

Chester County Cycling Coalition
Minutes: July 19, 2010

Present:

Diane Limonides
Steve Warren
Natasha Manbeck
Dick Antonson
Judy Antonson
Tom Verderame
Ray McGlew
Mark Dane
Carolyn Sealfon
Ray Ott
Jay Hayes
Nancy Hayes
Glenn Lightcap
Fred Rothman
Ellen Zadoff
John Boyle
Sarah Clark Stuart

Complete the Schuylkill River Trail presentation – Sarah Clark Stuart

Sarah reviewed the status of the Philadelphia portion of the SRT including project funding and completion dates. She also reviewed the segments that are not yet funded or planned and discussed issues surrounding those segments and potential outcomes.

The complete presentation will be available on the Chester County page of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia (BCGP) website.

Chester County Project Update – Natasha Manbeck (Steve Warren CVT)

SRT Segments in Chester County:

- Phoenixville Borough segment has TIP funding.
- Crombie to Spring City Borough should be completed in late November. It will have a gravel surface but there might be an opportunity at a later date to pave it.
- Spring City Borough to Linfield is scheduled to proceed in December and should be open winter/spring 2011
- Linfield Rd to 422 crossing at Arm and Hammer is under design and has funding.

Chester Valley Trail (CVT)

- Next meeting of the Friends of the CVT is Tuesday July 20th at the East Whiteland Township Building. The group has a face book page where updates are posted regularly.
- Phase I: Exton Park to Route 29 (4.7 miles) is almost complete. The grand opening will be in August/September. Total funding \$5 million. There are several access points to the trail.
 - East Whiteland Township Building on Rt. 401 will be at a trail head. Parking is available. There is a short access trail from the building to the CVT.
 - The trail goes to Wegman's so Wegman's parking lot can also be used
 - Office complexes on Valley Creek Blvd (Church Farm Area) can be used to access the trail (though not officially designated as such.)

People expressed concern about crossing roads from the trail particularly the Rt. 401 intersection. Steve Warren talked about safety measures taken which include an island, rumble strips, reduction in speed limit to 35 mph and the ability to push a button to turn on a flashing light too alert motorists.

- Phase II: Route 29 to KOP is in the final design phase construction to begin spring 2011. Time for construction is estimated at 1 year as this is a longer portion of trail than Phase 1. Total funding is \$15 million.
- KOP to Norristown connector, Montgomery County, is in the design phase. We're not sure of the funding status. Phase II and this segment are separate projects but are being coordinated.
- There is no focus at this time on Phase III: Church Farm to Downingtown (Church Farm, Cross ship, Exton, Wal-Mart, Downingtown). The critical piece of the project is how to safely cross route 30.

Other Issues

- A question about who maintains segments of trails in Berks County came up the answer for which was not known but Natasha did say that Chester County is committed to maintaining all segments of the SRT and CVT within its borders.

DVRP: 2011 Draft TIP – Natasha Manbeck

Natasha thanked John Boyle for providing comments for several projects that were on the TIP.

Since we don't have the resources to advocate for cycling access for all projects on the TIP, Natasha recommended that we focus on the following 3:

- Route 202 Section 100 (Matlack St. to the Delaware Border). Ensure that Bike/Ped concerns are considered during planning.
- 322 Bridge located near the parking facility for the Brandywine trail. Advocate for cyclist's needs during construction (alternate route) and that the bridge is designed to accommodate cyclists.
- 926 Bridge Pocopson. This bridge could be important to development of future trails. It's in the design process now. Natasha recommended advocating for wider shoulders (easier to get wider shoulders than sidewalks).

Natasha will keep us up to date on projects and let us know when we need to step in to advocate.

Safe Routes to School

A discussion ensued regarding area schools forbidding students from walking or cycling to school. In order for this to change, the district has to want to change meaning parents would have to get behind the effort. Once done, Penn Dot has to certify that roadways are safe for Bike/Ped before the school will sign off.

Bike Friendly West Chester (Borough)

We discussed the 3 components of a successful plan:

Education
Safe Routes
Infrastructure

Infrastructure:

- John Boyle suggested taking an inventory of bike facilities within the Borough as a start. Often this will have an impact when people see how few facilities there are. He also said not to be discouraged by the fact that the Borough will not be able to help pay for facilities. There is money available and other ways to fund bike racks.
 - Tom Verderame volunteered to inventory the Borough for racks.

Safe Routes:

- John suggested surveying students/residents to find out where they might want to go on their bikes.
- Ellen Z to discuss WC Borough route map with Ray Ott

Education:

Perhaps the most important segment of this plan. Philadelphia has an ambassador program to "educate" cyclists and motorists. The group does this by setting up booths at fairs to speak to the public in general. (Someone suggested the WC farmers market as a venue). They conduct ½ hour lunch-time workshops at corporations to discuss safe cycling. If there's a particularly troublesome intersection or scene of an accident, they have gathered people with signs to draw attention to it to try to slow motorists.

Ambassadors go through a training course that takes several weeks. It teaches them safe cycling/driving behaviour and rules of the road. It also teaches them how to deal with criticism, rage, and road rage; specifically, how to absorb it and turn it around. For this reason care must be taken when using an all volunteer group. We might not be able to mirror what the paid/trained Philly ambassadors do fully but we could borrow bits and pieces of the program.

After the meeting adjourned, Diane Lemonides volunteered to spearhead the education portion of our plan. Carolyn Sealfon volunteered to help us reach WCU for student volunteers.

Next Meeting CCCC

7:00 pm

Monday September 20, 2010

601 Westtown Road

Room 149