

Starkville in Motion Minutes April 10, 2006

Announcements

1. Mountain Bike Race- May 31st at the south end of the Noxubee Crest, three classes of bikers will race.
2. The t-shirts (\$11) have been ordered and should be ready next week. An e-mail will be sent when they can be distributed. Contact Randall McMillen (mcmi40@bellsouth.net) if you did not pre-order a t-shirt and would like first dibs on extra shirts.
3. Chris and Rob Roberson are working on getting SIM a non-profit status. Their goals are to incorporate as a LLC and obtain a 501 3C status so donations can be tax deductible.
5. Reminder- Everyone should renew their SIM memberships.
6. Carol Ball is working on a presentation on the health aspects of sidewalks and bike lanes. As soon as this is complete she will present at the next meeting.
7. Bike to Work Day is May 19th. Watch for more info.

Minutes

1. The Lynn Lane committee (Ron) gave a short PowerPoint on their progress complemented with a large display of the proposed Lynn Lane route. The estimated cost of the 7.5 mile multi-purpose path is \$2.5 million. The biggest hurdle will be to find ways (i.e., other federal funding besides M-DOT; adopt a mile, brick or sign; contributions, etc.) to help the city raise their required 20%. (Devon was volunteered to explore fund raising possibilities.) Although the funding begins in October, 2006, the committee is considering phasing the project over two years to help the city meet their goal. The next steps for the Lynn Lane committee will be to formally present to the Board of Aldermen, an initial hearing, and a public hearing.

Ron briefly touched on the importance of the public education component of the proposal. He said Charlotte completed a census on University Drive and found of the 209 cyclists only 4% were wearing helmets and 19% were riding the wrong way despite the directional arrows on the bike path. She also counted 182 walkers and runners who mainly were traveling on the sidewalk.

2. The Sidewalk committee (Randall) gave a work-in-progress version of a PowerPoint presentation they may use to introduce their committee to Civic groups and churches. During a short discussion afterwards Joe suggested SIM use the phrases multi-use path when applicable because some people aren't as interested in bike lanes as they are in sidewalks. The former Mayor of West Point clarified the distinction between easement and right-of-way. The city really has no rights concerning easements, but has more freedom on right-of-ways.

3. The Safe Routes to School committee said they are still awaiting a list of student addresses from the Starkville Public School District that was due last Friday. (That list has now been received.) Once the information is gathered some landscape architecture students will make a map showing school children densities. The sidewalk committee hopes to team up with the SR2S committee to rethink the existing route to reflect the findings. The committee believes the SR2S grant will be a very similar process to that of the SAFETEA-LOU grant Lynn Lane is working on.

4. The Education and Outreach committee has designed a t-shirt logo and hopes t-shirts will be in next week so members can wear them at the Cotton District Arts Festival. Kathy made SIM stickers and a display board to use at various events. SIM contact information was turned into the Greater Starkville Development Partnership to be added to their list of community organizations on their website (www.starkville.org/community/community_org/a.html).

5. The Rails with Trails committee is excited about the possibility of rails to trails project in Starkville, making the goals of the committee more feasible. The existing railroad company is interested in increasing their use of the railroad, raising public interest in rerouting the existing railroad section that goes through town.

Ending Comments: MC suggested SIM have an informative meeting that city officials and the general public are invited to in an attempt to increase general membership along with committee member numbers and involvement.