

Starkville in Motion
August 13, 2007 Minutes

Lynn Lane Update

An engineering firm has been identified and will soon present a bid to the city. If this bid is approved the firm will begin initial engineering, with construction to begin, possibly, in the early spring. SIM sent a memo to the city asking that any route decisions be based on both the needs of bike, foot, and vehicle transportation and safety. Little can be done to make this process move any faster as there are strict rules from MDOT for the bidding and development processes.

The residents of Sherwood Commons have expressed some concerns about the impact of the Lynn Lane path on their communities, for example, the destruction of landscaping, extra traffic in their communities, difficulties exiting the subdivision due to pedestrians, and so forth. Matt Cox met with these residents. A plan to install a stoplight along the route alleviated some concerns. Also, final route has not yet been determined, and all parties are waiting for the engineering report and information on safety issues. Because Locksley Way is so wide, it may be possible to address many if not all of the residents' concerns. The City Planner, who attended this meeting, was supportive of the Lynn Lane path and reminded the homeowners that a path of this nature is likely to raise property values. SIM and the city will continue to work with all concerned parties along the route so that the final plan and development meet the needs of all concerned.

The Lynn Lane grant includes a substantial match from the city. Several years ago the city won a community development block grant, and not all of those funds have been expended. The grant is to improve conditions in low-income neighborhoods, and some of that grant money can likely be used as the city's contribution. Neighborhoods along Lynn Lane qualify as low-income. At our September meeting we will form a committee and make concrete plans for determining how to spend the portion of this grant set aside for education and safety. BRING IDEAS for education and promotion to our next meeting.

Safe Routes to School Update

This grant is moving forward, with first steps being bidding and engineering. Although we did not get the substantial funds we requested for education in the schools and health promotion, some funds for these purposes were awarded. Mike Hall, Ron, and Lois will meet soon with the schools to determine the best ways to engage in promotion and safety education. SIM will celebrate this grant award on Thursday August 11th at 6:00 at City Bagel. Cake will be provided, but otherwise this is a Dutch treat event.

Day One leadership

The Day One Leadership program is an MSU leadership program developed by Dr. Foglesong (MSU president). 225 Freshmen students will live together, take many classes together, and participate in a semester long service-learning and leadership program. Service Learning is an educational method in which students engage in community-based service projects and classroom-based reflection as they meet content-specific objectives.

Day One will have 36 teams of 5-7 students engaging in a variety of service-learning projects in our community. One team of students will collaborate with SIM as they learn about community leadership and health promotion. These students will provide 20-30 hours of service to SIM and engage in site visits to learn more about our work. Patrik Nordin will support these students during weekly reflections/classes and will guide their activities. During the meeting we brainstormed a list of possible projects that the Day One students could work on this semester.

Website of Cycling Routes

Joe Fratesi has been researching the costs and ways of developing an interactive website. Linked to the Convention and Visitor's Bureau, SIM, and city's website, this would allow residents and visitors to map out an appropriate bike route. Ryan Storment volunteered to initiate development of such a web site, saying that he could easily develop something using Google Maps and a data base provided by our Internet Service Provider. He will collaborate with Joe and Jimmy to initiate development.

Road Rides poster

Watch for a new poster promoting road rides (daily cycling rides that begin at The Bicycle Shop) designed by Kathy Jacobs.

501(c)3 Status

SIM is officially a 501(c)3 now, and Grant is working on becoming a registered state charity. There is now a donation form on our website, as SIM can now accept donations and donations will be tax-deductible. SIM is now eligible for certain grants, which Ron is exploring. Grant and Kathy will work on an appropriate receipt format for any donations.

September Meeting

Watch for announcements of our September meeting which will be a major goal-setting meeting and set the tone for our next year or two of work.

Possible Day One Student Projects

- University Drive census (counting cyclist, pedestrian, jogger, etc. use of the University Drive bike lanes) and possibly other pedestrian/cycling censuses (censi?) around the city
- Day One students can join and support one or more of the committees that are formed/reformed at the September meeting
- Support the development of an interactive website that could be used to find bicycling routes based on distance, difficulty, etc. (with Joe Fratesi and Ryan Storment)
- Develop a history of Starkville in Motion and/or other archival information about the organization
- Brainstorm and research ways to reach students and other community members regarding safety, helmets, sharing the road, etc.
- Consult with Randall and Whitney and then conduct a further survey of the state and presence of sidewalks in our city-which are handicap accessible, where do they end abruptly, where are they most needed, etc.
- Conduct a descriptive survey of our city park system, what do we have/not have relative to other communities of our size and nature? What's missing that other communities have

that might be a draw for new citizens

- Research the building of a skate park-for use possibly by skate boarders, roller bladers, and bikes-in particular research how other communities built theirs and the economic impact and the costs associated with building a new one (pre-work for a possible grant application)
- Research bike helmet ordinances in other communities
- Recruitment efforts (e.g., develop recruitment materials, a poster, etc.) (Kathy has already developed some of this and if they do this work they should consult with her)