

Minutes 8/8/05

IN BRIEF:

- Thanks to all the alderman who attended our meeting!
- Please support the University Drive Committee and attend the August 16th meeting of the Board of Aldermen, where the University Drive re-stripping proposal will be submitted! 6:30, City Hall Court Room
- Suggest places that NEED crosswalks to Matt Cox at reddoorrents@yahoo.com
- Suggest places that NEED bike racks to Robert McMillen at robert.mcmillen@ssrc.msstate.edu

1. Elections

- According to our bylaws, we begin to elect officers in September.
- September meeting: Current officers will nominate a slate of candidates
- October meeting: All members can make nominations from the floor to suggest others to run
- November (last meeting of the year) Vote and elect next year's leadership team
- Officers include: President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, 4 at large board members

2. Civic Club Meeting

- Chris Coper and Jimmy Richardson met with a civic club, presented an overview of SIM and a few slides.
- When they asked for questions, the response was less supportive than we'd imagined, they even met some resistance.
- The club members had concerns about who will pay for sidewalks/paths/lanes, whether or not bicyclists pay taxes, and concerns about cyclists not consistently following traffic laws
- Pointed out the need to build support, to educate people about our goals, objectives, the impact on the city. We must anticipate and alleviate their concerns
- Jimmy encouraged all cyclists to follow traffic laws and to be aware of the image we are projecting to others as we ride.

3. Aldermen introduced and welcome included both SIM Members and SIM newcomers, including P.C. McLaurin, Matt Cox, Roy Perkins, and Janette Self.

4. Grants and Support

- Several of us, including Aldermen Self and Perkins, met with Robert Vernon of the National Park Service and Tommy Box of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.
- Tommy Box's office has some grant money available for small, enhancement projects. These grants are not huge, 10s of thousands, but may supplement larger federal, etc. grants and can be used for specific projects such as bridges, etc. Must be used for true "trails" or "multiuse paths" and not sidewalks along the roads.
- Can be applied for year after year for several stages or several projects.
- Encouraged us to develop a stronger "comprehensive plan" which shows stages of developing total access for the whole city, not just trails that begin and end randomly--but a whole network that links the important city locations for recreation, commerce, schools, etc.

5. University Drive

- An original design turned out to assume widths of 43', while some of University Drive is only 41 feet.

- Collaborated with Bill Webb for a 2nd plan, which calls for strategically placed parallel parking and a roadway that gently winds/sways around parking, with 5' bike lanes on either side.
- Mainly involves re-striping, and may be a good enough plan to do permanently.
- Will be presented at the Board of Aldermen meeting August 16th at 6:30. Likely to be discussed early in the meeting.
- The Committee is grateful for and proud to celebrate the collaboration with the city, especially City Engineer Bill Webb.

6. Lynn Lane

- Ron Cossman announced the passage of the Transportation Enhancement act which includes
- Higher emphasis on "Safe Routes to School" including \$612 million over all, and at least \$1 million to each state
- 15 million for the South Entrance to MSU, linking 25 through South Farm and a loop around the East side of MSU all the way to 82
- etc. (Devon and Jimmy will meet with Ray Hates at MSU who's over these things, to encourage bike lanes, sidewalks, etc. to be developed into the plans for the South Entrance from the beginning)
- These federal monies are just approved after a 6 year wait. Many federal grant opportunities are likely to become available in the next months, we should watch for them
- Ron and others will help develop a set of grant-writing resources and post them on the SIM website including text about our committee, letters of support, how to estimate costs, etc.

7. Safe Routes to School

- SRS has been invited to speak to the school board about the group, routes, costs, etc., will do so soon
- Need to build the diversity of the committee to better represent all Starkville families, communities
- The committee will be talking with PTAs etc. over the next few weeks
- The Survey of students and their school commuting habits is done and being analyzed by Landscape Architecture
- Matt Cox encouraged us all to think of places that might be calling out for crosswalks and submit a list of priorities to the Board of Alderman, email him at reddoorrents@yahoo.com

8. Bike Racks

- Sierra Club donated a rack for library. Purchased rack is for in ground, but library has decided they want it on the cement under the awning. This is good, more visible, however, necessitates ordering another rack.
- Rack is here for the Greensboro Center, Robert will meet with district to determine location this week.
- Going to target new construction (e.g. on campus, County Courthouse, etc.) as places that could install racks now rather than after sidewalks are built
- A 7 bike rack costs less than \$200.00
- Thanks, Mike and The Bicycle Shop for helping us buy bike racks at cost!! Your support means a lot!
- Robert will also meet soon with Gaddis Hunt about campus facilities, and suggest several locations that need bike racks e.g. Bost Extension Center. If you think of any, let him know at robert.mcmillen@ssrc.msstate.edu.
- Developing a way to create and install a plaque to recognize donors.
- One suggestion: Develop a map that shows where Starkville's bike rack's are, put it on the web.

9. Developing a Comprehensive Plan: SIM broke into small groups to discuss wishes/needs/brainstorm ideas for a more comprehensive plan, especially viable North/South routes. Ideas were shared with the whole group. The Leadership Team will develop further and share at the September meeting. The whole group will determine priority rankings in September.