

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Advisory Committee (BPGAC)

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 – 6 PM
GF City Hall, 255 North 4th Street, Room A102

MEETING NOTES

Ron Franz
Jane Croeker
Brendan Gilmore
Henry Gilmore
Nelson Rosit
Richard O'Connor

Stephanie Halford, MPO
Christian Danielson, GF Engineering Dept.
Carter Ueland, GF Engineering Depart.
Nicole Benson, Blue Zones
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

I. Bikeway & Pedestrian Items

- A. **Bicycle & Pedestrian portion of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update:** A draft plan is expected to be available next week. The steering committee will review that draft before the consultant prepares the final draft for consideration by both city councils.
- B. **Bike map:** The map is ready for distribution and Stephanie would like input on how many physical maps to print. The group agreed that 5,000 would be the most needed. The map is available on the MPO website but is it possible to get an app for easier access?
- C. **League of Cities Bicycle Friendly Community application review & group exercise:** The group reviewed the essay questions and provided input on responses. The application deadline is February 15.

II. Greenway Items

- A. **Request to extend snowmobile route south of DeMers Avenue in GF:** The snowmobile ordinance has changed to give the mayor and city council final approval. It is Kim's understanding that a committee will be formed to discuss this matter. Representatives from EGF have expressed interest in participating in those discussions. She is unaware of any time frame or composition for those meetings. All comments or concerns should be sent to the mayor and council members.

Group discussion:

- **Will allowing snowmobiles lead to allowing over-the-road vehicles?** The current ordinances do not allow for motor vehicles, but there is no guarantee that this will stay in place forever.
- **How do snowmobiles from outside the city limits get here?** Along ditches and over roads.
- **Can they use roads and streets instead of the Greenway?** This is allowed in EGF but not in GF so far. That could be suggested during the discussions.

- **What do other cities of comparable size allow?** Fargo does not allow them in the city limits. Thief River Falls does allow them.
- **Can they use the river?** People are already using the river and other communities, like those around Lake of the Woods promote snowmobile trails on water.
- **How is riding a snowmobile on the river different from using a canoe or kayak on the river?** Both require the user taking responsibility for accessing the conditions of the area.
- **How many riders come here to go bar to bar and town to town?** Unknown. Lots of signs would be needed to keep riders away from areas with other users.

III. Other

- A. **Blue Zones:** GF is the 74th city to be selected as a Blue Zone community. The project area for this project will focus on north GF, defined as north of University Avenue. The Blue Zones Project was started by Dan Buettner and works with communities to transform environments and make healthy choices easier.

The program hires local staff to coordinate the initiatives determined by the community. There will be a community kickoff January 21, at the Empire Arts Center. Nick Buettner, brother of Dan, will be giving a keynote address.

- B. **ND Parks and Recreation 12 Months – 12 Hikes Challenge:**

Next Meeting date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 6 PM at GF City Hall, 255 North 4th Street, room A102

Next Greenway Technical Committee meeting: 10 AM Tuesday, January 17, 2023, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club meeting room.

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway specialist, City of Grand Forks

Supporting documents: Draft Narratives for Bicycle Friendly Community application

The goal is to provide a well-connected shared-use path system that provides a reasonably uniform surface for walking, biking, and ADA accessibility throughout the year.

2023 Bicycle Friendly Community application narrative questions

G2. Briefly describe the most positive outcome of your community's support for bicycling.

G3. How is the local government specifically educating the community about how the benefits of biking align with the broader goals of the community? Word count: 0 / 250

G4. What are your community's greatest achievements in the last 12 months in the work to become more bicycle-friendly? Word count: 0 / 250

Printed brochure outlining city ordinances and education will be distributed. Electronic billboards and digital advertising about etiquette. All materials will lead to the [bikingtheforks](http://bikingtheforks.com) website for additional information.

The success of the bike share program has demonstrated the desire for alternative transportation/identified gaps/
Escooters have been added.

G5: What could be done differently in order to make bicycling safer, more enjoyable and/or more convenient in your community? Word count: 0 / 500

Education continues to play a key role in creating a safe and enjoyable biking experience for everyone. The growth of alternate transportation (ebikes, electric scooters, motorized bicycles, etc.) has emphasized the need to education the larger population about etiquette and safety. Rider education is well established in all the elementary schools but reaching adult riders has proven to be more challenging.

This gap in information is a common problem with riders, drivers, policy makers, and staff. Every year numerous complaints are logged concerning cyclists that do not practice good etiquette when passing, ignoring speed limits, and other infractions that hinder the shared-use path experience for others. The on-road experience is impacted by drivers who don't understand, or agree, with local ordinances for sharing the road. Policy makers and staff are slowly coming to realize the value of providing shared-use paths as a valuable form of transportation instead of a recreational "perk."

Understanding and compliance of local ordinances is important for both riders and drivers. Printed brochure outlining city ordinances and education will be distributed. Electronic billboards and digital advertising about etiquette. All materials will lead to the [bikingtheforks](http://bikingtheforks.com) website for additional information.

Connections between underserved areas and work, shop, and play destinations could be improved.

The need for a wayfinding sign system has emerged as a priority as the shared-use path system grows and the community continues to attract new residents and tourists.

G6. What are the greatest challenges or barriers your community faces in taking action toward the efforts described in your response to G5?

Putting the information where people will find it is the biggest challenge for providing education to adult riders and drivers.

New housing that does not want sidewalks.

Time. Money. Focus.

Ordinances?

G7. What specific bicycle-related improvements are planned in the next 12 months that directly affect your community?

How many miles have been added in past five years? What's expected in the next year and beyond?

G8. Optional: What other communities do you look to as peers or comparable role models for your community?

Fargo, Winnipeg,

Others?

Why?