

Starkville in Motion Minutes
August 14, 2006

Discussion with Clark Roman from Starkville Parks and Recreation. The purpose of this discussion was to open a conversation regarding the relationship between the trails that are built as a result of SIM efforts (e.g. Lynn Lane and the North-South Route) and Parks and Recreation. Because SIM is not an official entity of the city, we'll need a city entity to support the trails we build. We wanted to talk with Clark about making the trails a part of the park system and its long term planning (e.g. similar signage, physically linking the paths to the city's parks, maintenance and upkeep of paths, mentioning the paths on city materials that refer to available recreation to citizens or visitors, etc.). Clark was receptive to the idea and encouraged SIM to attend and present at a Parks and Rec board meeting the first Monday in September. Jimmy will coordinate this effort.

We also asked Mr. Roman if there are bicycle racks at each of the city's parks and the Sportsplex. Right now, there are no bike racks, but he committed to purchasing racks and installing them at each of the city's parks before next summer. Bike Rack committee, will you follow up in this over the next several months?

We asked about the possibility of building a path around the perimeter of the 70 + acre Sportsplex. Mr. Roman responded that Parks and Rec's first priority in new construction right now is to build an indoor gym at the Sportsplex. However, Parks and Rec is interested in such a path, and he will explore the costs and options with the architects. Jimmy will follow up on this.

Lois Connington said that the Safe Routes to School committee is considering a path that cuts through JL King Park. Right now, King park has several sidewalks that do not internconnect and don't create a path across the park. Mr. Roman said that if funding is obtained, SIM can certainly design and build a path that cuts across the park. There is a small chance that Parks and Rec might even be able to provide some limited support for the project, but it's better if new construction is funded.

Bike Path along Greensboro and Whitfield

Greensboro and Whitfield are currently undergoing some traffic calming measures (new stop signs and speed limits). Matt Cox reported that some residents of these areas have approached Starkville in Motion about the possibility of painting stripes on these to create bike lanes in both directions. The streets have been measured and they are wide enough to create 5' bike lanes in both directions. This bike lane would connect Green Oaks (a large residential area) and the new park being built at the corner of Whitfield St. and Ave of the Patriots with downtown, businesses, etc., connecting through one of our most scenic neighborhoods for a small cost, further enhancing the city's traffic calming efforts by narrowing the street. Patrik Nordin opened dialogue on the proposed

striping with the Board of Aldermen at the August 15th meeting and will lead a committee to work out the final details.

University Drive and the Catholic Church

Matt Cox also reported that people from the Catholic Church asked him to approach SIM to think about possibly allowing parking in the University Drive bike lane on Sundays so that elderly parishoners can park closer to the church. SIM members were not supportive of this idea. Having parking there even just on Sundays would change the established traffic patterns and increase hazards for cyclists. At least one SIM member and perhaps others use the bike lane to go to Mass most Sundays and/or travel the route to other destinations on Sunday mornings. One suggestion was to reserve parking in the church parking lot just for the elderly or others who need closer parking.

Safe Routes to School

Ron Cossman and Lois Connington are ovrking on this. SRS is 100% MDOT money (no city match necessary) but it is a smaller pot of money than the Lynn Lane project so this project will be more limited in scope. Over the summer the committee walked a potential route. The committee will meet soon to finalize a proposed route and being costing it out. We can get engineering help in estimating costs from the city if we go through Matt Cox. We need to know who is responsible for the right-of-way along 182 near the Henderson campus, and PC McLaurin will find out for us. Look for a SRS committee meeting SOON.

Elections

The SIM Board will present a slate of officers in September, the floor will be open for additional nominations in October, and November's meetings will include elections. New officers will take over in January of 07.

Lynn Lane

Our grant proposal has been submitted. It is one of 80 applications for the state's Transportation Enhancement funds. Right now all the proposals are being checked for eligibility and then will be sent to a commission for review. Expect a decision the first Tuesday in October. Ron Cossman is coordinating some small lobbying efforts on behalf of the proposal.

Education and Outreach

Ron Cossman and Kathy Jacobs are collaborating on an article to be submitted to the Reflector to let students know about SIM and biking/walking opportunities in our community.

Treasurer's Report

SIM has \$550.

Bulldawg Cycling

Bulldawg Cycling will host a Begginer's Mounting Biking Clinich at the North

trailhead of the Noxubee Crest trail system. The trail head is at Choctaw Lake. This will be on August 26th at 9:00. The clinic is decidedly for beginners. Bring your bike and a helmet, a water bottle (ice water will be provided), a snack and insect repellent. The park has a picnic area and a lake with a swimming area. People attending the clinic are invited to bring a picnic and stay for lunch afterwards.