Minutes – Mayor’s Bicycle Advisory Council Meeting  
December 10, 2008

1. Welcome; Introductions; Approval of Minutes:  
   **Luann Hamilton** (CDOT)

2. Navy Pier Flyover & the Chicago Spire Project – Updates  
   **Janet Attarian** (CDOT)

   Discussed the Navy Pier Flyover and the Chicago Spire Project. The northern section of the project, which has the path over Ohio St. leading to the Lake Point Towers and connecting to Navy Pier, is moving forward. The focus of this project entails making sure the design follows the existing path and structures. A new design of the bridge over the Chicago River is also moving forward. The new design for the existing sidewalk is now in Phase 1 (planning phase). The bridge section of the project is also moving forward.

   The Chicago Spire section of the project is at a standstill at this time, since the Spire’s construction is on hold at the moment. Design problems with this section include:
   - The on and off ramps for vehicles entering LSD from the Spire
   - A new design for DuSable Park, since there are no working drawings yet
   - The current design, which does not account for a column just north of the Spire that could be problematic
   - Decision whether to place a retaining wall structure by DuSable Park

   CMAQ funding is available for some of this project. Additional grant funding is required. Anticipated construction date is 2010 for the northern section, including the bridge. The southern section only has design funding through Phase 1. Must work together with the Chicago Spire developers to get help with funding for that section. As of now their funding is only for the DuSable Park redesign and not the actual path by the Chicago Spire.

3. Improving the Mayor’s Bicycle Advisory Council Meetings  
   **Open Discussion**

   Responses by Ben Gomberg
   - Send out agenda before meeting, so that people can see what will be discussed
   - Larger meeting room with more seats to accommodate everyone
   - Concentrate on key issues/challenges; fewer items on agenda
   - Spend less time on recapping work
   - Keep to agenda, so that meetings finish on time
   - Encourage more discussion

   Suggestions:
   - Use microphone system especially when moving the meeting to a bigger room
• Breaking into smaller groups, to have more focused discussion, then reporting together to discuss the important topics
• Workshop meetings prior to MBAC meetings
• Establish working groups to address specific issues; more effective than having permanent committees
• Send out information bulletins before the meeting (i.e., electronic documents, mass emails, printed journal or handouts) to help people read ahead and keep up with what is going on prior to the meetings
• Allow non-profit groups or others to make their presentations for more than a couple of minutes at the end of the meetings to showcase their work to encourage bicycling in Chicago
• Have official, voting representatives, much like the Mayor’s Pedestrian Advisory Council, to give credibility to any actions taken
• There should be an option for newcomers/general public to present
• Provide contact information of the people who attend
• Have at least one public evening meeting (June during all the bike events) per year; maybe also focusing on pedestrian issues
• Move meeting time to later in the day (3 pm - 5:30 pm) so there are less priorities to attend other meetings or appointments after the MBAC meeting. This leaves more time for discussion at the end of the MBAC.

   Ben Gomberg

5. New Bicycle Parking at four CTA stations
   Chris Gagnon (CDOT Bicycle Program)
   a. Citizens have complained about the locking loop being too short thus having limited locking capabilities. Original design with the short loop was chosen due to maintenance concerns with moving parts.
   b. Discussing retrofitting a new locking mechanism to be more lock friendly; this retrofit design is in use in other cities.

6. Police Training
   Amanda Woodall (CDOT Mayor Daley’s Bicycle Ambassadors)
   a. Working on a police training video that will be shown to officers to help enforce violations that endanger cyclists. Video will stream on the Police Department’s intranet site to help train these officers.

Minutes prepared by Matt Villanueva.