

Starkville in Motion
Minutes, October 8, 2007

University Drive Census

A team including our Day One students and Patrik Nordin (and others) tallied bike lane usage from 7 am to 7 pm last Wednesday. 491 cyclists used the lane (up from 419). ONLY 4.5% wore helmets, 9.5% rode the wrong way, 1.5% of bikes were on the sidewalk, and nearly 1% were on the phone while they were riding. There were also many joggers and walkers using the sidewalk, and, some of them, the bike lane itself for walking/jogging. We've also noted a lot of cycling and pedestrian use of Russell Street, which has no sidewalk or bike lane. The Day One students will be working with The Reflector to publicize these results.

Bike Safety Campaign

Day One students are collaborating with Doc Fogelson on a bike safety campaign on campus, which will include policies, safety tips, maybe attaching small notes to bikes out on campus, and other safety promotion. An article about bike safety was in the Bulldog Express, a newsletter for MSU students on the MSU webpage, and can be read at <http://www.msstate.edu/web/express/archive/2007-09-28/>.

Safe Routes to School

SRTS has a big event coming, a celebration of National Walk to School Day. Please see separate email and volunteer. Starkville's Walk to School Day was recently featured in a national Safe Routes to School Newsletter. This program is bringing us national attention. This program will also need other volunteers to help with baseline surveying of students and families as part of the program so that we can ultimately document any impact of this grant. Watch for pleas for help.

Starkville Cup Bicycle Race

SIM voted to host this race (motion by Ron Cossman, second by Jim Gafford) in Spring of 2008. We'll need lots of help coordinating the bike race, to be held in March. Grant and others have been working to round up sponsors for the race and have found several funders.

Slate of Officers

The following slate of officers will be up for election at the November meeting:

Devon Brenner, President
Joe Fratesi, Vice President
Grant Kirker, Secretary
Charlotte Fuquay, Treasurer
Kate Fabel, Outreach officer
Patrik Nordin-Board
Ron Cossman-Board
Richard Corey-Board
Matt Cox-Board
Lois Connington-Board

Outreach Committee

Outreach met last month to discuss current needs, issues, and opportunities. Helmets, improper bike lane usage, negative interactions between cars and bikes, debris in bikelanes, bikes on sidewalks, and other issues are concerns. The committee talked about specific audiences to target (e.g., particular neighborhoods, routes etc.) Dr. Hall's class may conduct a survey to help the committee determine the audience and message of outreach and to document changes over time in the community's perceptions and knowledge. Outreach is collaborating with Day One students to reach out to students. The committee needs to develop a budget proposal to present to the city soon for the use of the grant money from Lynn Lane. The Outreach Committee will meet soon. Watch for the date and come be involved!

Sidewalk Committee

Cari Varner has revised a mini-presentation on Complete Streets, which she'll show to the SIM group at our November meeting. This committee is consulting with the city about possible sidewalk ordinances. One project will be to assess areas of overgrowth and work with the city to clear sidewalks of brush and branches for walking and other uses. The sidewalk committee will meet Monday October 22 at Barnes and Noble/Starbucks at 8:00 pm. Please join us.

Hospital Road

Ron and Jimmy are going to continue exploring options for striping Hospital Road.