

Minutes March 7, 2005 Starkville in Motion Meeting

More than 60 people were present, including several community leaders, media representatives, and others. The meeting was covered by WCBI, The Starkville Daily News, The Commercial Dispatch, and the NE MS Daily Journal. **Links to these articles, if available, will be on our website.** www.poliwgspub.com/sim

1. Introduction of leadership team.
2. Thanks to Bulldawg Cycling for hosting the event. Bulldawg Cycling hosts rides in and around the community. For more info:
<http://www.msstate.edu/org/cycling/>
3. Update on work so far:
 - Positive meeting with Ray Hayes, an MSU VP, about future directions. MSU is working to make campus more pedestrian/bike friendly and reducing car traffic in central campus. Bike lanes from the Chapel of Memories to Research Park and others are planned.
 - OCEDA directors are worried about liability issues if the trails behind the research park are formalized, so declined to meet.
 - An account has been set up, a web site constructed, and brochures and other promotional materials created.
 - We prepared input to the city's Comprehensive Plan, much of which has been incorporated. We will continue to need to give feedback. Design standards are currently under public comment. Jimmy and Charlotte attended a meeting where these were discussed. These have become controversial, but SIM members will continue to attend meetings and support design standards that include sidewalks, shoulders, curb cuts, and other important components.
4. Membership Drive kick off:
 - We encouraged all those present to become official members and pay dues. It is important that SIM have a large official membership base, because then when we advocate for projects with city/county/state leaders we can say that we represent many tax payers/citizens/voters.
 - Membership brochures were distributed. We are encouraged to share the brochure with others and recruit new members, even if they cannot attend many meetings or help with projects.
 - Additional brochures may be copied or may be downloaded as a PDF file at www.poliwgspub.com/sim. (A more permanent website host is being sought.)
5. PowerPoint Presentation: Jimmy Richardson shared slides demonstrating our concerns and simple changes communities can make. Examples:

- Simple techniques like striping changes can calm traffic, create spaces for bike and pedestrian travel.
 - Safe, adequate sidewalks with buffers from the road and landscaping invite pedestrian traffic.
6. Break Out Work Groups:
- Work groups met to discuss our five major projects:

Lynn Lane subgroup:

- Frank Davis let us know that the city is exploring options for creating a crosswalk and connecting the Sportsplex to McKee park.
- Gunnar is obtaining a map and helping us measure street widths to determine if the road is wide enough to restripe, particularly from S. Montgomery to Louisville St.
- Jimmy Richardson will meet with Bill Webb this week to discuss Lynn Lane, cost of sidewalks and striping, cross walks, stop lights, etc.
- We are meeting on Saturday March 12 at 10:00 at the corner of Lynn and Industrial (Rackley service station) to ride/walk Lynn Lane and assess its strengths/needs.

Bike Racks subgroup:

- Billy Doughty will chair.
- Brainstormed locations for bike racks: the court house, city hall, and the hospital.
- Discussed aesthetics of the bike racks are very important. E.G City Bagel bike rack is well designed.
- Robert suggested that the group solicit donors for bike racks. A placard could be placed on each bike rack listing the name of the donor for that specific rack.
- The committee chair will contact each member to determine a meeting time and place to take the next step.

Connecting Downtown and University with Bike Lanes and Sidewalks subgroup:

- Meet Thursday at 7:15am at City Bagel (where else!).
- Jean and Joel - Research best practice for sidewalks and bike paths according to Effective Cycling book.
- Edward - Measure existing conditions on University Drive.
- Steve - Follow up with Kimberly @ Small TownCenter about grant, etc.
- Matt - Review sidewalk and bike path proposal prepared by Professor Melby's class. Talk to St Joseph Catholic church about their needs and concerns.
- Patrick, Richard, Leah - Walk or bike the route and think critically about the proposal. Think about how the road is currently used, what about

- parking, how could it connect to the University system of sidewalks and bike paths, how would it connect to the rest of the city, safety, etc.
- If you know of additional people who are passionate about this issue, please invite them to join us!

Safe Routes to School

- Explored North-South walking routes to school. James will bike the proposed routes to check them out. Briar will get a map of Starkville with location of all schools marked. (Ask Kimberly for one from Small Town Center?)
- Will analyze where students live, and possible "walkers"-those who live within a mile of the schools Explored ideas for surveying students on how they get to school. Bob B. will meet with the student group to investigate the feasibility and interest in conducting a survey of student routes and report back to us.
- Discussed "walking school buses"-parents who regularly walk groups of children to school.
- April 22 (Earth Day) is also walk to school day.
- Noted a need for crossing points on HWY 182 and 12.