

CITY OF MILWAUKEE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN
TASK FORCE
2004 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with City of Milwaukee Ordinance 320-1, the annual report of activities and progress of the City of Milwaukee Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force are herewith submitted for 2004. The City of Milwaukee Bicycle Task Force was created by resolution file number 930071 on May 25, 1993. Common Council resolution file number 030690, adopted September 23, 2003 renamed the Task Force to the City of Milwaukee Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force. The Task Force is charged with recommending to policy-makers ways to make Milwaukee a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly community. This is accomplished by serving as the formal means through which active citizen participation is provided to advise policy makers on such issues as:

1. The development of an integrated bicycle route system for commuter and recreational use.
2. Connections with existing and proposed off-road bicycle and pedestrian trails.
3. Provisions for bicycle amenities such as bike lanes and bike racks in the public right of way.
4. Promoting pedestrian and bicycle rights.
5. Provisions for pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic signals, benches, and other sidewalk amenities.
6. Other bicycle and pedestrian issues that the Task Force deems appropriate.

This is to be accomplished by the Task Force in cooperation with appropriate municipal, county, state and federal agencies and planning organizations.

The functions of the Task Force include the use of the skills, knowledge and experience of its members and the organizations and groups they represent to assist and advise the local government with respect to bicycle and pedestrian advocacy.

A copy of the by-laws of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force is attached.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Task Force is charged with recommending to the City policy makers ways to make the City of Milwaukee more bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

MEETING DATES

The Bicycle Task Force met bi-monthly in 2004. Meetings were held on the following dates:

March 22
May 24
July 26
September 20
December 13

Agendas and minutes of each meeting are attached.

MEMBERSHIP

The Bicycle Task Force consists of 8 at-large citizen members, one safety professional, one representative of the Department of Public Works, and one representative of the Department of City Development, all appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Common Council.

At the beginning of the year, the membership was as follows:

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| 1. Mike Loughran, Chairman, DPW Representative | 7. Vince Bushell |
| 2. David Schlabowske, Vice-Chairman | 8. Maurice Williams |
| 3. Bob Trimmier, DCD Representative | 9. Deborah Pasha |
| 4. Frederick Woods, Safety Commission Representative | 10. Steve Brachman |
| 5. Peter Lee | 11. Angie Tornes |
| 6. Joyce Harms | |

At the end of 2004, the membership was as follows:

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|---|---------------------|
| 1. Mike Loughran, Chairman, DPW Representative | 7. Maurice Williams |
| 2. Davis Schlabowske | 8. Steve Brachman |
| 3. Bob Trimmier, DCD Representative | 9. Angie Tornes |
| 4. Peter Lee | 10. Vince Bushell |
| 5. Guy Smith (appointment pending) | 11. Deborah Pasha |
| 6. Mark Buetow, Safety Professional (appointment pending) | |

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2004, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force attempted to make itself more visible. In that regard, letters were sent to all 15 aldermen which indicates our mission and offers assistance in any bicycle or pedestrian related issue. A copy of the letter dated August 3, 2004 is attached. Also, Mayor Barrett attended the September Task Force meeting.

In 2004, the Task Force continued its structure of have standing sub-committees, with the intent of these sub-committees being work groups. The Task Force decided to combine the

efforts of the Advocacy and Outreach/Education subcommittees. The other subcommittee is Facilities Planning.

This structure has the sub-committees meeting on an ongoing basis and reporting to the whole Task Force quarterly. Committee reports are contained in the attached meeting minutes. Highlights from each committee are as follows:

Outreach/Education

This committee worked with Wisconsin Walks in undertaking two walking workshops to identify obstacles pedestrians face and potential solutions. The two walking workshops were held at the Jackson Park neighborhood (Forest Home/Oklahoma/43rd Street triangle), and at the Brady Street neighborhood. Copies of the invitation letters, agendas and reports for both walking workshops are attached. This committee sent letters to Mayor Barrett, City Attorney Langley and three municipal judges encouraging them to enforce traffic laws to create a safer pedestrian environment. A copy of the letter dated December 13, 2004 is attached. This committee also sent a letter to UW-M in support of a research project regarding public health in Latino neighborhoods. A copy of that letter dated December 13, 2004 is attached.

Facilities Planning

This committee reviewed the City's paving program to identify roadways that are scheduled for work, that also have potential for striped bicycle lanes. As a result several roadways now have striped bicycle lanes. This committee was also instrumental in increasing the free bike rack program. Bicycle racks are now installed by City forces within the street right of way at various business districts. This committee also endorsed the City's efforts in implementing various bike trail projects, including Beer Line "B", Kinnickinnic River, Hank Aaron State Trail and Marsupial Bridge.

Several bicycle projects moved forward in 2004. The Beerline "B" and Kilbourn Park bicycle trails are near completion at the end of 2004. It is anticipated that the County will extend the Beerline "B" trail northerly to Gordon Park. Work on the North Avenue Dam pedestrian bridge was completed in 2004. Construction activities for the Marsupial Bridge began in 2004, with construction anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2005. Also, the Brady Street bicycle ramp between North Prospect Avenue and North Lincoln Memorial Drive was near completion in 2004. The City purchased a majority of the abandoned Union Pacific railroad right of way on Milwaukee's near south side. Design activities began to construct the Kinnickinnic River Bicycle Trail over this land between South 6th Street (at West Rosedale Avenue) and East Washington Street. The City retained a consultant to design a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge over South Chase Avenue as part of that project. Also, the City and State continued to work out details for the Hank Aaron State Trail through the Menomonee Valley. Bicycle lanes were installed on West Center Street between North 76th Street and North 92nd Street, on West Forest Home Avenue between South 27th Street and South 31st Street, on North Water Street between East Brady Street and East Kilbourn Avenue, and on North 40th Street between West Lisbon Avenue and West Vliet Street in conjunction with paving. Also, the City retained the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin to undertake a study to identify potential off road bike trail corridors. The results of that study will be available in 2005. Also, planning

activities began to produce a joint City/County bicycle route map. It is anticipated that the map will be available in the summer of 2005.

In 2004, the Common Council adopted resolutions allowing the City to enter contracts with the State for the following three bicycle related projects:

1. Milwaukee CBD Pedestrian Corridors
2. North Holton Street Sidewalk and Bicycle Improvements
3. West Greenfield Avenue Sidewalk and Bicycle Improvements
4. UW-Milwaukee Bicycle Loan Program.

GOALS FOR 2005

The Task Force resolved to maintain its commitment to bicycle and pedestrian advocacy, strengthen its connections with advocacy groups such as the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Walks, and to review the Task Force's ongoing vision of improving bicycle use and pedestrian facilities in the City of Milwaukee. Specific goals for 2005 are as follows:

Outreach/Education

1. Meet at least one time between Task Force meetings.
2. Develop a pedestrian/crosswalk education program.
3. Advocate for effective enforcement of traffic laws related to pedestrians and bicyclists.
4. Learn about other organizations and coordinate efforts.
5. Conduct outreach to business districts and neighborhood associations.
6. Sponsor a Bike/Pedestrian advocacy day.

Facilities Planning

1. Meet at least one time between Task Force meetings.
2. Review City's paving program to determine if bicycle and pedestrian amenities can be included with established projects.
3. Maximize bike lane and bike rack installations.
4. Expand pedestrian flag program.
5. Develop a pedestrian facilities plan.
6. Learn about design criteria for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
7. Encourage citizen participation in planning efforts.

Infrastructure Services Division
March, 2005