

Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting Agenda
Public Safety Building- Morgantown, WV
Monday, June 8, 2009
4:00 – 6:00 PM

Attendance: **Rebecca White, Dave Harshbarger, Dwight Harshbarger, Ella Belling, Jimmie Simmons, Jonathon Bond, Matthew Cross, Pat Reilly, Martha Summers, Maria Smith, Don Spencer, Hugh Kierig, Christiaan Abildso, Angela Wiley,** Donald Dickerson, Jonathan Rosenbaum, Frank Gmeindl, Kelly Williams, Jeremia Njerv, Ron Jarrett, Mark Wise, Scott Copen, Scott Wright, Michael Lantz, Tim Warner, Fran Toro, Ken Martis, Daniel Davis, Anita Mayer

I. Call to Order

Chair Christiaan Abildso call the June meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Board to order at 4:05 pm.

II. Attendance Check

Christiaan introduced himself and asked those present to introduce themselves.

III. MUB discussion/Q&A re: proposed trail improvements for 2010 – Scott Copen and Scott Wright, MUB

- Scott Wright gave an overview of the project. He said the plan was for pipeline installations from the Decker's Creek pump plant to the Star City treatment plant. A water line was also proposed from Decker's Creek to Knapp Hall.
- Scott W. said that in talks with Mark Wise (BOPARC), the project plan intended to conserve sections of the trail – such as Decker's Creek North as a one-year project and Decker's Creek South as another project.
- Scott W. said suggestions for detours on Decker's Creek South were viable, but detours directing pedestrians and cyclists to Beechurst could present issues with city ordinance and safety. He said the service road adjacent to 6th Street was owned by Greer, and so could probably not be used as a detour to Star City.
- Scott W. said the trail improvements would include widening (to 12 ft) with some 'kick-out' or wider points, along with 23 rain gardens and an odor control project.
- Scott Copen said the project would also minimize the D.E.P approved dumping of combined sewage overflow – new pipes would transport the sewage from the Decker's Creek pump station to the Star City treatment plant instead.

- Christiaan asked the representatives about their funding sources.
- Scott Wright said the money would be issued from various sources, including federal (stimulus monies) and state monies. M.U.B still had to submit applications for funding at the time of the meeting.
- Scott said funding details could be secured within two months.
- Christiaan offered that the Pedestrian Safety Board could best help M.U.B. by working on detours along Beechurst.
- Scott W. clarified that the back-street he was referring to was called Water St. He did not want to re-route pedestrians and cyclists on that road, because of safety and right-of-way issues with Greer.
- Matthew Cross asked for projected dates of closure.
- Scott W. said the North section would be closed during 2010 and the South section would be closed during 2011. He said the original plan broke the project into parts to keep contracting in state. He said the issue with pressing a shorter timeline (such as 6 months), the contract would be more costly, and may exceed the ability for in-state contractors to bid on the project.
- Hugh said one of his concerns was pedestrian and bike traffic between the Waterfront and Seneca Center. He said consideration would have to be made at intersections along the corridor, such as controlled pedestrian crossings and bike accessibility. He referred to projects outlined by the Pedestrian Safety Board and Bicycle Board.
- Frank asked if M.U.B had considered laying the pipe in the river or under Beechurst Boulevard. Scott W. said traffic issues and the energy needed to pump the water (electricity) would be unattractive. Scott said laying the pipe in the river was turned down because of costs, need for stimulus money, and engineering for permit application.
- Scott W. clarified that pipeline work taking place on Foundry St. would not interfere with the trail. He additionally said that the contract was planned to require overnight work, in fact, so bus lines running out of the depot would not be affected.
- Scott W. said he did not know if pedestrian improvements outlined in the Pedestrian Safety Plan would be covered in their project plan or contingency plan.
- Scott C. asked if estimates had been made on the top eight projects, to see if some projects could be covered in M.U.B.'s contingency plan for city improvements.

- Jimmie Simmons asked what was driving the speed of the project.
- Scott W. said the stimulus money was pushing the project, but that the improvement was necessary, and was part of a long-term goal.
- Dwight asked about the possibility of creating a parallel trail in closed sections.
- Scott C. said that the parallel trail could not run continuously, and that work crews would need 40-50 feet of width to work in.
- Frank asked about the possibility of moving away from combined sewage, creating a truly 'separate' sewage system.
- Scott C. said that in order for the sewage system to become separated, it would require whole-scale construction on every street with a combined sewage line, up to homes and businesses.
- Ron Jarrett pointed out that most traffic diversion plans were aimed at downtown traffic, and not from Seneca Center to Star City. He asked why the pipe had to run underneath the rail trail.
- Scott W. said that laying the trail under the rail-trail was cheaper and would conserve trees in the arboretum.
- Anita Mayer of the Mon River Trails Conservancy pointed out the benefit of laying new trail in the 6th Street area was a true benefit to the community, because of the expense of the project accompanied by need.
- Officer Mike Lantz said M.U.B. came to the City Police Department asking for solutions to the trail from Seneca Center to Star City. He said no safe route could be found.
- Timeline was discussed.
- Christiaan asked if there was a possibility of running concurrent projects for 6 months, instead of a two year plan.
- Scott W. said issues with asphalt companies (April – November operating schedule) and distribution made the timeline difficult.
- Scott W. said recommendations for Pedestrian improvements should be submitted to the Traffic Commission and City Council within the next month, in order to meet their July 21st City Council meeting, where they would be proposing their plan.

- Scott C. said public meetings would be held Thursday, June 11 at 3:00 pm in City Council Chambers. Two additional meetings would be offered; dates and times could be found on M.U.B.'s website.
- In response to a request, Scott W. said he would scan draft drawings of the project on a computer and e-mail them to Christiaan for distribution.

IV. Review of May meeting minutes/unfinished business (see attached)

Hugh moved to defer the minutes to next meeting.

Christiaan seconded the motion.

Christiaan asked Ella to recap the Half-Marathon Event.

Ella said 391 runners showed up at the event, which raised between \$8,000-10,000 for Mon River Trails Conservancy.

V. Neighborhood walkabouts – Jimmie

Jimmie said the walkabouts were designed to promote health, safety and security.

She said they were being organized through Neighborhood Associations, Neighborhood Watches, and Coordinating Councils under the umbrella of the Year of Active Transit & Pedestrian Safety Board.

She stressed that anyone conducting a walkabout (whether it was organized or solo) should report to one of the organizations listed for a reporting guide.

VI. Participant Profiles update – Matt Cross

Christiaan said he had submitted a Participant Profile to the Dominion Post, and was waiting on word from the editorial department.

VII. PRT service update: Hugh Kierig

VIII. Year of Active Transport, June –**KEY EVENT: Dump the Pump Day, Mt Line – June 18**

Maria Smith said the event was a proclamation from the city, which included verbiage supporting the Year of Active Transit.

Don said the banner for the Year of Active Transport was in the works, but may not make it by the time of the event.

Maria asked Christiaan to be in contact about how the Pedestrian Safety Board wanted to be involved in the event.

- a. MRTC's Decker's Creek Trail Half Marathon – June 6

Ella gave the update for this agenda item during the deferred review of minutes portion of the agenda.

b. National Trails Day – June 6

IX. Year of Active Transport, August event planning

a. **KEY EVENT: 2009 Uphill Struggle: Johnny’s Challenge – Aug 8**

b. Audio Historic Walking Tours of Downtown Morgantown

c. WVU Hospitals’ Sprint Splash and Spin Triathlon – August 29

X. Year of Active Transport, Evaluation

a. Survey team update – Christiaan---Updated version of online survey being reviewed by team. Goal is to have it ready to start collecting responses by July meeting

XI. PUBH Graduate student projects – Becca & Thejo – pedestrian crossing flag project update
Becca said she had compiled over 20 intersection observations. She presented some of the findings to the Traffic Commission as well as the flag project, which incorporated safety flags at intersections. The project would cost approximately \$370. Funding approval was in the works at the time of the Pedestrian Safety Board meeting.

XII. Set Time & Date of the Next Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting

***Monday, July 13, 4-5:30 pm at the Public Safety Building

XIII. Other Items

XIV. Adjournment

The June meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Board was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Action Item	Bottom-Liner	Due Date
Distribute images/draft of M.U.B. sewage line plan	Christiaan	6/8/09
Draft recommendations for M.U.B.	Christiaan	ASAP/before July 21 Council meeting
Work with Maria Smith on Dump the Pump event	Christiaan/all	June 18
Secure Year of Active Transport banner/poster	Don	ASAP (by June 18 Dump the Pump event)
Create brochure of pedestrian facts	Matt Cross	ASAP
Send bullet points for M.U.B recommendation to Christiaan	ALL	ASAP

Notes taken by Angela Wiley
