MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
Bicycle and Pedestrian Sub-Committee
Minutes – August 23, 2018

Members: John Nowaczyk, Chair, Hooshang Zeyghami Vice-Chair, Aaron Ruff, John Beatty, Dennis Helke, Jamie Polley, Tom (Builers), Zach (Rib Mountain Cycles), Brad Sippel

Staff: Andrew Lynch

1. CALL TO ORDER
   Meeting called to order by Chairperson NOWACZYK at 5:30pm

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF (MAY 24, 2018) MEETING
   Motion/second by NOWACZYK/BEATTY to approve the meeting minutes from the May 24 meeting. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

4. E-BIKE TEST RIDE
   Committee members moved outside to test ride e-bikes from the Trek Store, Builer’s, and Rib Mountain Cycles.

5. E-BIKE RULES FOR COUNTY PARKS
   Members shared their first impressions of the e-bikes with overall enthusiastic support of the technology. NOWACZYK described this as a technology without limits to the user and that it can be for anyone in any situation. Community member Jim spoke to his health limitations and how an e-bike has allowed him to continue to cycling. BEATTY expressed concern with the speed these bikes allow and safety issues. Overall, the committee has concerns with how these bikes would be ridden by the users and possible enforcement of speed and class size issues. HELKE suggested that while there are always people that will abuse the trails but people might go to other places if they are not allowed in Marathon County. LYNCH felt that the advantage for an e-bike on trails may be with recovery speed but users are unlikely to go faster than the trail allows. POLLEY suggested the next step would be to talk with the Forestry and Parks committees for education and possibly provide a bike to ride. SIPPEL offered to look into Wausau city ordinance regarding e-bike use on the River’s Edge Trail.

6. REPORT ON INSTITUTE FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN INNOVATION WORKSHOP IN PORTLAND, OR
   LYNCH reported on his recent trip to Portland OR for the Institute for Bicycle and Pedestrian Innovation workshop hosted by Portland State University. This workshop was designed to expose attendees to the best in US bicycle infrastructure and programming on encouraging active transportation choices. The first of three days was dedicated to the Portland Sunday Parkways open streets event. LYNCH was able to meet with the organizers of the event and the group rode the whole seven mile loop. The next two days had time devoted to classroom presentations from consultants, city staff, and experts in the field and bike tours of Portland to examine the newest infrastructure. A highlight of a tour was the Tilikum Crossing Bridge that has capacity for bikes, pedestrians, light rail and buses but no cars. LYNCH also had an opportunity to test a Bird scooter on the Portland streets.

7. COMMUNITY UPDATES AND FUTURE EVENTS
   Rib Mountain: BEATTY noted several instances where cars did not stop for pedestrians and noted the need for driver education. There is also a request for a walk audit in Rib Mountain. LYNCH noted that the HEAL coalition was considering the timing for doing the audit. The Town was asking for assistance in identifying areas for infrastructure improvement. NOWACZYK suggested Rib Mountain Drive, LYNCH suggested improving the crossings of Rib Mountain
Drive with in-ground sensors.

Kronenwetter: Old Hwy 51 trail will be constructed in 2019 since the holdout property has been acquired.

Rothschild: Cedar Creek Trail Bridge has been completed and is open.

CWOCC: First phase of Ringle trails is complete but not yet open to the public. CWOCC is still raising funds to complete the trails next year. It will be groomed for winter riding. RUFF discussed the application for IMBA Ride Center next year.

WAUSAU: SIPPEL reported that the River’s Edge Trail Master Plan will be updated with a completion in Spring of 2019. Toole Design was hired to redesign streets around the Wausau Center Mall in a separate plan. All options are on the table. Walk audit was recently completed in the 1st Street Bridge Street area with results at the next Bike Ped meeting.

CHAIR: NOWACZYK is on the board of a local Cycling Without Age chapter that will be coming to Wausau metro area within the next year. Three cycles have been approved and the effort is directed by Hailey Veenstra.

MPO: LYNCH announced that there is now a Bicycle Wausau Facebook page.

8. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA
9. NEXT MEETING DATE – SEPTEMBER 20, 2018
10. ADJOURN
   Motion/second by BEATTY/RUFF to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent. Meeting Adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Submitted by:
David Mack
Program Manager/MPO Director
Marathon County
Conservation, Planning and Zoning/Wausau MPO