

February 9 Bike/Ped Meeting:

Meeting started at 1:33

Monroe Loop Trail Update: Lucie reported still patient and waiting. Will come out in March.

Monroe County Bicycle and Trail Plan: Lucie reported sharing the draft w/ Brian, Alex & Florence and will eventually want all in the group to share thoughts. Brian said that he wants to schedule a quick meeting next week. The timeframe will be that this will be finalized before the end of the year, hopefully by fall.

SEMOG Equity Transportation Planning Grant: Lucie reported the kickoff meeting with the County was last week. She said there will be a steering committee, but all can be involved and there will be public input.

She went over the stages. The first stage will be looking at the corridors and the options such as signage, lanes, shoulders and trails. The second stage will be making a draft map and getting public input from the equity population, which Florence will handle. The map will then be finalized. The third stage will be getting drawings and plans approved by the Road Commission. And the final stage will be documentation and then adoption by the various municipal entities.

Brian offered SEMOG involvement and asked for a periodic progress report.

Lucie mentioned GIS and ArcSurvey and explained map surveys to the group. Alex cautioned about relying upon too many internet tools for the equity population and stated that in-person meetings might be necessary to reach everyone. Brian mentioned using social media to target groups. Lucie mentioned that a City of Monroe focus area would be added to the map.

U.S. Turnpike Bridge: Matt contacted Wayne County. Said that there would be a 6-foot shoulder & sidewalk according to Wayne Co. and they are 90% done with the plan.

Jefferson route is considered the more scenic, but there are alternate routes. Lucie said there is no next step at the moment and this is just Wayne Co. reaching out to us. Matt said he did not know if there would be markings but there is likely room for them. Brian said that we should now prioritize a route that goes to the bridge and suggested working with Metropark Greenways to make a connection to the parks. The trail would also eventually connect to the Iron Belle trail.

Custer—North Custer repaved: Lucie said that this has been identified as part of the trail plan and we will get input on this and that it is likely a better route than M-50.

M-50: Mike said that MDOT will be meeting with SEMCOG next week so that there will eventually be a plan to make the markings on M-50 permanent. He said that he will work with the MDOT Region to come up with a timeline, but that there might not be active updates every month.

Memorial Hwy.: Mike said that this will also be discussed at the upcoming meeting. He said that he couldn't promise but that he will try to look into funding and to establish a timeline. Brian mentioned that at a bare minimum there should be signage but they would perhaps look into widening the shoulders, and stated that a start/end point should be established for this route. He discussed possible routes that this trail could eventually take through this part of the County once it is off from Memorial Hwy.

Lucie mentioned Lenawee County's signage. Brian brought up that this route would be part of the Underground Railroad Route, which is signed and indicated on maps but is locally maintained by each municipality that it goes through. Alex brought up eventually connecting west to Lenawee County. Florence asked if TMACOG would be in the meeting. Brian said that he is reaching out to them now, and that they would be involved with contacting the City of Sylvania.

I-275 Trail: This is currently in the parking lot because of the high cost and because Grafton is considered a better route. Lucie said that she will look at MDOT's earlier studies and that perhaps this should be moved to long-term.

Dunbar to Jones: This is still in the parking lot as the Township is currently busy with other issues.

City of Monroe: Mayor Clark said that it is the City's goal to form a bike/ped committee and that they have been in discussions with SEMCOG. He talked about the street millage passing and that this included consideration for trails. The group formed would be similar to the County group and the goal would be to ensure connections to other county projects and that they will try to accommodate both serious and casual riders, as well as to gain resident input. They will be looking at local stops for bicycles and pedestrians, as well as signage and markings.

He said that the timeframe is that for the next month they are looking for participants and any other input. He said that there will eventually be cross-participation with the County group from this group. Lucie said that the loop trail needs help from the City so she is glad that they are forming this group. The Mayor mentioned the N. Dixie highway and connecting to Frenchtown, as well. Florence brought up the Heritage Trail, which Mayor Clark said is outside of the city. Lucie distinguished between the Heritage Trail and the State Park trail and said that she is working with the DNR on the latter, but that it will take a while before the DNR decides what to do. Florence said that she will continue to send invites to the City from our group.

Frenchtown Twp.: The new supervisor is reorganizing boards and they now have a bike committee. Barry Buschmann will meet with the Twp. Their supervisor has also invited someone from this committee to attend meetings if they would like. Florence brought up the ProMedica trails that would connect to the State Park trail. SEMCOG said that they will look into outreach, but for now, the hospital plan is on hold. It was mentioned that the Township has made bicycling a high priority.

There was discussion about involving other communities in Monroe County at these meetings more. Dave said that he would reach out to some other communities in the western part of the County. Lucie said that she is currently working with Erie Twp.

Roundtable: Brian said that ODOT has reached out to MDOT regarding Bike Route 25 and confirming that using Douglas Road would be okay. He said that ODOT is hoping that MDOT will pick up this route and extend it, and that there should be more discussion about this.

Alex stated that SEMCOG's Transportation Plan update will be starting shortly.

Florence stated that we need to get more information out about bike safety. Alex mentioned that the State has good videos that can be shared. Florence stated that perhaps municipalities could be encouraged to link to these videos. SEMCOG representatives said that Jenya Abramovich is their contact with the League of Bicyclists and that safety could be a topic at future meetings and that they would talk to her about attending an upcoming meeting.

Jim said that the Monroe County Facebook page for our group is now online.

Samantha at the Monroe Cycle Club introduced herself and stated that they are still planning for the group's upcoming bike ride and that jerseys have been designed and that all routes have been set. They are still searching for sponsors, though.

In honor of Black History Month, Florence brought up Major Taylor, who was the first African-American champion in any sport, and his influence upon bicycling and how more efforts are now being made to promote his legacy.

Meeting adjourned at 2:52