

Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council Meeting
Minutes of the September 19, 2007

1. **Introductions and approval of minutes of the June 20, 2007 meeting.**
2. ***Bike 2015 Plan – Implementation of Chapters 5 & 6***
 - A. **(A. Woodall)** - Reported on **Commercial Vehicle Driver training** to share the road with bicyclists. The Share the Road training module is starting a second pilot at the Harold Washington College Public Chauffeurs' Training Institute. Upon completion of the pilot this fall, the Department of Consumer Services will add Share the Road questions to the taxi driver certification exam. Next step for the commercial vehicle drivers training is educating bus drivers with the Chicago Transit Authority.
 - B. **(E. Willobee)** - Reported on **Mayor Daley's Bicycling Ambassadors**. In 2007, the program was given an award by the Illinois Safety Council and the Junior Ambassador Program was recognized in the Chicago Tribune. Ambassadors attended 328 events, educated over 36,000 people, and helmet fit over 1,400 people. Exciting events included the Whittier Elementary Bike School, an intensive four-day bike safety training for kids, and the CTA Blitz, two days of outreach in the 3-track operation area to promote CTA Bike & Ride. Hurdles included numerous event cancellations. To address this issue, the Ambassador program is working with Park District to improve scheduling practices and is working internally to improve record keeping and update contacts.
 - C. **(C. Short)** - Reported that retention this year for the **Junior Ambassador Program** was a challenge. Hired 11 Junior Ambassador's, but only 7 finished the season. This was partly due to parents being partially-informed about the program. Next year, parent letters will be supplemented by a parent info session. The Junior Ambassadors attended 133 day camps this season. They also attended general outreach events such as Fiesta del Sol, the Taste of Chicago, and Critical Mass.
 - D. **(C. Tribe and N. Folker)** - Reported on the **Lakefront Trail Ambassadors**. This year 8 teenagers were selected to work as Lakefront Trail Ambassadors. The program was based out of Northerly Island and the teenagers this year were fantastic! Retention was also a problem in this program. The Park District looks forward to future seasons with the Lakefront Trail Ambassadors.
 - E. **(M. Erickson)** - Reported on a **Chicago Bike Theft Prevention Study**. Over 23,000 bicycles were stolen in 2006. The steps of this project are 1) survey the public on bike registration, lock purchase, and bike theft experiences; 2) to determine lock availability meaning the sales and location of bike shops, department stores, and sporting good stores; 3) Collecting police data on bike theft and bike registration by communicating with the Chicago Police Department Records Division. With background information collected, the next step is to move forward with the creation of a bike theft prevention plan for the City of Chicago.
 - F. **(A. Hernandez)** - Reported that **Sunday Parkways** is a community event that was adopted from Latin American countries in which streets are blocked off from motor vehicles and made into park space. Things are moving forward but there more work to be done. A 12- person delegation went to Guadalajara to get a firsthand view of how this event works. Adolfo recently met with the Mayors Office of Special Events to organize a pilot to launch sometime next year. The route of Sunday Parkways has been expanded to include Little Village.
 - G. **(A. Davis)** - The Mayor's Office of Special Events listed 141 events in this year's **Bike Chicago**. Bike Chicago will be adding an exciting new event next year. The Chicago Criterium will be held on July 27, 2008. In the future, the Bike to Work Day Rally may extend into the evening.
 - H. **(R. Sadowsky)** - Unable to report on **SRAM mini-grant** recipients at this time, final decisions are expected in the next month. The mini-grant program provides funds for Chicago programs that promote the use of bicycles.
 - I. **(T. Cochran-Person, C. Billows)** - Reported on the **Department of Revenue Bike Fleet**. The Department recently purchased 13 new bicycles for Parking Enforcement Aides in addition to their 8 meter mechanics with bicycles, bringing the fleet to 21 bicycles. Traffic Aides who use bicycles on the job instead of walking have enhanced productivity. Rob recommended sending a letter of thanks to supportive city departments from MBAC.
 - J. **(B. Gomberg)** - Reported on the **City Bike Fleet**. Seth Reimer of the Department of Environment is spearheading a program to get city agencies to utilize bicycles. Applied for CMAQ funding for purchasing bicycles for the department and received a grant for \$100,000. This grant will allow for the purchase of 100 fully equipped bicycles to provide workers instead of cars. Seth is currently working with Fleet Management

3. **Updates – Chicago Cycling Initiatives**

- **Chicago Transit Authority** (A. Malick)- Reported that CTA conducted 2 Share the Road trainings for bus operators this summer, with mixed results. The North Park and Forest Glenn bus garages received training. Garage supervisor support is a must for successful training. CTA also worked with Mayor Daley's Bicycling Ambassadors to educate CTA users about Bike & Ride.
- **Chicago Park District** (B. Thompson)- Reported that reconstruction of 2 sections of the Lake Front Trail have begun and should be finished by November. These sections are the Belmont to Addison and Lawrence to Foster. Two new overpasses are being developed at Marquette and 59th Street to connect on-street bikeways with the Lake Front Trail.
- **Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (T. Murtha)** Reported that suburban subregional bikeway plans had been completed for the Northwest Municipal Conference, Kane County, and McHenry County. Plans expected to be complete by the end of the year for DuPage County, the Central Council of Mayors, and the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association. Murtha also said that staff was working on revising linework for an updated Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Plan, and that they would be working with CDOT staff to assure that appropriate existing and planned bikeway facilities are included.

Murtha also talked about the proposed FY 2008 CMAQ Program. He stated that of a total of nearly \$55 in newly programmed FY 2008 funds, more than \$6 million was programmed for bicycle programs. An additional \$7 million is programmed in the multi-year program for bikeways. FY 2008 CMAQ projects of interest to the City include the North Branch Bicycle Trail extension, the Calumet Sag Trail (engineering only), the Bloomingdale Trail (engineering only), and the 35th Street Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge in Burnham Park. He noted that there were several regional trails that were not funded; the CMAQ Project Selection Committee suggested that alternative funding plans be established, since CMAQ funding was not appropriate for all of the planned projects.

4. **On-street Bikeways**

(G. Davis, M. Amsden)- Reported that 13 miles of paved bike lanes will be done by October and as well as 3 painted bikeways. Installation of non-skid plates is expected on the metal grate bridges at the Halsted bridge (at Chicago Ave) and at Clark Street.

5. **Bicycle Parking Program**

(C. Gagnon)- Reported that 450 bicycle parking spaces will be added in 2007. Brown Line stations in construction areas are targets for increased bike parking. As more parking racks are installed, abandoned bicycles are increasingly problematic. Chris is coordinating with Working Bikes and other organizations to help with removal. The Bicycle Parking Program is seeking a student intern.

6. **CMAQ Funding**

(K. Privett)-Reported that six projects have received funding including DOE's Bike Fleet program (as discussed above), additional funding bike lanes (as announced last year), additional fund for bike marketing, and 3 trail projects. A ped/bike overpass of Lake Shore Drive (to the Lakefront Trail) at 35th St will begin construction in 2008. The Bloomingdale Trail has received funding for Phase I and II design. The Forest Preserve District has complete funding for a south extension of the North Branch Trail, with engineering in 2008-09 and construction in 2010. In total, \$15 million in federal funds will advance cycling in the City of Chicago.

7. **New Business**

A. **(R. Sadowsky, Chicagoland Bicycle Federation) Roll the Tollway**, a chance to bike along the I-355 extension, is a rare opportunity. Will take place on 11/11/07.

B. **(K. Grove, CDOT Pedestrian Program) First week for Safe Routes Ambassadors** and already scheduled to visit 50 schools. October 3, will be Walk and Bike to School Day.

Minutes prepared by: Francisco Moya