

Bike Winnipeg Education Committee Report, February 5, 2016

Following are the updated minutes of our January 19 committee meeting, covering the following three items:

- 1) Employer-based cycling classes
- 2) Cycling education in the schools, and
- 3) Transit-bicycle education

Attending: Jeremy Hull, Laura Donatelli, Fabian Suarez-Amaya
Regrets: Bromley Basford, Mark Cohoe

1. Employer-sponsored cyclist classes

Jeremy reported on the recent MPI External Stakeholders on Road Safety meeting at which Shannon Bunkowsky (MPI Road Safety Manager) made a presentation in which she identified a "Downtown Bike Commuter Pilot" that they will launch in June, with the involvement of Bike Winnipeg. This is based on contacts she made with Jeremy and agreement of Dave Elmore to sit on a working group that will work out the program details. At this point the program has not been fully defined, but is expected to provide education for commuter cyclists working downtown for major employers. Based on last year's discussions it is likely that MPI will cover course costs. Shannon mentioned that they plan to begin with employees at MPI itself and move on from there. It seems likely that this will encompass the type of cycling education program we have been working on, but that there may not be capacity for the MPI program to take on additional employers or employee groups in the first year.

We discussed whether or not to follow up on our previous contacts and plans with Great West Life and the Winnipeg Police with a view to running cycling classes this spring. We decided to contact each of them, explain the situation, let them know the status of the MPI pilot project, and offer to work with them if they still want to proceed with a course.

Action: Jeremy and Dave to participate in MPI working group and once the nature of the pilot program is clear, to contact Great West Life and the Police to discuss options.

2. Proposal for Bicycling Education in the Schools

Jeremy reported on the current status of this proposal:

- At the MPI External Stakeholders meeting the participation of MPI in the proposed project was highlighted;
- Bromley is planning to ask the Winnipeg School Division if we can make a presentation at their February 3 meeting;
- Jamie Hilland (GAC) offered to have GAC provide organizational support for the project, which we are welcoming. He has scheduled a working group meeting for Feb. 8 to review the proposal, tighten it up, and plan how best to start contacting school divisions and funders. Geoff Heath (WRENCH), Dave Elmore, Jeremy, Anthony Lokke (MPI) and possibly other GAC staff will participate.

There was some discussion of the proposal that pointed to some possible revisions, and discussion of how best to approach funders and school divisions. It was suggested that the

Program Manager and Program Developer roles described in the current draft proposal might best be combined into a single position, assuming that an appropriately qualified person can be recruited. It was generally agreed that we should not limit our school division contacts to one division, and should go ahead and make contacts with all six Winnipeg city school divisions. It was also felt that we might want to hold off on making a formal presentation until after the proposal has been reviewed and revised by the working group. In the mean time we can do some ground work by making contact and perhaps meeting with interested superintendents and trustees from the various divisions. Jamie at GAC has noted that they have a lot of contact with various schools and divisions in connection with their Active and Safe Routes to School program.

Action: Committee members to identify possible contacts within the school divisions and provide names to Jeremy. Jeremy to coordinate initial contacts in consultation with committee members and with GAC.

Action: Jeremy and Dave to attend the GAC working group meeting and continue working on proposal revisions.

3. Transit-Bicycle Education

Following up from our last meeting, Laura reported on her investigation of transit driver / cyclist educational resources (videos, manuals, etc.) on how these two types of transportation can best understand each other and safely share the road. She contacted bicycling and transit organizations in Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Toronto, Montreal, Fredericton, Halifax and Minneapolis; about one-third responded though most were unaware of any such training material. One short video focusing on bike boxes and on the issue of bikes and buses “bunny hopping” was provided by the BC Cycling Coalition. A series of animated videos from Edmonton use Lego figures to illustrate cycling issues. She also identified some on-line manuals with a bus/bike component. And she found some good videos from the U.K. and Ireland. But generally she found a lack of resources on this topic across Canada. The conclusion is that this is an underdeveloped area that we should follow up on.

Action: Laura to contact a few Transit departments to explore their training materials related to cyclists. The Education Committee to again contact the Winnipeg Transit Union to renew our discussions about how best to proceed. (We need to identify someone to lead this effort.)