

# Hennepin County Board Action Request

## 13-0187



**Item Description:**

Bicycle Advisory Committee Composition, Mission and Guiding Principles

**Resolution:**

WHEREAS, bicycle use for transportation and recreational purposes continues to expand in the county; and

WHEREAS, the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) was originally created over 20 years ago with a focus on integrating bicycles into the county's transportation and recreation systems and for future transportation systems such as light rail transit; and

WHEREAS, the BAC proposes that the board endorse the BAC revitalized Mission and Guiding Principles, based on county-wide bicycle planning; and

WHEREAS, the BAC provides early and ongoing engagement and review on projects and programs that impact bicycling in the county; and

WHEREAS, the current and future work of the BAC depends upon an active and involved membership that is representative of the county population utilizing the bicycle network and recreational systems;

BE IT RESOLVED, that each commissioner appoint one voting member and one alternate each to serve for a three-year term at the pleasure of the appointing commissioner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the three-year terms of each member/alternate shall be staggered with the next appointments due, unless otherwise filled due to a vacancy where a replacement shall continue the retiring member/alternate's term, as follows:

- District 1: 2016
- District 2: 2016
- District 3: 2014
- District 4: 2014
- District 5: 2015
- District 6: 2014
- District 7: 2015

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each alternate shall participate fully in all meetings of the BAC but only vote in the absence of its member; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BAC include non-voting representatives from Minnesota Department of Transportation, Three Rivers Park District, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County Public Works; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BAC members shall bi-annually elect their own chairperson; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BAC provide regular updates to the commissioner who appointed them, based upon the following Mission and Guiding Principles:

**Mission:**

The BAC's Mission is to advise, promote and expand the use of bicycles for safe and convenient transportation and recreation purposes in Hennepin County.

**Guiding Principles:**

The BAC will use the following Guiding Principles during their review and engagement in the project development process or providing review in other bicycle related programs, policies or plans:

Bicycle safety -- advancing engineering, enforcement and education for bicycling in Hennepin County

Bicycle continuity -- advancing bicycling in Hennepin County through a connected bicycle network (supporting the continuity of a bicycle network within the planning, engineering, and construction activities)

Bicycle connectivity -- providing connectivity of our bicycle network into our environment, by reducing pinch points, bridging natural environments or obstructions, integrating into other bicycle networks

These principles will further be evaluated based on the following:

1. Bicycle space -- is there a defined area for bicyclists (sufficient buffer from traffic) that provides a sense of comfort to users, recognizing what is provided is dependent on the right of way available, and engineering and safety for all?
2. Technology -- advancing technology to support safety for all specifically at intersections. Advance technology integration into planning, engineering, architecture and operations to support bicycle safety, security and mobility.
3. Bicycle accommodations -- providing alternatives to impacted bicycle network due to permanent or temporary impacts.
4. Bicycle mobility -- providing safe travel speeds for all modes of transportation.
5. Bicycle amenities -- providing amenities to support bicycling.
6. Bicycle accessibility -- supporting bicycle integration into other transportation modes and related infrastructure (transit, passenger rail, stations, bus stops).

## Hennepin County Board Action Request (continued)



Requesting Department	Public Works Administration
Recommendation from County Administrator	Recommend Approval
Committee Assignment	Public Works, Energy & Environment Committee

### Background

In 1989, the County Board established the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) via Resolution 89-8-653 to promote the use and convenience of bicycling as a form of transportation and recreation, to help integrate bicycles into current transportation and recreation systems and future systems, including light rail transit, and to coordinate and promote the expanded use of bicycles, by facilitating policy development/recommendations to the County Board. Each commissioner assigns one member to the BAC from their district. Two current members of the BAC have been members since the inception of the BAC.

In November 2012, Public Works commenced a process with BAC members and staff to evaluate the success of the BAC, opportunities to enhance the roles, responsibilities of the BAC and to assess how the BAC provides input into the Public Works programs and projects.

The conclusion of this process is the creation of a new BAC Mission;

To advise, promote and expand the use of bicycles for safe and convenient transportation and recreation purposes in Hennepin County.

Principle statements or questions were developed, which ultimately created the proposed three principles and related elements for consideration.

1. Safety considerations
2. Is there continuity? (City/county/non-voting members collaborative planning and financing efforts, preservation of facilities, adequate maintenance, alternatives when construction occurring on paths/trails, no gaps.)
3. Is there connectivity? (City/county/non-voting members collaborative planning and financing efforts, pinch points and crossing intersections addressed, system integrated.)
4. Is there a defined area for bicyclists (sufficient buffer from traffic) that provides a sense of comfort to user, recognizing what is provided is design dependent?
5. Is appropriate state of the art technology offered (intersections/lighting/detection cameras)?
6. If existing bike lanes or adjacent trails must be removed, have acceptable or new accommodations for bicyclists been provided?
7. Have safe travel speeds been considered for all modes?
8. If it is a proposed development, are there facilities for bicycles and if needed, has the developer been incentivized to provide facilities for bicycles?
9. Is transit accessible to bicycle users?

Roles and responsibilities were clarified for both Public Works team members and the BAC members, including earlier engagement between the Public Works project managers and BAC during the development of a project. The goal is to have a proactive engagement process earlier in the stages of project development to define possible conflict points or areas of interest to support bicycling. In addition to reviewing projects, it is important that the BAC be engaged with policy and/or Hennepin County guiding documents supporting bicycling in Hennepin County, such as the Hennepin County Bike Plan.

Membership on the BAC was clarified by specifying non-voting members and one alternate for each BAC member, (both members and alternates are selected by each commissioner). The term limits for members, and alternates is for three years, with no restriction of the number of renewals.

Staggering of terms, and term limits allows for opportunities to bring in other individuals into the BAC and supports a strong foundation for consistency yet encourages opportunities for others to participate.

Overall the clarity to the roles, responsibilities and expectations and modifications to the mission of the BAC adds accountability and alignment to the needs of enhancing, improving and integrating bicycling in Hennepin County.

**Current Request:** This board action requests approval of the Bicycle Advisory Committee composition, Mission and Guiding Principles.

**Impact/Outcome:** A proactive engaging advisory committee advances bicycling interests in Hennepin County, including the advancement of infrastructure supporting the Complete Streets Policy and supports the county's transportation vision of sustaining and enhancing the economic competitiveness of Hennepin County and the quality of life of its residents by enhancing transportation mobility, improving transportation safety and increasing transportation choice.

### Approvals

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Department Head	Reeves, Carol	Date	5/17/2013
Deputy/Assistant Administrator		Date	
County Administrator	Booth, Melissa	Date	5/20/2013