Minutes – Mayor’s Bicycle Advisory Council Meeting  
September 14, 2011


2. David Gleason, Mike Amsden (CDOT): Reported on protected bike lane (PBL) projects including updates on the Kinzie PBL. Kinzie successes include: 55% bicycle increase during morning commute; travel times for motorists have not significantly changed since installation. Kinzie PBL challenges: bridge treatment, intersections (elephant tracks) and snow removal. Next PBL will be on Jackson (on South side of street) from Halsted to Damen. Announced 16.3 miles of new bike lanes and .5 miles of PBL. Secured Aldermanic funds for on-going bike facility maintenance including: 5.3 miles of bike lanes and intersection treatments (Madison, Wells, re-striping Cortland/Clybourn, Kinzie/Milwaukee). Next possible PBL locations include Elston/North and the 18th St; the latter would close the gap between Clinton & Clark. Goal is to complete PBLs on Jackson, Elston and 18th St by the end of 2011.

3. Gabe Klein (Transportation Commissioner): Recognized and introduced 39th Ward Alderman Laurino (Chairman of the City Council’s Committee on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety) who talked about a distracted bicycling ordinance that her office proposed on 9/14/2011. Commissioner Klein re-emphasized Mayor Emanuel’s vision for bicycling in Chicago. Discussed how new traffic safety projects will quickly show safety benefits for pedestrians and cyclists. Explained that he envisions PBLs to be designed as a network, starting with the Loop. $1.4 million was allocated for re-striping of streets and improving 44 intersections that are the worst for pedestrians. Noted bike corral installations. Announced Chicago’s in-progress bike sharing program and introduced Deputy Commissioner Scott Kubly who will be key in implementing the bike sharing program. Answered questions about potential backlash toward cyclists, LAZ parking issues with PBLs, bike sharing and mass transit coordination, bike installations on the South Side, and catering future bike plans to younger riders.

4. Scott Kubly (Managing Deputy Commissioner): Reported on plans for Chicago’s bike sharing program and Chicago’s recent RFP submission. Referred to Washington D.C.’s Capital Bikeshare program as a model. Bike sharing is the cheapest investment in transportation infrastructure. Capital Bikeshare highlights include: 115 stations, 1100 bikes, compliments other transport modes, first & last mile connectivity, targeted towards all users. Capital Bikeshare bicycles were specifically designed for bike sharing and all users. The D.C. program’s successes include: a dense network of stations, early education/promotion, cell phone apps for user accessibility. Answered question about 3-wheeled bike for bike sharing and showed YouTube video “DC-Capital Bikeshare (NACTO).”

5. Lyndon Valicenti, Rick Valicenti (Moving Design): Moving Design is a coalition of designers and artists, working with community partners, leading initiatives to inspire change through the power of design. Completed a month long campaign in Logan Square to promote bicycle advocacy and safety. Campaign raised awareness and engaged community with: bicycle safety signage, public awareness safety messaging, a bicycle safety exhibit, community bike rides and public policy proposals. Developed smartphone app (Spot Hole) to record existing potholes. More information available at: OurRoad.org

6. Closing (Ben Gomberg): Next MBAC meeting will be on December 14, 2011.

Minutes prepared by Paul Doerr