included on the next agenda are discuss the bicycle/pedestrian master plan, what a bicycle boulevard should be and the results of the presentation by Pat to the Board of Commissioners.

Set next meeting.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on April 27, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Chair Pat Coluzzi declared the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, CMC, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
MAY 25, 2012**

(Pat Coluzzi, Chair)