

Summary of Yakima Bikes and Walks (YB&W) Monthly Meeting - July 22, 2014

Meeting location: Valley Cycling and Fitness, 1802 W. Nob Hill Blvd., Yakima.

1. Introductions: 14 people in attendance.

2. Recap old business

- City council meeting: At the 7-1-14 city council meeting, YB&W members supported the proposed street excavation ordinance because it would help enable smoother roads over time as cuts into roads occur for utilities, etc.
- North 1st Street design: The right-of-way North of I street is 80'. Will the design include 14' shared curb lanes or 5' bike lanes? It's a tight fit. This is an entrance to Yakima heavily used by trucks. One view is that there are lots of trucks so bikes should not be encouraged. Another view is that truckers are OK with bike lanes. Their issue is turning radii. This issue will be on city council's agenda 8/5 or 8/19.
- YB&W meeting with City engineers: City staff is not supporting re-establishment of a Bike-Ped Advisory Committee at this time, and instead want to work with YB&W. Some felt YB&W should put our energy into reviewing and working with the city's upcoming Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for hiring a consultant to formulate a bicycle connectivity plan. Others felt we should also continue to pursue re-establishment of the City's Bike-Ped Committee.
- Bike racks: Sheet metal for the approximately four Tour de Farce (TdF) bike racks has been sent to the fabricator. Placing these racks in downtown locations will require right-of-way use permits, which are decided by city council. The city-installed downtown racks were powder-coated to enable inexpensive removal of graffiti; and the city has a few more available for installation. Phil will check with Nate on whether the TdF racks will be powder-coated. [Yes, they will be powder-coated.] It was the consensus to put the TdF bike rack designs on our website and to support installing more than these four TdF bike racks.
- Website: Suggestions for items to place on our website included: the TdF bike racks, bike maps, a blog, a calendar, map links, known rides, favorite rides, map-my-rides (scalable, Garmond), updated county bike routes (e.g., wineries); links to other cities' bike ideas, local bike maintenance shops. Art has maps of winery tours. Phil and Lance will follow up with webmaster James.

3. Complete Streets Policy

Yakima Health District (Sheryl DiPietro, Community Health Director) & Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (Shawn Conrad) have teamed to explore complete streets policies locally. Sheryl explained that YHD has traditionally been involved with communicable diseases, etc., but lately there has been more interest in healthy lifestyles.

They tried community gardens, with little success, and have found more interest in safe routes to schools, etc. YHD has funds that they are proposing to use on "complete streets" policy development:

- policy development
- public education
- complete streets stakeholders group

Toward these ends there will be a conference call on 7/29, 11:30 am with Change Lab Solutions (a nonprofit in CA that put on the Complete Street Workshop in Yakima several months ago) to see how they might help us with this initiative. Art, Susan, Joan, and Shirley volunteered to join Sheryl, Shawn, Joan, Phil and Rebecca in the conference call with Change Lab Solutions on possible Yakima Bikes & Walks participation. Question: Can Change Lab Solutions provide any statistics on health improvement from complete streets? Suggestions: Involve PTAs to establish a test school; get it rolling with a PE teacher or similar school staff. Two supportive folks at Yakima School District would be (First name?) Easter (in Purchasing) and Chuck Doan (in Facilities).

4. MLK Underpass

The ribbon cutting for the new underpass is tomorrow (7-23-14) at 11 am. Several folks will ride their bikes or walk to show our support for the striped bike lane and raised sidewalk.

5. Special meeting dedicated to discussing organizing YB&W

It was decided to select September 9, the 2nd Tuesday after school is back in session.

6. Map updates

There is a need to update the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) bike map. Art has maps of winery tours and will provide them. Neil suggested getting 4 routes designated and going to the county for signage. Shawn has extra maps and will distribute them to the Chamber.

7. Bike Party/Fun Rides

Lance distributed the route and riding info for our first Bike Party ride to be held on First Friday, August 1. Meet at Franklin Park 7:00 to start riding at 7:15.

8. Next monthly meeting: Aug. 26, 6:30 pm.

It was decided to meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month in order to keep the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays open to attend city council meetings when needed.