

Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Council Meeting Minutes
Public Safety Building- Morgantown, WV
Monday, May 11, 2009
4:00-6:00 pm

Attendance: Christiaan Abildso, Bill Reger-Nash, Bob Anderson, Jonathon Bond, George Lilley, Dwight Harshbarger, Erin Kelly, Rebecca White, Simi Islam, Pat Reilly, Maria Smith, Don Spencer, Matthew Cross, Hugh Kierig, Thejo Chipinapi, Ilana Chertok

I. Call to order

Chair Christiaan Abildso called the May meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Board to order at 4:02 pm.

II. Attendance Check

Those present signed in and introduced themselves.

III. Review of April Minutes/unfinished business

Those present reviewed action items from April.

Dr. Bill Reger-Nash spoke with Judy Reckert about walking school buses for Woodburn Elementary and Suncrest Elementary schools for October. Coordination with Parent Teacher Organizations and Wellness instructors at each school would be facilitated through Judy.

Angela planned on visiting Main Street Morgantown offices to ask for a representative.

Bill talked with Laura Kemp-Rye about the Youth Uphill Struggle, which encourages people to ride their bikes safely anywhere. The 2009 event planned on sponsoring a different person; Bill looked forward to setting up a meeting with the organizers.

Matthew Cross sent around the questionnaire he compiled. Members were encouraged to e-mail completed questionnaires to crossnyc@hotmail.com.

Bill passed around a sheet of Walking Facts and Year of Active Transport Facts. Any edits from members were to be submitted to Bill by May 15.

Kevin Leydin was not present to update members about the Pre-Post Evaluation Design.

Bill and Angela attended the Traffic Commission meeting. Membership changes were ratified and a board update was presented to the commission. Bob Anderson and Jonathon Bond committed to attending the next Traffic Commission Meeting to

represent the Pedestrian Safety Board.

Jonathon asked about the details of the Pedestrian Safety Plan. A discussion about the availability of the plan ensued. It was resolved that anyone who wanted a copy of the plan to indicate so on the sign-in sheet. Seven people requested a copy.

IV. Discussion of Board Membership

Those present agreed to nominate Jonathon Bond as the new Student Government Association (SGA) representative.

Maria Smith said she would speak with her supervisor about being able to serve on the Pedestrian Safety Board as a member and e-mail Angela before the Traffic Commission meeting.

V. Neighborhood Visits update

a. Woodburn – Bill

Bill said the Woodburn neighborhood association meeting went well. Comments and priorities from residents were helpful; continuation of coalition building with neighborhood associations was agreed to strengthen the credibility of the Pedestrian Safety Plan.

b. Neighborhood walkabouts – Jimmie

Jimmie Simmons was not present to update about walkabouts.

VI. PRT service update: Hugh Kierig

Hugh Kierig explained that a structural assessment on the PRT in 2008 encouraged the Transportation and Parking department to close the PRT for the entire summer.

He said the repairs being made were essential in ensuring that the PRT remained safe for riders.

He said the summer was also going to be a good time to strengthen the wire signals on the track. Degradation of the wires has resulted in signal losses and temporary system failures in the past few years. By digging up the old wires and replacing them, the problem of signal strength would be resolved.

He said the heating/cooling units on each PRT would also be updated.

The gate information boards were planned to be replaced, along with the loudspeakers on each platform.

Tracks were also planned to undergo a premier cleaning.

A study was being conducted about what the 'next generation' vehicle for the PRT could look like, as well as what areas of the town would be logical for track expansion. Models being explored included battery powered vehicles and super-capacitor electronics.

Hugh also announced that the multi-modal facility at the Health Sciences center was slated to open on October 1st.

A shuttle would be provided while the PRT was undergoing repairs. Details about the free service were available at transportation.wvu.edu.

- VII. Year of Active Transport, May events – KEY EVENT: Bike to Work Week – May 11-15
 - a. Appalachian Spring Bicycle Spectacular, May 3
 - b. Go for the Groceries, May 3

Both individual events had passed by the time of the Pedestrian Safety Board meeting.

Those present updated Christiaan or Bill on their efforts in finding pledges for Bike to Work Week.

Dwight Harshbarger and Christiaan entertained the concept of using sensors to track riders on the rail trail, or pedestrian traffic at a given point. They briefly discussed the possibilities of creating a baseline for data analysis about active commuters.

Bill said the Pedestrian Safety Board would possibly be able to receive a grant from the Governor, which could help in purchasing sensor equipment for such a study.

- VIII. Year of Active Transport, June event planning
 - a. KEY EVENT: Dump the Pump Day – Mountain Line – June 18

Bill asked Maria Smith how the Pedestrian Safety Board could help promote Dump the Pump Day.

Maria said the national event had already sent out promotional materials. She planned on submitting a declaration to City Council about the event. Festivities would occur at the Depot on June 18.

She said the Pedestrian Safety Board would be welcome to set up a table and do some 'Ped. Education'.

Bill said the June article was planned to promote Dump the Pump Day. He said he would follow-up with the Dominion Post, to make sure the article would run

before the event.

b. MRTC's Decker's Creek – June 6

Ella Belling (ella@montrails.org) required volunteers for the Saturday event.

c. August Article – volunteer to draft

Bob Anderson volunteered to draft the article, which would feature the Youth Uphill Struggle and Ped Safety Tips for the beginning of WVU's fall semester.

IX. Year of Active Transport, Evaluation

The poster for the Year of Active Transport was discussed. Bill said he would get the poster details to Don Spencer by the end of the week, so banners could be made.

Christiaan said he had not worked on the survey since the last meeting. He committed to e-mailing the survey committee about a meeting to review the survey.

Bill said graduate students Thejo Chipinapi and Rebecca White were being counseled by a focus group of members about what kind of observations could be made to pinpoint pedestrian behaviors and driver behaviors.

Rebecca and Thejo had both already completed several sessions of observations at the time of the meeting.

Bill said he was considering asking the city and state to paint a crosswalk in a high-traffic area to provide 'before and after' data.

Bill encouraged members to choose an intersection to observe for 20-30 minutes before the next meeting, in order to gain insight for future discussions.

Hugh said he recalled an NPR clip about pedestrian texting and its relationship with accidents. He encouraged Rebecca to look up the study and its methodology.

X. Participant Profiles – Matt Cross

This item was discussed in Review of Minutes/unfinished business.

XI. Review of Talking points for *Pedestrian Safety Plan* and *Year of Active Transport*

Bill asked members to send questions and concerns regarding talking points to him by the end of the week.

XII. Set Time and Date of Next Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Board was set for Monday, June 8 from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Public Safety Building.

XIII. Other Items

Don asked Rebecca and Thejo to relay their observations to the MPO on May 21 and increase communication of data in general.

Don pointed out that potential earmarks for West Virginia advocated a ‘Scoot’ program, which would effectively diminish pedestrian interests by increasing traffic flow of cars to be efficient (but eliminating pedestrian crossing).

Christiaan said he would draft a letter expressing pedestrian interests (regarding Scoot) to the MPO.

XIV. Adjournment

The May meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Board was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

| Action Item | Member | Due Date |
|---|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Email questionnaires to crossnyc@hotmail.com | All | May 18 |
| Submit amendments to Bill | All | May 15 |
| Attend Traffic Commission meeting | Bob, Jonathon | June 3, 6:30 pm @ Council Chambers |
| Send minutes to Jeff McCorsky | Christiaan | ASAP |
| E-mail Angela intention to become a board member – wileya120@gmail.com | Maria | June 1 |
| Obtain seven hard copies of Pedestrian Safety Plan for interested members | Bill and Don | Next meeting |
| Contact Dominion Post about June article | Bill | ASAP |
| Relay poster materials and information to Don | Bill | May 15 |
| Lobby for banner funding | Don | ASAP |
| E-mail Ella Bellings (ella@montrails.org) about volunteering for | All | ASAP |

| | | |
|---|---------------------|--|
| Contact survey committee for a meeting | Christiaan | ASAP |
| Observe pedestrian behavior at one intersection for 20-30 minutes | All | Next meeting |
| Attend MPO Meeting to present intersection observation findings | Rebecca, Thijo, All | May 21, 7:00 pm at City Council Chambers |
| Draft a letter to MPO in response to 'Scoot' earmark | Chrsitiaan | ASAP |
| Attend next meeting | All | Monday, June 8 from 4-6 pm at the Public Safety Building |

Minutes taken by Angela Wiley