



Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, February 22, 2021

TIME: 4:00 – 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Microsoft Teams conference call meeting

Committee Members:

- ✓ Tammy McLemore, Dist. 1
- Kristel Porter, Dist. 2
- ✓ Dave Carlson, Dist. 3
- ✓ Jay Eidsness, Dist. 4
- ✓ Judy Jones, Dist. 5
- Vacant, Dist. 6
- ✓ Greg Anderson, Dist. 7

Alternates:

- ✓ Gilbert Odonkor, Dist. 1
- ✓ Billy Binder, Dist. 2
- Vacant, Dist. 3
- ✓ Hokan, Dist. 4
- ✓ Lou Dzierzak, Dist. 5
- ✓ Lou Miranda, Dist. 6
- ✓ Lee Newman, Dist. 7

Ex-Officio Members:

- ✓ Jordan Kocak, HC Public Works
- ✓ Emily Kettell, HC Public Works

Guests:

- ✓ Kelly Agosto, HC Public Works
- ✓ Dave Gepner, former BAC member
- ✓ Ron Uglow, former BAC member
- ✓ Arman, Rajaeian, Metro Transit
- ✓ Forrest Hardy, City of Minneapolis

Excused Absence:

None

- **Approval of the January 2021 minutes** **4:00 – 4:05**
The January 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

- **Welcome new members** **4:05 – 4:15**
Welcome new members Lou Dzierzak (District 5) and Lee Newman (District 7)! Each BAC member introduced themselves to the committee.
Thank you to outgoing committee members Dave Gepner and Ron Uglow for all of your work on the Hennepin County Bicycle Advisory Committee!

- **Lowry Ave NE Reconstruction Project** **4:15 – 5:00**
 - Kelly Agosto, Hennepin County - Introduction of project scope, process and timeline





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Kelly provided an update about the reconstruction plans for Lowry Ave NE. This presentation focuses on the segment between Washington St NE to Johnson St NE. Lowry Ave NE is currently a four-lane undivided roadway.

- This project will include upgrades to traffic signals, pavement, curb and gutter, and storm sewer infrastructure.
- Improvements will include sidewalk improvements, streetscape, upgraded ADA accommodations, and streetscaping.
- A study was completed in 2015 (for the entire corridor from Marshall St NE to Johnson St NE). As part of this study, there was extensive public engagement and the study was eventually adopted by the Minneapolis City Council and Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.
- The 2015 study recommendations differ east and west of Central Avenue. The 2015 study recommended that the segment east of Central Avenue include a dedicated bike facility. A three-lane roadway with boulevard space and a wider sidewalk space was recommended west of Central Avenue (no bike facility).
- The project was awarded funding in 2018 through Regional Solicitation (federal funds). Preliminary design work has begun and will finish later in 2021. Construction is scheduled for 2023 and 2024.
- Additional community engagement will begin soon. Currently, engagement efforts include coordination with Our Streets Minneapolis and neighborhood association meetings along the corridor.
- Dave Carlson noted that he was in favor of the design east of Central Ave. He asked about the lane widths for the corridor west of Central Avenue. Can bike facilities be added here? Kelly noted that the lane widths will likely be 11 ft, but this will be determined later in the design phase.
- Judy reiterated the need for a dedicated bike facility west of Central Avenue. She asked how much space will be allocated to the boulevard space. Kelly noted that the available right-of-way is narrow and it will be difficult to fit a bike facility, wider sidewalks and boulevard space. These recommendations stem from the 2015 study.
- Kelly noted that there is a parallel bike facility on 22nd St NE. Originally, when the study was released, there was a discussion of another parallel route on 27th St NE as well.
- Billy asked how a bike lane could be accommodated into the design. He also asked about the right-of-way width. He noted that it is essential to have a dedicated bike facility along the entire corridor in order to connect the county's bike network. Kelly noted that the right-of-way is about 60 ft. Kelly noted that the team is reviewing different layout options, and can share updates at a future meeting.
- Hokan commented that under the current configuration, pedestrians are in need of additional space. He noted his involvement in the study and that it was discussed to prioritize pedestrians and snow storage along the route.
- Dave Carlson asked if the right-of-way is the same width east and west of Central Avenue. He also asked if the area west of Central Ave is in need of a center turn lane. Without the center turn lanes, bike lanes could be incorporated. Kelly noted that this initial recommendation stems from the 2015 study. As the consultant updates the traffic modeling and analysis, the project team can review the need for a center turn lane.
- Tammy asked if the upcoming community engagement will include additional neighborhood associations? Kelly noted that additional neighborhood associations will be included.
- Lee asked where parallel routes are located. Kelly noted that 22nd is a couple of blocks from Lowry Ave. Lee asked if that distance warrants a bike lane on Lowry Ave.





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- Billy noted that a bike facility could be accommodated if the sidewalk were 7 ft and there were to be a 6 ft bike lane behind the curb along with three travel lanes.
- Greg asked about snow maintenance and if snow could be hauled away in lieu of boulevard space. Kelly was unsure at this time and noted that the project team will review the question.
- Lee asked if there were other local examples with limited right-of-way. Jordan noted that 46th Street in south Minneapolis or Minnehaha Ave are similar examples; however, these examples are 4-lane to 3-lane restriping projects rather than reconstruction projects. Kelly noted that the Lowry Ave project team will coordinate with the city's Johnson St NE reconstruction project.
- Dave Carlson noted that it is important for the corridor to be consistent for people biking.
- Lou Miranda noted that it would be good to understand how this project fits into the larger county bike network.

- **BAC charter update recap**

5:00 – 5:15

Jordan provided an update about the BAC charter. The revised document updates the guiding principles to incorporate walking and rolling. The committee will also be renamed to the Active Transportation Committee to reflect the new guiding principles. Additionally, the revised charter outlines the change to add two voting members within each district.

If there are additional edits from BAC members, send comments to Jordan ASAP. Jordan will update the group as more information is available.

- **Member Announcements**

5:15 – 5:20 Judy

and the group thanked Dave Gepner for all of his work with the Hennepin County BAC and larger advocacy work around biking in Richfield. We appreciate his work with the BAC since the group's beginning, including his longstanding position as chair of the BAC!

Billy provided an update about the MnDOT proposal to connect the bikeway across the Minnesota River bridge.

Next meeting:

Monday, March 15th 2021
4 – 6pm,
Microsoft Teams Meeting

