

Yakima Bike and Walks
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
August 26, 2014, 6:30 pm
Location: Yakima Makers Space

15 attended (Al, Carla, Chad, Ed, Eric, Joan, Lance, Nate, Norma, PhilH, PhilM, Rebecca, Rob, Shirley, Stan).

1. **North First Street Design** – The three cross-section alternatives were described and discussed: (a) Bike Lanes, (b) Wide Curb Lanes, and (c) 12' lanes. All alternatives include sidewalks, sidewalk trees, and median trees. It was decided to email out the cross-section drawings and encourage members to testify to city council when they will pick the alternative on September 16. Also, members will attend the open house on the design alternatives on September 23.
2. **Artistic Bike Racks from Tour de Farce** – Four racks are being fabricated for installation at four downtown locations. Yakima Arts Commission has written a letter of approval. Installation work party perhaps in September? We'll get media coverage.
3. **Request For Qualifications** - City has sent out the RFQ for firms interested in formulating a Master Bike Plan for Yakima.
4. **WA BIKES** - The August 18 noontime meeting with Blake Trask, Statewide Policy Director of Washington Bikes (formerly Bicycle Alliance of Washington) was reviewed.
5. **Networking** - It was recommended that we contact Beverly Leaverton (County) and Brian Curtin (YVCOG) to let them know of our efforts and to tap into their network of email lists concerning Commute Trip Reduction. The City's October 23 Health Fair at the Convention Center is also an opportunity for us to get our message out.
6. **Complete Streets Working Group** – This is an initiative of YVCOG and Yakima Health District. The Group's efforts to date were summarized. Change Lab Solutions will provide recommendations for low cost solutions. How about getting a known expert to talk about what the city could look like, e.g., at The Seasons or Capitol Theater. Like what the mayor of Bogota has done to make his people happy. How about a futurist to kick off the comprehensive plan update (like the one who spoke at the planning conference). Make it an event, not just a speech, with a bicycle race, etc.
7. **Organizing Yakima Bikes and Walks** - A special meeting dedicated to the organizational structure of Yakima Bike and Walks will be held September 9, 6:30 pm, at the Greenway office. Chad volunteered to take the lead in organizing the meeting and will research how other groups around the state have organized. All members will be invited.
8. **Naches Rail-to-Trail** – Al reported that bids are open and construction of 4+ miles will occur this fall, bringing the trail down to Old Naches Highway at Suntides. After this section is completed there are only 2 miles remaining to connect the trail to the existing Greenway Trail at 40th & Fruitvale! Fundraising is on-going and we'll need everyone's help to match the possible state Trails Grant for which the Greenway Foundation applied last summer.
9. **Pedal-Assist Bikes Policy** - Al requested the group's input on allowing motor-pedal-assisted bikes on the Greenway's non-motorized pathways. Most are ridden by older folks, some riding with their grandkids. City pathways are also considering their policy on these new technological devices, which are expensive. Discussion seemed to cautiously favor allowing them as long as speeds were safe and noise was low. Internal combustion engines were ruled out.
10. **Community Bike Share Programs** - Rob reported that the Seattle bike share program (Pronto) has started. Carla saw them in NYC and Rebecca saw them in MN.
11. **Yakima Makers Space for Bike Repair** - Nate stated that Yakima Makers Space would love to be a place where folks could fix their bikes. He has a bike stand. Lance said he may have some extra tools.