

## **Starkville in Motion July 9, 2007**

### **Minutes from General Meeting**

**Treasurer's Report:** SIM has \$850 in account. Membership is holding steady. Charlotte will host a SIM social at her house sometime after early Sept.

**Lynn Lane:** Ron talked with Bill Webb. A committee will talk with Neil Shafer (Shafer & Assoc. Architects), the contractor, to decide what engineering needs to be done. No committee has been appointed yet. The Lynn Lane grant budget includes \$20,000 per year for education and outreach work. One possibility: MSU extension Service does bike rodeos. We might partner with them. We'll form a committee this fall to look into spending this money and education and outreach efforts.

**Hospital Road:** This road was overlaid last week?this might be a good time to stripe bike lanes, hospital road is plenty wide enough. We talked with Matt Cox about it and Ron will call Mayor Camp before the next SIM meeting.

**Safe Routes to School:** At the time of the July meeting no SRTS decision had been made, but we know now that the grant's been partially funded. Now begins the design and bidding process. Updates to come. Thanks, Lois.

**501(c)3 status:** Thanks to the hard work of Grant, SIM now has full 501 c 3 status?all donations to SIM are now tax deductible and SIM can be a direct recipient of grants.

**Rails to/with Trails:** Prior to the July meeting there was some conversation about the Columbus and Greenville railroad. We'd been informed it was being abandoned and considered the implications for a possible rails to trails. However, the information we received was incorrect, and the line's not currently being abandoned. However, Chris Cosper and others are exploring possibilities and options. Chris and Carl Varner are running the Carl Small Town Center while they search for a new director. They have been in touch with Industrial Outreach Center at MSU, which has been hired by Eupora ARC grant to try to restore the Columbus and Greenville railroad to service. Chris will call Bill Martin, who is interested in broader implications for the railroad than just industrial use. The papers that were recently filed were to change the status of the rail line to ?not in use? rather than abandoned. From West Point to the east, the rail road is used by SeverCorr, so that portion is not viable for a rails to trails project. However, the portion from West Point to the West is not currently in use. One possible development goal is to raise the speed trains can travel on that segment to 45 MPH which would require \$40 million in investment. Chris and the Small Town Center will continue to explore a rails-with-trails type project. Rails-with-trails requires a right-of-way of 100 feet, including bridges, etc. They will also explore partnerships and connections with communities along the route.

**Greensboro Street:** We have been exploring a possible restriping of Greensboro Street to create a bike lane. The city does not have separate funds for this at this time, however, it may become a priority of the SRTS budget.

**Helmets:** SIM members discussed the possibility of asking the Board of Aldermen to pass local ordinance to require kids under a certain age to wear helmets. One way to generate public support for such an ordinance would be to work with PTAs and black churches and perhaps collect petition signatures. Ron is now negotiating with MDOT to get donated helmets so any kid with a bike can get a free helmet (say, at a bike rodeo). Discussion focused on whether it is wise to pursue the ordinance if funding is not available for helmets.

**Parks Plan:** Joe Fratesi voiced support for a Parks Plan similar to the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Mayor wants the Parks Department to oversee the bike paths. A comprehensive plan would be helpful when SIM and the City apply for grants and for other projects.

**Starkville Cup (criterion race):** Robert and Ron met with Mayor Camp on July 5. There is not enough time to organize the race for August, the first date we considered, and the SIM voted to postpone until the spring—a spring date will be announced at the August meeting. The Mayor promises to raise prize money if SIM will raise money for expenses. The race committee will apply for funding from the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and will have race sponsorships for \$500, \$250, \$125, and other levels for title sponsorships. The Campus Activities Board will discuss the race and sponsorship soon. OCEDA is meeting on 7/12 and the race will be discussed there.