MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
Bicycle and Pedestrian Sub-Committee
Minutes – August 21, 2014

Members: Phil Valitchka (Chair), Dennis Helke, Andrew Plath, Darryl Landeau, Aaron Ruff, Gaylene Rhoden
Staff: Dave Mack, Preston Vande Voort

1. **Call to Order.**
Meeting was called to order by Valitchka at 6:35 pm.

2. **Welcome and Introductions.**

3. **Approve the Minutes of the June 19, 2014 Meeting.**
Motion/second by Valitchka and seconded by Landeau to approve the June 19, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

4. **Bike Fixtations Press Conference Information**
Ruff handed out the invitation to the Bike Fixtations Press Conference that will be held at 10:00 am on August 27, 2014 at the Mountain-Bay Trailhead in Weston, WI. Discussion involved having the president and owner of Bike Fixtations speaking at the conference as well as the financial sponsors, Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin and the Aspirus Health Foundation. All are welcome to attend.

5. **Bicycle Friendly Community Application Feedback**
Mack handed out the comments received from the League of American Bicyclists regarding the MPO’s submittal of the Bicycle Friendly Community application last February. The MPO received Honorable Mention for its application. The committee discussed the grade given to the MPO on the key elements or the review. Committee agreed to submit another application in February 2015.

6. **Bike/Pedestrian Plan Open House Review**
The Committee and Toole Design Group hosted a public information meeting on July 17, 2014 to get some initial input from the public on issues surrounding bicycling and walking in the Wausau area and provide the Toole Design with information to begin laying out the Bike/Ped. plan. The use of an online mapping tool was introduced for people to submit comments online. Even with low attendance, the people that did attend provide very good comments to work with.

7. **Grand Avenue, Wausau, Sharrows**
Video clips of news reports were show and community feedback was discussed regarding the installation of sharrows on the newly resurfaced Grand Avenue in Wausau. Most of the initial feedback has been negative from a automobile drivers perspective and positive from the bicyclists perspective. The website bicyclewasusau.org has a good section on the sharrows. The committee discussed having some form of ride established to help educate the public on what the sharrows are and how to use them. Planning for an event will take place before the next meeting.

8. **Community Updates**
- Landeau let the group know the NCWRPC will be working on a Regional Bike Plan for its 10 county area and will be looking to the MPO Committee for assistance on the plan.
- Rhoden indicated that Rib Mountain is also looking at having a Town bike plan created.
- Helke indicated that Kronenwetter will be constructing the Old 51 Trail in 2015.
- Plath said City of Wausau was working on language revisions to ordinances for keeping bikes off the sidewalks downtown and providing for more bike racks in the city.
8. **Next Meeting Date – October 9, 2014 at 6:30 PM**

9. **Adjourn**
Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by:
David Mack
Planning & Regulatory Program Manager/Transportation Planner
Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning/Wausau MPO