

31 May 2006

BCGP Bucks County Cycling Committee - Advocacy Committee meeting

Attendees:

Hans van Naerssen (Bicycle Coalition Vice President & Advocacy Chair)

Ed Hein (Bicycle Coalition Board of Directors, member various bike clubs, certified LAB instructor, etc)

Heather O'Connor (member of many bicycle clubs and organizations)

Peter Boor (LAB instructor, bicycle activist, member various bicycle organizations)

Joseph Ridgeway (member CBBC and "novice" biker)

Jeff Kochanowicz, (member CBBC and very interested in advocacy)

Steve Russell (member of CBBC and Bucks County Cycling Committee Chair)

After going through introductions Hans went over a suggested agenda:

1. Participants issues and concerns
2. Bicycling players and processes
3. Bucks County Bicycling priorities & action
4. Bicycle Coalition role and plans

Peter Boor inquired about how the Bicycle Coalition role? Hans went over the "Who does what?" sheet and described the many government and advocacy groups that are involved at various levels.

Peter then asked how this committee came to be. Hans distributed the Advocacy in Action handout on BCGP 2005 accomplishments and 2006 focus.. The Bicycle Coalition has established county / regional committees throughout the Delaware Valley Region (southeast PA, southern NJ, Delaware). The Bucks County committee was the last committee to be formed.

A recent major accomplishment: PA Dist 6 (each of the five southeast PA counties) and DVRPC (PA district 6 plus four adjoining NJ counties) now require use of the bike check list for all projects: so road and other projects HAVE TO consider bicyclists and pedestrians in planning and design.

Hans focused on the 2030 long range transportation and land use plan and other DVRPC projects in our region. Hans passed around a copy of the Transportation and Improvement Program TIP booklet (200+ pages) and copies of the Bucks Co. list of four year TIP projects with a map showing locations of the projects. These need to be reviewed to be sure they are bicyclist friendly.

The Chester Co Recommended Bike Routes, and Montgomery County 1999 Bicycle Road and Trail Plan was reviewed and used as examples of how county citizens can make a difference to create a plan and have roads and bridges improved for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Peter and Heather talked about their experiences with the Doylestown Bike & Hike committee and how they are very bike path / trail oriented and did not understand that cyclists actually want to be on the road.

Steve Russell, Bucks County Cycling Committee Chair, indicated he would like to hold 3 to 4 meetings per year.

Bucks County potential bicyclist issues / actions

- Ride ability of local roads
- Meeting with state and federal Govt. reps
- Contact information for commissioners and area Reps
 - Peter has had more success with Jim Cawley (chair), Bucks Co Commissioner, than Sandra Miller and Charlie Martin.
- Scudder Falls Bridge
- Ed talked about the 202 sec 700 bypass and the Detweiler Rd. dissection. Hans suggested that Ed E-mail information to ensure it gets on the public record.
- Peter discussed Ca. laws like sidepath laws
- The group also discussed the unsafe bike path from Del Val College into Doylestown and how this is particularly unsafe when traveling West from Doylestown into Chalfont.
- Bike Activated traffic sensors
- Development of a Bucks County Bike Plan
- Cyclists / Motorist education
- TIP watch for bike facilities
- Wide shoulders / lane striping.

Joe asked what approach we would take to complete these tasks (shotgun or targeted). Hans suggested we vote on the list and prioritize.

Priority #1: Get a Bucks County Bike Plan

Actions:

Draft whereas statement for Board Resolution

Get copy of Montco and other Plans

Present Plan to commissioners, individually at first and then at Board mtg

Commissioners must by-in and pass a resolution – execute – do it

Establish broad based support for the plan.

Peter read from the Mont Co plan and Hans noted that the plan will include education / striping / houlders and many other items on our list.

Joseph may be interested in leading the effort to establish a plan.

Peter, Heather and Joe and others will meet with the Commissioners to discuss the committee's plan for preparing a Bucks Co. Bicycle Plan (BCBP). Meeting will be set for the second half of June.

Hans will get copies of the Montco Plan for delivery to the Bucks Co commissioners, and will get the 'How They Did It' from Mont Co as well.

Priority #2: Meet with Bucks County Sate & Federal Representatives

Need to prepare a "Bicycling in Bucks County" statement first, covering the good, bad and ugly. Action: OPEN

Other Priorities:

TIP watch: The Bicycle Coalition will continue to inform Bucks Co Committee of open issues or pending meetings / actions. Longer term: need to identify individuals to monitor / watch specific high priority projects

Scudder Falls: This is a high priority Bicycle Coalition item.

US 202 Section 700 Bi-pass: No action identified

Bicyclist traffic Control trip: No action identified.

Cyclist / Driver Education: No action identified.

Shoulders / Lane Striping: Heather will get meeting with County-level road maintenance supervisor. Hans will arrange meeting with PennDOT District 6 Maintenance manager.

Roles and expectations:

What support can we expect from John Boyle? John will keep us informed and can explain technical things at meetings etc.

Steve is the Chairman

Ed is the secretary

Attendees to review and comment on Minutes and then they will be posted to the entire list.

Tue the 3rd week of Sep. 19th will be the next meeting of this committee.

Meeting adjourned at 20:38