

Bike CNY Meeting on June 16, 2015

Present: Chuck Moody, Teresa Doherty, Kathy Downing, Steve Reiter, Don Hughes, John Allen, John Sexton, Lois Sexton, Kerin Rigny (DeWitt), Mary Shick, Bob Dougherty, Melissa Fierke. (Please excuse any misspellings.)

**Note: Names in bold indicate that there is something for that person to do.**

University Avenue Cycle Track: No update. **John Sexton** will email Bill Ryan and Robert Stamey (City Corporation Counsel) to see if any progress has been made on re-opening the block of the cycle track that has been closed due to construction. The Cycle in the City long route on June 21 will be going up University Avenue. John suggests that if nothing is done soon that we issue a press release recommending that the north bound lane be closed to vehicular traffic and used as a bike lane.

Euclid Avenue Bike Lanes: Melissa has given Don accident information on accidents on Euclid, but believes that they are significantly understated. In 2011 there were 80 reported crashes in Syracuse of which 8 were in the Syracuse University area. In 2012 the numbers were 95 and 10.

There was a lengthy discussion about obtaining information on bike accidents on Euclid (and other places in the city). Suggestions included signs suggesting people report accidents (past and present), using Survey Monkey to obtain information, and establishing a website for people to self report accidents. **Mary** will be going to the Onondaga Cycling Club board with a proposal relating to some of these suggestions. **Don** has information from 2009-2012 about vehicle accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclists that he will provide to Mary. Of the 1689 collisions, 1068 involved pedestrians, 621 involved bicyclists. Of the 22 fatalities 18 were pedestrians and 4 were bicyclists. [I did not make a note of the geographical area involved.]

The Bike CNY presentation for the local TNT is scheduled for the September meeting. It was reported that Andy Maxwell (City Office of Innovation) has a plan for bikes lanes on Euclid. No details available.

Barry Park Bike/Pedestrian infrastructure: Kathy described it as confusing. What she described as the narrow bike lane may have been the old bike lane. There are to be changes by the DPW, particularly with respect to the large concrete blocks that are there presently to prevent vehicles from entering the area limited to bicycles and walkers. We support the improvements to Barry Park and **John Sexton** will create an email to that effect that will be sent to the mayor, common counselors, Lazarus Sims, and the Barry Park Association.

“Bizarre” Downtown Bike Lane. Steve described the Connective Corridor bike lane between E Genesee Street and Fayette St that has recently been marked. The route turns right from E Genesee on to Townsend and then left one short block later on to Fayette. Townsend is two traffic lanes in each direction. The suggested bike path (done with dotted lines) goes from the right side of Townsend across **both** northbound lanes and then across the southbound lanes of Townsend. This is not the way a bicyclist going north on a

road with two lanes in that direction would make a left turn. It was suggested that people bike to the area to look at the markings. [I drove through it after the meeting and it seems clear that the suggested route should be to turn into the “passing” lane, not the right hand lane, and then turn left on to Fayette. This still creates a danger from vehicles also turning right on to Townsend.] How do we address this issue? [I sent Paul Mercurio an email asking if he knows who is in charge of marking the lanes.]

Westcott Cultural Fair on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The opinion of the group was that we should table at the event. **Melissa** will inquire as to whether we can share SEUNA’s table. Another suggestion was sharing Mello Velo’s table. It would be an opportunity to add new members to Bike CNY and to survey people about bike accidents on Euclid.

Membership and Collaboration: John Allen reported that SMTC has not yet made a decision about a final meeting of the Bike/Pedestrian Interest Group. There was some discussion about providing volunteers for the Cycle in the City Rides (and Mary Shick volunteered to lead the longer ride on June 21<sup>st</sup>). Also some discussion about other groups involved with bicycling but the consensus was that each group has its own particular interests. We are really the only bicycle advocacy group.

Bike Month events for 2016. **Kathy** will do some research on possible activities and report at the next meeting. One suggestion was a competition to see which employer could get the most employees to bike to work on Bike to Work Day 2016. This followed Bob noting that Lockheed Martin has its own bicycling group and someone else saying that the bike racks at one of the hospitals are always full, i.e., employees are biking to work there.

Bike Commuting 101: Steve is checking on whether NYBC would offer a course in Syracuse and, if so, what would be involved.

Bike Friendly City. The League of American Bicyclists has a program designating bicycle friendly cities. The application is 17 pages long and it was agreed that we should encourage and help Paul Mercurio and staff make the application. With so few bike lanes and trails we would not expect to qualify but would get feedback on what needs to be done. **Bob** will contact Paul about it.

Canal Day will be August 1<sup>st</sup>. **Kathy and Melissa** will be setting up a Bike Rodeo for kids at the event.

**Steve** will contact Parks and Trails about the Canalway Trail through Syracuse.

John Allen