

Complete Streets Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2013

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Capitol Commons Building

Present:

Bill Shreck (for Kirk Steudle), Lt. Gary Megge, Gary Piotrowicz, Carolyn Grawi, John Niemela, Karen Kafantaris, Ken Fletcher, Rory Neuner, Megan Olds, Andrea Brown, Christopher White, Jim Tischler

Not Present: Lynn Afendoulis, Rob Bacigalupi, Steve DeBrabander, Rochelle Hurst, Suzanne Schulz, Barbara Schmid

Welcome – John Niemela

Vice Chairman John Niemela called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Complete Streets Advisory Council (CSAC) meeting. Mr. Niemela 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 by Mr. Niemela to fill out a public comment card and return it to a staff member. He also stated that there was a conference line available for those who would like to listen to the proceedings by phone. Public comments can also be received by email at MDOT-CompletestreetsAC@michigan.gov.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Niemela asked if there were comments regarding the draft minutes from the September 26, 2013 meeting. There were none; it was moved and seconded to approve the draft minutes. The motion passed. Mr. Niemela noted that the final approved minutes replacing the draft minutes will be posted by December 17 on MDOT's Complete Streets Advisory Council's website: www.michigan.gov/completestreets.

Correspondence

Andrea Brown brought to the council's attention one email correspondence received from the public and noted that it had already been addressed by MDOT staff answering the questions regarding Complete Streets. Each council member received a copy of the correspondence in their packets.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Presentations

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. There are two components: 1) there must be an Exception Process to the policy which will address projects for which policy criteria might not be appropriate or possible when both MDOT and the municipality have Complete Streets policies and 2) it must be available by December 31, 2013.

There are several elements of the plan: MDOT CSIT background and contact information; outreach, which will be an important part of implementation through MDOT's social media, updated presentations and a CS webpage; project tracking and reporting which includes a list of MDOT's Complete Streets accomplishments; and a schedule for document and procedure updates. The document will continue to be updated to assist MDOT staff, will be kept current to national best practices, and will be made available for MDOT staff training. When it is shared with the State Transportation Commission it will be made available to the public as well.

The draft CS Policy Implementation Plan document is on schedule for meeting the deadline of December 31st.

Review and Approval of 2013 Annual Report

Mr. Niemela mentioned that, prior to the meeting, he was interviewed by WLNS Channel 6 news and used information he read in the report to answer questions and elaborate on Complete Streets. All agreed that much has been accomplished. Michigan has more local CS policies than any other state. Ms. Grawi asked if there was a way to obtain the list of communities with CS policies. Polly explained that it is on the <http://michigancompletestreets.org> webpage. Communities can voluntarily submit their Complete Streets information to this site. MDOT staff will follow up with Michigan Complete Streets staff to identify ways to improve that process.

Michigan Department of Transportation Multi-Modal Development and Delivery (M2D2) Presentation – Roger Millar, Vice President of Smart Growth America

Mr. Millar discussed the concept of M2D2 and presented examples of similar initiatives from around the country. M2D2 is a curriculum development and training effort that will improve MDOT's ability to develop, operate, and maintain Michigan's transportation system for Complete Streets and multi-modal use. A curriculum will be developed to train a key group of MDOT staff to better integrate multi-modal travel on state highways where necessary. This may lead to revisions to MDOT standards, practices and guidance. Mr. Millar also answered questions regarding training stakeholders and the AASHTO greenbook.

Review and approve 2014 Meeting Schedule

The committee approved the 2014 meeting schedule, and unanimously decided to cancel the meeting scheduled in January.

Following up on a question from the September meeting, the group discussed the roles and future of the Council in 2014. After a robust discussion, a motion was made and seconded to send a letter to the State Legislature requesting that the Complete Streets Advisory Council be sunsetted. The motion was unanimously approved. MDOT staff provided a draft letter, and after minor revisions, the letter was approved for signature by Chairman Schulz and Co-Chairman Niemela.

Public Comment:

Mr. Bob Pugh asked if the Complete Streets concept is a foregone conclusion. He expressed his opposition to this effort and believes that the general public has no idea what Complete Streets is. He thinks there needs to be more public notice of this type of thing.

Mr. Lloyd Shelton commented on the M2D2 presentation. He discussed the Ann Arbor experience in culture shift, specifically the pedestrians in crosswalks ordinance and how important it is for pedestrians to be safe and protected by law. If the ordinance is repealed, it will

take the onus off the driver and put it on the pedestrian. He is concerned about pedestrians with disabilities and how they could manage to safely cross many busy streets. He urged the council to continue fighting for safe streets.

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 January 30 meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2014, from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Capitol Commons Building.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.