

## **GOVERNOR'S BICYCLE COORDINATING COUNCIL**

Wednesday, March 15th, 2023

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Microsoft Teams Conference Call

### **Council Members Present:**

Chris Squires, Dept. of Transportation

Mike Schwendau, Dept. of Transportation

Stephanie Bradley Wilson, Citizen Member

Craig Heywood, Citizen Member

Brigit Brown, Dept. of Natural Resources

Scott Peterson, Citizen Member

Rep. Kristina Shelton

John Bowser, Dept. of Health Services

Andrew Potts, Dept. of Administration

Jessica Wineberg, Citizen Member

**Others in Attendance:** Sara Rigelman, Dept. of Natural Resources; Paige Anderson, from Rep. Shelton's Office; Kenny Reilly, from Rep. Shelton's Office; Jake Newborn, WI Bike Fed; Collin Mead, WI Bike Fed; Kirsten Finn, WI Bike Fed; Kristie Goforth, FreeBikes4Kidz; Alex Gramovot, Dept. of Transportation; Susan Gaeddert, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin; Matt Sudac, Dept. of Transportation; Brian Wiedenfeld, Dept. of Transportation; David Dahms, Dept. of Transportation; Justin Sargent, from Sen. Larson's Office; Eric Passler, Dept. Natural Resources; Phillip Rynish, Dept. of Natural Resources

### **Meeting called to order by Andrew Potts at 9:32 am.**

### **Minutes Approved**

Scott Peterson moved to approve the minutes and Craig Heywood seconded the approval of the December 21<sup>st</sup> minutes. All were in favor.

### **Approve 2022 Annual Council Report**

- Chris: Only added items addressed in December 2022 meeting.
- Mike Schwendau motioned to approve report. Craig Heywood seconded the approval of the Annual Council Report. All were in favor.
- Andrew will coordinate with Chris to share with the Governor's office.

### **Legislative initiatives**

Paige Anderson:

- Some Complete Streets initiatives are included in 2023 budget.
- Eminent domain can be used to claim land for bike lanes near developments.
- Reach out to their office if there are further questions. Public input sessions are coming.

Sen. Larson:

- \$1.2 million for local match program in rural areas to expand bike facilities.
- Increase in transportation alternative program (TAP). Now \$18 million. Must be used for trails.

Jessica Wineberg: It's hard for any municipality to meet the 20% match requirement. Is this limited to just rural areas? Hopes that there will be a greater push for more funding in match program.

Brigit Brown:

- State parks program submitted 14 budget papers
  - \$11 million each year for capital development and maintenance for trails
  - \$165,000 for increasing accessibility
  - \$2 million earmark for a project to rebuild a bridge over the Wisconsin River near Mazomanie. Bridge open to bicyclists and other traffic by 2025.

### **WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety and Technical Services Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety**

**Assessment** – Michael Schwendau: Program and Policy Supervisor

- 4<sup>th</sup> assessment done. Last one in 2016. Assessment of transportation behavioral safety program. Program to reduce crashes related to interactions with cyclists and other transportation modes. Assessment will begin April 5<sup>th</sup> and includes meeting of experts and participants with assessors over the course of a month.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>: In-person conversations and interviews from assessors.
- Reconfigures bike/ped safety program to address equity and inclusion goals, safe system adoption, meet BIL requirements, and align with partners/strategies.
- Recommendations be presented in July.
- Goal: Decrease non-motorized fatalities in the state.

Discussion and Q&A:

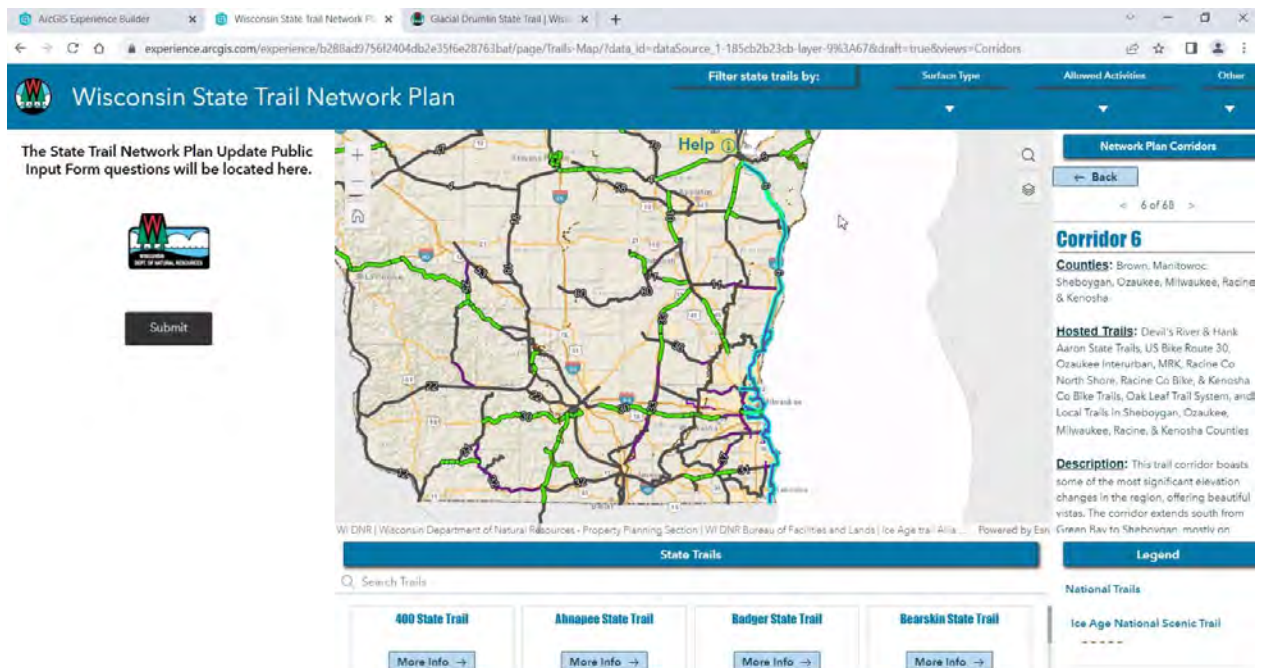
- Jake: Excited to get more data and insight. There is bike/ped assessment, vulnerable road user assessment, etc., how are these changes implemented? How will be these used in practice on our transportation networks?
  - Mike: Through the assessment process recommendations will be included in future strategies/plans.
  - Justin: All programs are subject to whims of members of Joint Finance committee who create the budget. The more advocacy from people in their district, the better. Strategic investment can happen because we have the money for it. Everybody should be advocating for these programs. If portions are left out, they can be introduced as legislation.
  - Justin: Educate the Republican leadership about these issues. After the budget, these policies can be included in legislation if there is Republican support.
  - Andrew: We don't know what we will ask our legislatures for until the assessment is done. Not sure what would require legislation or what can be done internally. Might be too early to answer these questions.
  - Sen. Larson: Legislature isn't making enough ground on these issues. More advocacy is needed to help people understand bike/ped issues. Need to unite and have continued advocacy. Get more people to use bike and bike lanes. Budget listening sessions are a good start. [Links](#) for listening session information.

- Collin: Bike Fed is working on advocacy efforts to have advocates attend public hearings. Will follow up with advocacy materials.

## **WI DNR Updates** – Brigit Brown, Phil Rynish, Eric Passler, Sara Rigelman

- **State Trails Network Plan** – Eric and Phil

- Brigit: The [2003 Wisconsin Trails Network Plan](#) identified locations by DNR to be potential trails. Mostly rail lines. These became project boundaries and allowed for these areas to be purchased and turned into bike trails. 2013 legislation allowed for more of this, however, the network plan hasn't been updated since early 2000s. Legislatures and DNR were asked to look into what updates could be made. Represent what has been done in the past 20 years.
- Phil: The new plan will digitize maps, make the plan interactive. Eric has been working on maps and will be ready in April.
- **Demo on Wisconsin State Trail Network Plan Web Map:**
  - Public input being taken in early April. State trails and network corridors are present on the map. Each trail can be selected and explored for more info. Attributes include distance, corridor, surface type, allowed activities, trail pass requirements. Trails are segmented based on location, surface type, other attributes. Corridors can be selected on the left panel. Gives trails hosted on the corridor and brief description. Additional layers can be turned on/off such as local trails. Local trail data is from RPCs, municipalities. Trails can be filtered by attributes.



- Discussion/Q&A:
  - Chris: Does it show which jurisdiction maintains the trail?

- Brigit: Hard to populate this information because not everyone shared the information/correct information.
  - Phil: We see this as a way the corridor plan can be more accessible and help guide future development.
  - Andrew: We can provide additional data if it's needed.
- Brigit: Anything agencies/partners want to know/get data on from the public feedback form? Bikeways can be represented on GIS maps as well.
  - Andrew: Hesitant to ask about what improvements to be made to bike infrastructure. On one hand, really great insight could be collected, on the other hand would be flooded with data that may or may not be needed.
  - Phil: Depends on what Facebook group it is shared with. Example: What makes your more likely to use a bike corridor?
- **Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) – Phil**
  - SCORP report is put together every 5 years to identify recreation supply and demand along with demographic data. Data has been collected and updates are being made. Now in the process of identifying strategies and getting public input. Using surveys to get recreation demand data. Displaying trail network plan in the SCORP.
  - Brigit: The last SCORP really broke down biking to identify types of bikers (graveling, mountain, commuting, racing, etc.). These will continue to be identified to match the facilities needed. Exploring what other information is needed to inform future of Wisconsin biking.
  - Discussion/Q&A:
    - Andrew: Did we have a breakout group for last SCORP? We need to do this for the current SCORP update. Emphasis on more fat biking.
    - [2019 Wisconsin SCORP](#)
- **DNR Updates - Sara:**
  - **Stewart Tunnel project** - \$6.6 million for project in state budget
  - **Great Sauk Trail project** - Consultant is being hired by Sauk County to look at connecting 400 trail with Great Sauk trail. Public input sessions are scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - **New Glarus Woods State Park** - Planning underway for 5-10 mile mountain biking trail. Trail design for entry/intermediate riders. Plan completed this summer and constructed next year.
  - Brigit: **Peninsula State Park** also getting bike optimized trails.
  - Sara: State trail passes still needed for biking on state bike trails.
  - **OutWIGo Green**, will be held Saturday, May 13th at Kettle Moraine State Forest, Southern Unit. The purpose of the event is to introduce new visitors to new activities and to have all recreation types and organizations represented. We are looking for

volunteers to help out with the event. There will also be a bike skills clinic. Still looking to have a repair/maintenance clinic as well.

- **Central Sand Plains/Central Sand Hills Regions** – Master plan development process is underway
- Discussion/Q&A:
  - Andrew: Money in governor's budget to expand online access to buy state bike trail passes.
    - Brigit: Numerous vendors in the past, demand has grown to point where online platform is needed.
    - Jake: Bike Fed sells trail passes [online](#).
  - Jessica: Good to hear about increased input for mountain biking. Any work on making Haven Woods accessible for mountain biking?
    - Brigit: Trying to make Haven Woods as accessible as possible for biking and outdoors activities in general.
  - Chris: Curious on updates on damage of Badger Trail bridge?
    - Sara: Developed an at grade connection and trail is reopened.
  - Jessica: Oak Leaf Trail DNR managed?
    - Brigit: At first was a DNR trail system and now is more of a Milwaukee County network.

### **Council Business Items**

- Public Safety Campaigns Update:
  - Jake: Campaign with BOTS going on. Is there other campaigns?
  - Chris: This is a previous agenda item, responsibility may have shifted more to Bike Fed.
  - Jake: Public Safety Campaigns with Bike Fed. Promotion on billboards, social media in areas with high crash count involving vulnerable road users.
- **Discussion of 2023 Initiatives**
  - Chris: Promote 2023 Bike to School Day on May 3th.
    - Andrew: May be unrealistic for council to work on but something DOT could work on.
    - David: Existing grant with Bike Fed, nothing else in the works for bike to school day.
    - Chris: Contact DPI to see if any actions are being taken. Bike days have been advertised on highway info boards in the past.
    - Jessica: Hopes the highway info boards can talk about bike/ped safety as much as possible- especially for WABTSD and Bike Week/month
  - Tax Credits for bicycle purchases:
    - Jake: E-bike tax credits have been super successful in Colorado. Helps to replace car trips and people use bikes more often. Giving \$7,000 tax credits for EVs, why not for bikes?

- Andrew: Identify data for what the costs might be what fiscal impact is to the state.
- Jake: Would be great for small businesses and perhaps could garner bipartisan support.
- Chris: Will work with Andrew on this.
- Justin: Senator's office will be interested in what information they find.
- Biking committee of underrepresented groups (Chris)
  - Explore encouragement of biking and biking barriers by these groups.
  - Jessica: Happy to join a smaller committee and have a chat.
  - Andrew: Has ideas for groups. Are these groups interested in speaking to this council? Have a conversation and come back with suggestions.
  - Kirsten: Ken Cole would be good to have speak to the council.
  - Chris: Follow up with Andrew and Jessica.
- Formalizing on-boarding procedures
  - Andrew: Work here or offline to create procedures. There is no formal on-board process for this council.
  - Stephanie: Willing to work on this to help public members. Wants to create something informative and make people feel welcome in the council.

#### **Agency and partner reports and updates**

- **Department of Transportation** (Chris Squires, David Dahm):
  - Chris: Vulnerable road user assessment is underway as required by BIL. Working on bringing on a consultant to help with assessment. Requires states to identify vulnerable road users and areas based on crash data and public input. Assessment then goes into State Highway Safety plan and updated regularly.
  - [Active Transportation Plan](#):
    - 2 advisory groups for developing plan. Tool Design is contracted to complete plan. More public engagement coming. Will wrap up in summer of 2024.
    - Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is open again for projects and deadline is coming up.
- **Department of Health Services** (John Bowser):
  - **State physical activity and nutrition grant** - John is working with DOT to wrap up grant work.
  - Focusing on stroke prevention materials, one of the prevention methods is physical activity. Will share with council members.
- **Department of Natural Resources** (Sara Rigelman):
  - Updates listed above

#### **Public Member Updates**

- Andrew:

- Wisconsin Rapids, Sheboygan, Fitchburg are looking to renew/gain bike friendly status. [Survey](#) to provide information on Bike Friendly Community ratings to League of American Bicyclists.
- Bike Fed:
  - Kirsten: [TAP](#) deadline is coming up. Bike Fed is working to help communities with 5,000 people or less to help get funding for transportation alternatives program. Get these communities technical assistance. \$600 million available in traffic calming measures. High need in safety improvement around schools. Additional money would be great so it doesn't take money away from trails.
- Craig: Bike events are coming back after the pandemic. Wisconsin Ironman, etc are great events for many people to encourage biking.

#### **Meeting wrap-up and adjourn**

- Andrew: Continue to do meetings virtually. Prior to pandemic, council would meet in the capitol in a hearing room.
- Scott: Enjoys going to in-person meeting at the capitol. It is only 4 times a year.
- Andrew: Not opposed to this option. Would certainly keep virtual option.
- Stephanie: Proposes there is 1 in-person meeting a year. Keep virtual for all other meetings to help with ease and accessibility.
- Andrew: Discuss with Chris about making June meeting in-person.
- **Brigit Brown motioned to adjourn. Stephanie Bradley-Wilson seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 11:24am.**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday June 21st, 2023**