

Complete Streets Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2013
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Capitol Commons Building

Present:

Bill Shreck (for Kirk Steudle), Lonias Gilmore (for Rochelle Hurst), Lt. Gary Megge, Gary Piotrowicz, Steve DeBrabander, Carolyn Grawi, Barbara Schmid, John Niemela, Robert Bacigalupi, Karen Kafantaris, Ken Fletcher, Megan Olds, Andrea Brown, Frank Raha (for Lynn Afendoulis)

Not Present: Lynn Afendoulis, Suzanne Schulz, Rory Neuner, Christopher White, Jim Tischler

Welcome – John Niemela

Vice Chairman John Niemela welcomed everyone to the Complete Streets Advisory Council (CSAC) meeting. He informed the group that there would be a public comment period at the beginning as well as at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to speak were asked to fill out a public comment card and return it to a staff member. John also stated that there was a conference line available for those who would like to listen to the proceedings. Public comments can be received by email at MDOT-CompletestreetsAC@michigan.gov.

Mr. Niemela introduced the two new members that were appointed by the Governor. Lynn Afendoulis, of Grand Rapids, is the Director of Corporate Communications for Universal Forest Products Inc. Lynn represents the State Transportation Commission and replaces Linda Miller-Atkinson. Rob Bacigalupi, of Traverse City, is the Deputy Director of the Traverse City Downtown Development Authority. Rob represents public transit users and replaces Kelli Kavanaugh.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Niemela noted that the draft minutes from the February 28, 2013 meeting had not been approved. Gary Piotrowicz then moved that the February minutes be approved and Carolyn Grawi seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mr. Niemela noted that the final approved minutes replacing the draft minutes will be posted next week on MDOT's Complete Streets Advisory Council's website: www.michigan.gov/completestreets.

Correspondence

Andrea Brown brought to the council members' attention two pieces of correspondence received from the public and noted that they have already been addressed by MDOT staff answering their questions regarding Complete Streets. Each council member received a copy of the correspondence in their packets.

Ms. Brown also mentioned that a lot of resources and information can be found by going to www.michigan.gov/transcommission, the link to the STC's policy and local policies website.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Presentations

Jeff Holt, Director, Planning and Development Division, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians gave a presentation highlighting three Complete Streets success stories involving collaboration between the Tribe and the cities of St. Ignace, Newberry and the community of Kinross.

St. Ignace adopted a Complete Streets Ordinance in July, 2011. As a result of the ordinance various projects were accomplished. Examples include the development of crosswalks, the promotion of walk and bike to school and bike to work week in May. Mr. Holt also talked about the development of the Safe Routes to School program, the increase in the number of bike lanes and the posting of school zone signs in the community.

Mr. Holt touched on a Kinross Windshield Survey. The Sault Tribe purchased housing on the former Kinross air force base. The housing is located in a rural setting with limited sidewalks. The passage of a Complete Streets resolution enabled the Tribe to construct sidewalks and restripe roadways to include broader streets and bike lanes.

The City of Newberry adopted a Complete Streets Ordinance in 2011. Newberry is an old community that was in dire need of some work. The Tribe has collaborated with the City too on recent Complete Streets projects including new bike trails, signage and ADA-compliant (accessible) sidewalks. There was tremendous cooperation from all the local communities.

After the presentation, Mr. Holt responded positively to questions from the council members about the usefulness of the Complete Streets Policy adopted by the State Transportation Commission, efforts to connect to recreational trails, investment from multiple sources, and involving the disabled community in efforts to improve accessibility.

Transportation Revenue Update

Frank Raha, State Transportation Commission Advisor, presented the Transportation Revenue update.

MAP-21 provided needed funding certainty. However, it only covers two fiscal years. Formula funding will not be impacted by sequestration. Unsustainable spending will lead to a sharp drop in federal funds for roads and transit in 2015, unless Congress acts to fill the hole. What's next at the federal level? October 2013, federal budget due or temporary measure needed; January 2014, 2nd sequester occurs if no other agreement on budget; September 2014, MAP 21 expires; Early in FY 2015, highway trust fund runs out of cash.

Mr. Raha also talked about Governor Snyder's Proposal of a \$1.2 billion increase that involves gasoline and diesel tax increases; light vehicle registration and heavy truck/trailer increases. The Senate proposed some alternative options such as a 1-2%

increase in sales and use tax. Mr. Raha responded positively to a question about whether other states are taking similar action.

Web Tour of Available Resources

John Lindenmayer, Advocacy & Policy Director, from the League of Michigan Bicyclists provided a web tour of available resources that can be found by going to their website at www.michigancompletestreets.org. The mission of the website is to promote bicycling in Michigan particularly, and on road bicycling. The League of Michigan Bicyclists has various support groups and users and the website is designed to be a one stop resource for advocacy and related issues the community can use. There are various pages at the site such as the policy page where one can keep track of the various policies, resolutions, and plans for Complete Streets getting adopted in Michigan. They also have a resource page where relevant information is posted.

Update from MDOT's Complete Streets Internal Team (CSIT) on Implementation

Brad Peterson, member of MDOT's Complete Streets Internal Team provided an update on the Complete Streets Implementation Plan. In August of 2010, CSIT was formed to address Complete Street project questions and in 2012 the STC adopted a policy on Complete Streets. The draft of the STC CS Policy Implementation Plan document is in review status and is on schedule for meeting the deadline of December 31st.

Public Comment:

No public comments were received.

Wrap Up

Mr. Niemela asked the council members and audience members to complete the Customer Satisfaction Survey found in their packets or passed out during registration.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2013, from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Capitol Commons Building. A question arose about the potential to sunset the Advisory Council, but since the council was created in the Legislature, there needs to be legislation passed to accomplish that. When the group meets in December, they will discuss the council's annual report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.