

Safe Streets and Roads for All
Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 3:00 pm
Conference Room 5

1462 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point WI 54481

Video can be accessed: <https://portagecowi.portal.civicclerk.com/event/7279/media>

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Attendance – The meeting was called to order by Kristen Johnson, Planner, Planning & Zoning Department
Staff attending: Kristen Johnson, Adam Kuhn, City of Stevens Point Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator; Karmen Anderson, Village of Plover Planner; Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary
Subcommittee Members: Rebecca Roberts, Steve McKay, Karalyn Peterson, Neil Pendergast, Janet Way, Jack Orlando
Others attending: Trevor Roark, Task Force Chair, Jackie Mich, Vandewalle & Associates, Bob Gifford, District 10 County Board Supervisor, Fred Heidar, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Attending remotely: Jackie Mich, Vandewalle & Associates, Inc.
2. PUBLIC NOTICE: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their requests at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.
3. Introductions
Members and staff introduced themselves and shared their interest in being on the subcommittee.
4. Bike & Ped Subcommittee Role
Kristen Johnson explained one component of the overall project is to update the 2014 Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Another is to create a safety action plan.
5. Elect Chairperson & Vice Chairperson
Kristen Johnson called for nominations for Chairperson. Rebecca Roberts nominated Karalyn Peterson. Nominations were closed after three calls. A majority vote for Karalyn Peterson occurred by a show of hands. Karalyn Peterson called for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Rebecca Roberts nominated Jack Orlando. Nominations were closed after three calls. A majority vote for Jack Orlando occurred by a show of hands. Jack Orlando noted he will be graduating from UWSP in the spring and moving out of the area. He will serve as Vice Chairperson until that time.
6. Approve Meeting Transcription from August 27, 2024 Kick-off Meeting
The transcription was not included in the meeting packets. Motion to postpone until the next meeting by Neil Pendergast, seconded by Janet Way. Motion passed by voice vote.
7. Existing [2014 Bike & Ped Plan](#)
Adam Kuhn gave some background on the 2014 plan, which has a similar structure as the process proposed for the development of an updated plan. For the 2014 plan, urban area and rural area subcommittees were formed to gather wants and needs from each area. A public survey, workshops, and interactive online activities assisted the consultant in developing recommendations for the plan. He encouraged members to read the 2014 plan. The meat of the document is contained in the vision statement, goals, and objectives. He explained the five E's – engineering, encouragement, education, evaluation, and enforcement. Engineering composes a large part of the plan, outlining infrastructure improvements the plan proposes, i.e., improved lighting and/or signage, adding dedicated lanes, paths, trails. Education is a significant element the subcommittee should consider. All of the E's should align and be viewed as proactive steps to create an effective updated plan as well as the implementation for the next 20 years. It was pointed out that Equity is considered a sixth E in some plans. He noted the 2014 plan references a separate document, Safe Roads to School, which may be accessed for recommendations. There was discussion on tracking of the 2014 plan accomplishments. The City has tracked implementation of recommendations, but there has been no implementation tracking for the remainder of the County.

8. Goals for Bike & Ped Plan Update

Subcommittee members shared their views of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations in Portage County. The vision statement on page 34 of the 2014 plan, was read and discussed. Rebecca Roberts believes the structure of the plan should be short and simple, contain data, graphics, and have a short executive summary for each of the E's. Each community could have an implementation checklist to track progress. She suggested mapping applications as tools for residents and tourism. Members ranked each of the E's on a scale of one (low priority) to five (high priority) relating to implementation of the plan. Jackie Mich stated it is wise to incorporate Equity as many Federal programs are looking for it when considering grant awards. Members were asked what they want incorporated into the updated plan. Trevor Roark wants a useful plan for planners and grant writers. He mentioned an economic benefits storyboard showing how implemented recommendations could benefit the economy, i.e. lower health insurance, etc. Neil Pendergast requested visuals and examples of other communities that have implemented successful practices. Rebecca Roberts mentioned a template developed for the East Central Regional Planning Commission. Jackie Mich asked about thoughts on advancing opportunities in rural communities. It was suggested to engage town and village leadership throughout the process. A suggestion was made to present at a Wisconsin Towns Association meeting. It was also suggested to provide towns with some priority corridors to consider and small low to no cost improvements.

9. Review Stakeholder List

Members were asked to review the stakeholder list and forward additions to Karalyn Peterson or Kristen Johnson. Suggestions of groups/organizations/dealers to include: ATV/UTVs, motorcycles, farm equipment, USDA-NRCS, Farm Bureau, school districts, Business Council, Convention and Visitors Bureau, bike shops, running and biking clubs, UWSP Admissions, Boys and Girls Club, CAP Services, (Ben Martinez - Iverson Park Bike/Kayak rentals. A suggestion was made to consider including stakeholders from critical places people travel to, i.e. grocery stores, medical, meal sites, etc. Jackie Mich stated she would like to get plan recommendations incorporated into online maps versus as appendices.

10. Review Bike Ped Plan Planning Process & Schedule

Jackie Mich reviewed the schedule included in meeting packets. A suggestion was made to have multiple sites in urban and rural sites for the Walk, Bike, Roll Audit. It may be an option to train Task Force and/or subcommittee members to conduct the audits. Jackie Mich mentioned they are planning to use the AARP template with some tweaks.

11. Staff Updates & Upcoming Activities

Kristen Johnson mentioned the Public Involvement Meeting on October 29 at Mid State Technical College from 5-7 pm is open to the public. The online survey is live on the Portage County website until November 13. Trevor Roark asked for volunteers to staff a booth at a sustainability fair, scheduled for October 29 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Laird Room at the Dreyfus University Center. Members were asked to promote the events and the survey.

12. Discussion & Questions

For the next meeting, members were asked to review the current plan and look at specific engineering recommendations. Have some been completed? Also, are there recommendations that are not currently identified in the plan?

13. Adjourn

Karalyn Peterson adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Benedict
Administrative Associate II
Portage County Planning and Zoning Department