Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2005

The quarterly meeting of the Task Force was held from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the District 6-0 Offices, 7000 Geerdes Boulevard, King-of-Prussia. An agenda and list of attendees are enclosed.

The September 8, 2005 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

During today’s meeting the following topics were discussed:

Report of the Statewide Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager (Dave Bachman)

1. The Goals Section of the Updated State Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan is now out for review by the Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and participants in the outreach sessions of 2003 and 2004. Comments are due back by December 6, 2005.

2. The PennDOT Safe Routes To School Coordinator position, mandated and funded by SAFETEA-LU is not yet filled. The official deadline for filling the position is December 31st. PennDOT has not yet determined exactly where the position will go within the organization. The Bike/Ped office has supplied job descriptions to upper management to aid in the job creation steps.

3. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the evaluation of the Yield to Pedestrian Channelizing Devices (YTPCDs) is accepting bids in a second round. The first series of bids were rejected on a technicality and the RFQ had to be re-bid. Bid selection will take place January 11, 2006.

4. The Highway Safety Steering Committee, composed of PennDOT and numerous highway safety partners, has the goal of establishing safety goals for the Commonwealth that will guide highway safety for years to come. PennDOT met with its partners for Safety Plan priority establishment on October 24th and October 7th. A third meeting is scheduled for December 1st. The first 2 meetings focused on bicycle, pedestrian, intersection, local roads, crash record system, traffic calming and sidewalks as key areas.

5. Publication 380 will be continued in paper form, thanks to the support of Gary Hoffman. Our next print will total 60,000. Costs are yet to be determined, but previous printings have run at about 33 cents per copy.

6. Patti Marshall has been temporarily re-assigned to the fiscal section of the Safety Management Division to address a shortage there. As of now the Bike/Section is down to one person.

Hans van Naerssen commented on a variety of related topics:
The effort to place stronger language in the Department manuals regarding use of the bike/ped facilities checklist should be accelerated.

Practitioners are confused about modern roundabouts and equate them with old New Jersey traffic circles.

Who will conduct the performance measures listed in the Bike/Ped Master Plan Update?

Make the 1996 bike/ped master plan available on line to offer a comparison to the new version.

**Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, PennDOT District 6-0 (Matt Bochanski)**

1. Matt has a few remaining copies of the Philadelphia Regional Bike Map, which is currently unavailable from the creator, the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia. Jacob Malikkal suggested the Coalition apply for Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to re-print the maps. He cautioned that if CMAQ funds are used, no price can be charged for the final product. John Boyle noted that the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Agency (GVFTMA) was approached but declined to assist. Matt Bochanski noted that retail sales are difficult for the District Office, so it would be difficult for the District to sell the product.

2. Safety Improvements Task Force, established by the Delaware Valley Regina Planning commission (DVRPC), has employed Matt on the Engineering Safety Subcommittee

3. Matt is regularly reviewing Highway Occupancy Agreements (HOAs), using the AASHTO Bike Guide and the Ped Guide as the basis for the reviews.

Steve Trobovic asked about the Betzwood Bridge project. PennDOT’s Larry Link is still the project manager and all information requests are referred to Larry.

**Montgomery county Planning Commission (John Wood)**

1. On December 6th, the Audubon Loop Trail will have opening ceremonies at the John James Audubon Center.

2. Also on December 6th, the Berks County Trail opens at Keystone Boulevard in Pottstown.

3. The Chester Valley Trail Extension from Norristown to King-of-Prussia is in final design. Letting is scheduled for early spring of 2007.

4. The Cross County Trail from the Schuylkill River Trail to Plymouth Meeting will be open by the fall of 2006; by 2007 it will be extended to Ft. Washington. Three bridges are being constructed as part of this effort.

5. The Wissahickon Trail Link is open now and the Wissahickon Trail from Steton to Ft. Washington will be open in the spring of 2006.
Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia (John Boyle)

1. SEPTA Strike. BGCP actions during the recent SEPTA strike (now ended) included: 1) “before-and-after” bike counts on Walnut Street – there was an increase from 120 to 230 (up 90%) in a 90-minute sample period – “after ” counts will also be taken now that the strike is over.
   2) valet bike parking at Municipal Services Building included bike light giveaways and bike service checks.
   3) extensive media coverage
   4) met with Assistant Managing Director Oliver Thornton regarding issues on the Bike Action Task Force and will have another meeting in December.

2. SEPTA. John reported that 90% of SEPTA buses now have racks on them. The last 10% will receive racks when the buses themselves are replaced in 2007.

3. Rt. 202, Section 700. Public meeting were held in Doylestown, Warrington, and Montgomeryville. The plan calls for a 5-foot bikelane and a 12-foot shared use path in this section. The Detweiler Road crossing in Bucks County is still a problem.

4. BGCP Position Statement. This statement, authored by John Boyle and Hans van Naerssen, has been approved by the BCGP Board. Introduced at the state PPAC meeting in Harrisburg earlier this month, it makes a series of recommendations on how to implement bike/ped programs in Pennsylvania. Two key points involve staffing levels and the Complete Streets concept.

John Wood asked the BGCP if they would do apposition paper on the County roads in Montgomery County and John Boyle agreed.

PA East Coast Greenway Committee (Ken Edmonds)

1. Ken reported a level of frustration with the Philadelphia Streets Department on BicyclePA Route E. Seven of 11 northbound intersection are incomplete, and 6 of 10 southbound. One sign was actually installed inverted. The Streets Department was supposed to have all signs erected by August of ’04. Issuance of maps and cue sheets are delayed until the signing is correct and complete.

2. Delaware Canal Bridges. Half of the canal towpath has been washed out by floods. Numerous bridges over the canal are slated for reconstruction. Ken is asking for fast-tracking these bridge replacement projects now while there is no water in the canal. Overall, DCNR needs $22 million for repairs and re-watering of the Delaware Canal.

Hans asked if the bridge replacements would be easier because of the damaged sections. Matt B. replied “no” because there are still
significant environmental and right-of-way issues which makes the process cumbersome.

3. Marcus Hook Streetscape Project. Originally part of the East Coast Greenway Project, the scope has shrunk to just 2 lanes with turning pockets. The bikeway improvements have been removed. Jacob responded that ROW was not purchased and the design was too complicated.

4. The Rt. 291 project in Chester is completed, although the bikelanes are not yet painted; a question arose as to whether the bikelanes were in the signing and marking plan. Bikelanes may be beneficial as this is BicyclePA Route E.

   Hans asked for a Rt. E project list. Jacob will check his project status list and see which are Rt. E projects.

5. Ken is seeking his replacement on the PA Recreational Trails Board and asked the BCGP for a recommendation. John Boyle asked that Ken send him a letter of request.

6. Turnpike Bridge Replacement. Ken again noted that this project needs to be in the TIP and that the process needs to be more open. John Madera noted that there are no funds appropriated yet.

   Hans asked for a statement from Ken regarding the bridge to present to the Regional Citizens Committee meeting today. The new TPK bridge would link trails on both sides of the Delaware River and provide pedestrian access as well.

**Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (John Madera)**

1. Regional Bicycle Travel Survey - John distributed copies of the regional bicycle travel survey forms, which were administered at 35 locations in the Delaware Valley in late September and early October. The survey forms and a “goodie bag” containing maps and other small items of interest to bicyclists were distributed at these locations. Surveys and interviews were conducted over the course of 12 hours at each site. A total of 2,605 mail-back questionnaires were distributed and 377 trail or roadside interviews were conducted. John noted that gasoline prices that week were running as high as $3.50 per gallon.

   The rate of return was 30%, which resulted in 800 questionnaires returned. John noted that this was well short of the 1800 desired for a valid sample for statistical purposes. Another 1700 were distributed in late October and early November, and the return rate for that was running around 16%, although not all returns were in. The current total is 1,052 returns and counting. The total included a number placed in
bike racks on college campuses that were coincident with the SEPTA strike.

John also wants to sample Mercer County and other college campuses in the Philadelphia area.

John also noted he has funding for analysis and coding for next year.

The results will be used to revise regional travel models.

Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Spanish versions of the survey were also distributed.

2. Work Program progress. DVRPC is now developing the 2007 work program. Part of the program will include technical assistance to SR2S projects.

3. Project Implementation and Project Updates – Jacob distributed a list of TE/HS/SR2S projects and provided status information on several projects. Contact Jacob for further information.

Old/New Business

1. A discussion arose on the motorcycle safety flyer recently inserted in Pennsylvania license tag renewal forms mailed to licensed motorists. It was noted that Fred Richter of Annville, PA is working on a similar insert flyer for bicycling safety for PPAC.

2. Steve Scheetz referenced a severely skewed railroad crossing at Bucks County, S.R 3003, (Lower State Road). The crossing has been the scene of bike crashes (no motor vehicles involved) and he would like PennDOT to investigate the crossing.

3. 2006 MEETING DATES. The SEPABITF established the following 2006 meeting dates, times, and locations. Please note them in your calendar:

   February 16, 2006, District 6-0 offices, King-of-Prussia, 4-6 PM.
   May 18, 2006, SEPTA Offices, 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM.
   [Ed. note: originally set as May 11, but changed later in the month to 5-18 at the request of SEPTA]
   September 14, 2006, DVRPC Offices, Philadelphia, 4-6 PM
Southeastern Pennsylvania Bicycle Issues Task Force Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2005
PennDOT District 6-0
7000 Geerdes Boulevard, King-of-Prussia

AGENDA

Dave Bachman  Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, PennDOT
Central Office, Harrisburg
• Call to Order
• Introductions
• Approval of September 8th meeting minutes
• PennDOT updates

Matt Bochanski  Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, PennDOT District 6-0
• District 6-0 Update

John Wood  Montgomery County Planning Commission
• Trail development and openings

John Boyle  Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
• Coalition Update
• BCGP Issue Paper

Ken Edmonds  East Coast Greenway Alliance
• Status of BicyclePA Route E
• Delaware Canal Bridges

John Madera  Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
• Regional Bicycle Travel Survey update
• Project implementation updates

Old/new Business

Adjourn
# SOUTHEASTERN PA BICYCLE ISSUES TASK FORCE

## November 17, 2005

### SIGN-IN SHEET

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