

GNO Traffic Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 17, 2005

Opening:

The regular meeting of the GNO Traffic Safety Committee was called to order at 12:15 pm on August 17, 2005 at National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter office in by Del Bosarge, Chair. Self introductions were made.

A. Attendance. The following people were in attendance:

| Name | Organization | Email |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Del Bosarge | Jefferson Parish Traffic Engineer | dbosarge@jeffparish.net |
| Scott Boyle | LA DOTD | scottboyle@dotd.state.la.us |
| Cade Braud | Urban Systems | cbraud@urbansystems.com |
| Dan Champagne | Industrial Safety Health | dan.champagne@ish1.com |
| Kurt Feigley | National Safety Council | kurt@metrosafety.org |
| Don Redman | AAA | dredman@aaamissouri.com |
| Andrew Rodgers | Xavier University | ahrodger@xu.edu |
| Russell Yaffee | Urban Systems | ryaffee@urbansystems.com |

B. Updates

- Mr. Parsons reported on recent activity with DOTD. He recently returned from national conference of State Bicycle Coordinators Cambridge, MA sponsored by FHWA. Other areas of interest: funding for ped/bike still up in the air due as approval of federal transportation bill remains pending, the Safe Routes to Schools program is gaining interest, Louisiana bike map is now available, and there is a movement to develop uniform signage for national bicycle routes.
- Ms. Reed reported on Citizen Reserve Unit (works with NOPD) volunteer activities to educate property owners on sidewalk maintenance, and recent capital improvement survey of French Quarter completed two years ago which identified lighting, street, and sidewalk areas which need repair.
- Ms. Parson reported on recent RPC efforts to improve bicycle corridors in St Tammany, Jefferson, and St. Bernard. Regarding an inquiry as to improvements in bicycle accessibility in Orleans Parish, there are multiple

agencies involved which must grant approval to before improvements can be made, agencies such as Port of New Orleans, US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans Levee District, ie.

- Mr. Canfield reported on developments in Baton Rouge area, including the new East Baton Rouge Parish Mississippi River levee bike and pedestrian path (<http://brgov.com/dept/ddd/bikepath.htm>). During discussion on bicycle signage, Mr. Canfield noted he serves on a FHWA national committee regarding MUTCD (FHWA - Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices , which sets standard for signs, signals, and pavement markings in the US. More at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>. Mr. Canfield mentioned there is considerable interest in moving bike riders away from outside edge of curbs and roadways as the edges of curbs and roadways are often rough and unimproved, adverse conditions which affect the safety of bicycle riders. The trend is to relocate bike lanes four feet from curb and parked cars.
- Mr. Sunseri reported on recent activity by New Orleans tourism group to develop master plan for downtown which includes capital improvements for streets and sidewalks in the French Quarter.
- Mr. Winkert reported on River Vision 2005, including accessibility to public land along river park. The goal of creating a ped/bike connection between the river park and Spanish Plaza poses some obstacles related to security issues.

C. French Quarter (FQ) Sidewalk Project

- Ms. Warren gave recap of June 9 meeting between DPW and members of Ped/Bike, which included John Shires, Elmer Darwin, Francis Berger. Attendees discussed possibility of developing sidewalk repair project that would include co-payment from property owners.
- Ms. Reed noted that whereas New Orleans attracts 10 million visitors annually, most residential property owners are not in favor of paying for sidewalk repairs necessitated due to the increased pedestrian and vehicle traffic, even if a co-payment is involved. Most sidewalk repairs are only being done by business owners, and oftentimes repairs are not completed properly. Mr. Sunseri echoed these comments.
- Mr. Berger reported on recent DPW review of the FQ sidewalk project. DPW is nearing completion of a DDD capital improvement project which included repair of streets leading into the 100 block. This project gave DPW a feel for capital expense to repair and replace flagstone and brick in the FQ. The cost of repairs was \$80,000, a single contractor was used, and replacement costs was \$130 per square yard for stone and \$100 for brick pavers. The challenge posed by FQ repairs is that costs are higher if repairs are done piecemeal instead of repairing entire blocks. Another challenge is that the co-payment option requires field inspection of entire FQ, and collection of monies prior to construction. Current city ordinance regarding

FQ sidewalk repairs and maintenance must be amended by city council to include language that specifies co-payment, method of collection, and other related issues. Current ordinance requires property owner to pay 100%.

- Mr. Berger noted there is another option open to FQ property owners that does not involve payment, co-payment or changing the city ordinance. DPW has identified funds available for FQ sidewalks improvements from other sources such as 1) monies left over from project to improve FQ for 1984 Worlds Fair, 2) 1995 and 2005 bond money. The cost of repairing FQ sidewalks estimated be \$1-1.5 million and take about one year. This option requires FQ property owners to contact city council members to petition council to dedicate funds for sidewalk repairs in the FQ.

D. City-wide sidewalk improvement program (10 min)

- Handout provided which gave overview of Portland model for sidewalk repairs and maintenance.
- Ms. Warren suggested future monthly committee meetings be structured to rotate for local and regional ped/bike interests, with September meeting devoted to regional issues and October devoted to local issues. Attendees of regional meeting would include areas served by RPC in southeast Louisiana. Those in attendance agreed with the suggestion.

Adjournment :

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 pm by Audrey Warren. The next committee will be at 10:30 am on September 21 at the NSC South Louisiana Chapter.

Minutes submitted by: Kurt Feigley