



RCA Meeting Minutes  
Revised (February 9, 2017)  
January 19, 2017

- I. Call to Order: 7:00, by Scott MacRae, Chair; Chris Ley, Acting Secretary.
- II. Attendees: Harvey Botzman, Bill Collins, Richard De Sarra, Brooke Fossey, Chelsea Knapp, Karen Lankeshofer, David LaVine, Chris Ley, Scott MacRae, Brendan Ryan, Chris Olin, Rohan Parikh, Jesse Peers, Scott Wagner.
- III. Meeting summary with Dr. Michael Mendoza, Commissioner of Public Health
  - A. Scott MacRae and Bill Collins met with Dr. Michael Mendoza.
  - B. Dr. Mendoza is an avid bike commuter and supportive of the RCA mission.
  - C. Dr. Mendoza has no experience in bike advocacy education.
  - D. Discussed Vision Zero, Complete Streets, and focused the discussion on the health and safety benefits of bicycling.
  - E. Dr. Mendoza said he is willing to help with:
    1. Bike To Work Week.
    2. Health assessments for specific projects
  - F. Dr. Mendoza is willing to support RCA's efforts but suggested we go through the legislature first.
    1. Dr. Mendoza appears to be well connected to County elected and appointed officers.
    2. Dr. Mendoza is willing to encourage Dr. Rice to improve bicycle infrastructure on County roads and facilities.
    3. Dr. Mendoza suggested RCA meets, to educate them on RCA's goals, with
      - a. County Legislature Chair Anthony J. Daniele, monroe11@monroecounty.gov
      - b. County Legislature Environment & Public Works Committee:
        - Karla Boyce, Chair, monroe5@monroecounty.gov, (R, Henrietta, Mendon, Pittsford, Rush)
        - Steve Brew, Vice Chair, monroe12@monroecounty.gov, (R, Chili, Henrietta, Riga, Wheatland)
        - Tracy DiFlorio, monroe3@monroecounty.gov, (R, Chili)
        - John Howland, monroe13@monroecounty.gov, (R, Henrietta, Pittsford)
        - Brian Marianetti, monroe7@monroecounty.gov, (R, Greece, Rochester)
        - Joshua Bauroth, jpbauroth@yahoo.com, (D, Rochester, Brighton)
        - Ernest Flagler-Mitchell, ernestflaglermitchell@gmail.com, (D, Rochester)
      - c. County Legislature Human Services Committee
        - Kathleen Taylor, Chair, monroe19@monroecounty.gov, (R, Greece, Parma)
        - Tina M. Brown, monroe1@monroecounty.gov
        - Tanya Conley, monroe18@monroecounty.gov, (R, East Rochester, Perinton)
        - George Hebert, monroe15@monroecounty.gov, (R, Penfield, Webster)
        - Dr. Joe Carbone, monroe16@monroecounty.gov, (R, Irondequoit)
        - Cynthia W. Kaleh, cindy@kaltechsupport.com, (D, Rochester)
        - LaShay D. Harris, lashayharris0@gmail.com, (D, Rochester)
        - John Lightfoot, lightfootjohn16@gmail.com, (D, Rochester)
      - d. Transportation Committee
        - John Howland, Chair, monroe13@monroecounty.gov, (R, Henrietta, Pittsford)
        - Tony Micciche, Vice Chair, monroe26@monroecounty.gov, (R, Gates, Greece, Rochester)
        - Mike Zale, monroe20@monroecounty.gov, (R, Greece, Ogden, Sweden)
        - Tina Brown, monroe1@monroecounty.gov, (R, Greece, Parma)
        - Mike Rockow, monroe2@monroecounty.gov, (R, Clarkson, Hamlin, Sweden)
        - John Lightfoot, lightfootjohn16@gmail.com, (D, Rochester)
        - James Shepard, jsheppar@rochester.rr.com, (D, Rochester)
      - e. Dr. Mendoza suggested RCA should try to meet with Mr. Daniele & the Committees at the same time if possible.
  - IV. Meeting with Bill Carpenter of RGRTA
    - A. Attendees
      1. Scott Wagner, Jesse Peers, Karen Lankeshofer, Harvey Botzman, Brendan Ryan representing the RCA.
      2. Daniel Kamalic representing Rochester Bike Kids.
      3. Bill Carpenter, CEO RGRTA; Jim Ramos, Director of Transit Center Operations; Tom Breed, RGRTA Public Relations Director.
        - a. Asked for support of the southside bidirectional bike lane.

b. RGRTS is not supportive of the bike lane on Clinton claiming too much danger for cyclists when the buses turn right.

#### B. Problem Statement

1. The RGRTA/RTS objects to having a bicycle lane/protected cyclepath on the north side of Main Street due to the large number of buses turning left from Main Street on to South Avenue or Clinton Avenue.

a. RGRTA/RTS objects to a bicycle lane/protected cyclepath on the north side of Main Street due to the possibility of "right hook" crashes between bicyclists and buses.

2. The RGRTA/RTS Carpenter gave the impression that this issue could be pushed off until sometime in the future as the plan has a provision for future modifications.

3. RGRTS said there was significant push back coming from the businesses along Main Street.

4. Streets are reconstructed in 30-50 year intervals.

a. The bicyclists at this meeting are all of the opinion, if the bike lane isn't put in now, it will never happen.

#### C. Solutions

1. Scott proposed a solution which would shift the bike lane up onto the sidewalk but still separated from both pedestrians and the flow of traffic at the South Avenue, Clinton Avenue, & State Street at Main Street intersections.

3. RCA members present at this meeting decided to research what other cities have done to solve this problem, large numbers of buses crossing a protected bike lane while turning on to a one way or two-way street.

4. Need to compile and present this data to RGRTS as well as the City Engineer.

5. Need to compile financial data that shows bike lanes benefit businesses.

a. For example (Researched by Chris Ley): Salt Lake City installed a protected bike lane along a 9 block section of their retail district. Had to remove 30% of on street parking to accommodate the track. Sales along track increased nearly 2% over the rest of city. This change impacted over 90 businesses and 60% of those were strongly supportive of the change.

b. Another example (Researched by Chris Ley): Installation of protected bike lane along 9th Avenue in NYC saw a 49% increase in sales for the affected businesses.

c. Use the research to enlist the aid of supportive downtown business owners to talk to the resistant businesses on Main.

6. Bicycle (and Pedestrian) Traffic Signal at these intersections.

a. Bicyclist foot operated as well as timed signal.

#### D. Miscellaneous Email Discussions in regard to RTS, Main St., & Bicycling (Writers not identified):

a. If you haven't listened to it, Bill Carpenter was on the Evan Dawson show yesterday. The whole interview is worth a listen.

b. But at 26:45-29:00, Evan specifically asks Carpenter about RTS's opposition to the bike lane. This is the same argument you'll hear Wednesday:

c. They think a dedicated bike lane would be unsafe for pedestrians and bicyclists and will create conflicts for the thousands of buses turning at that corner every day. So be prepared for that one...

d. I agree with you and others that Bill Carpenter has a tough but very important job and we need to work with him whenever we can. If Maggie is with him, I would also stress the importance of reinventing and creating a Main St. that is highly biking and walking friendly particularly if Rochester wants to attract the creative class and millennials. Maggie finally got this message at the end of her term when she surveyed millennials and they wanted "bikable" and walkable communities.

e. RGRTA and the City are counting on just waiting out the advocates of a multimodal Main Street. They are well aware that the overwhelming preponderance of public input requested this. We must maintain the energy and the pressure to ensure that our vision - and the community's vision - is incorporated into the design.

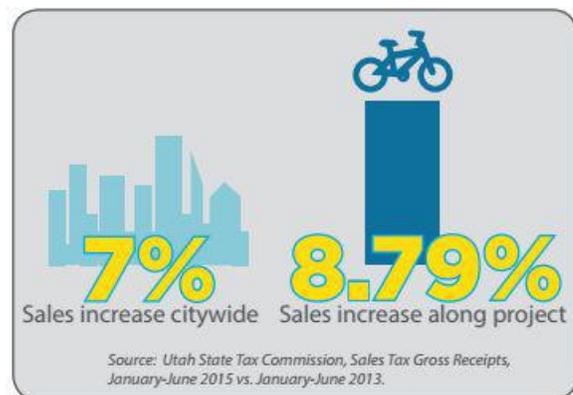
#### E. Miscellaneous Points discussed in regard to the RTS/Main Street Protected Cyclepath

a. Example: Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA.

b. Adherence to both the City & State Complete Streets law provisions for bicyclists & pedestrians.

c. City of Rochester should delay implementation of any plan to reconstruct Main Street until the objections by bicyclists to not having a protected bike lane/cyclepath on the north side of Main Street are adequately researched and a solution to this problem is found.

d. Harvey will prepare and distribute a list of the 10 cities on either side of Rochester, NY in the Standard Metropolitan Statistical (U. S. Census Bureau, population listing). Distribution will be by request from RCA members.



## V. Bicycling Events Calendar & Clearinghouse

- A. Scott W. and Jesse met with RBC and GVCC to try and develop an umbrella website to serve as a clearinghouse for all rides in the Rochester metro region.
- B. Concerns about a bicycling clearinghouse web site
  - 1. Concern this effort would require a part time or full time person to maintain such a comprehensive website
  - 2. There was resistance from RBC & GVC to forming a unified bicycling events website based on the difference of bicycling interests between all the parties who might contribute events information to this specific web site.
- C. Jesse has been configuring a collective ride calendar when information has been sent to him.

## VI. League Certified Instructor Training

- A. Richard De Sarra presented information on the opportunity to become a League of American Bicyclists (LAB), League Certified Instructor (LCI)
- B. NYBC and RBC have teamed up to implement the LCI program in three regions in New York State.
  - 1. There is money to fully fund the training of 8 LCIs.
    - a. These funds may be used to partially fund 8 or more students in the LCI training fund.
  - 2. Seeking to train about 15 people total.
  - 3. Training will be in May.
    - a. 3 days of training.
    - b. \$300.00 cost paid to LAB.
    - c. Karen Rodgers owner of Exercise Express, 242 Plymouth Avenue, 585 967-4356, most probably will host the training.
  - c. Goal of having the designation *LCI* is to offer bicycle safety classes to the general public, at businesses, at educational institutions for a fee.
    - a. LAB will provide LCIs with leads and materials to conduct Traffic Skills 101 and other bicycle safety courses.
- D. Suggestions from RCA Members
  - a. Rochester City School District is interested in having bicycle safety classes.
  - b. LCI Training organizers contact BOCES (I & II as well as the RCSD person in charge of in service education to offer the Traffic Skills 101 (prerequisite course to the LCI training) course as an option for teachers at the next in service education day.
    - 1) BOCES 1: Professional Development Team, <http://www.monroe.edu/districtinfo.cfm?subpage=2294>
    - 2) BOCES 2: <http://www.monroe2boces.org/professionalDev.cfm?subpage=2154>  
profdev@monroe2boces.org
    - 3) Genesee Valley BOCES: <http://www.gvboces.org/services.cfm?subpage=208115>
    - 4) Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES: <http://www.wflboces.org/departments.cfm?subpage=1542>

## VII. Combining/merging the Rochester Cycling Alliance and Reconnect Rochester

- A. Discussed at the December RCA Board of Directors meeting.
- B. Combining/merger is in the most exploratory phase.
- C. RCA & RR are forming subcommittees
  - 1. Suggested members for the RCA subcommittee: Doug, Bill, Theresa, Scott W., Jesse, and Chris L.
- D. Benefits:
  - 1. RCA could benefit from a combination/merge by having a full or part time staff.
  - 2. 501 (c) 3 status for donations and grant applications.
- E. Disadvantages:
  - 1. Bicycling advocacy will not be effectively sustained.
  - 2. Too much emphasis on transit issues.
  - 3. Transit issues will take precedence over bicycling issues.

## IX. Miscellaneous & Communications Received

- A. Bicycle Rides
  - 1. City of Rochester has committed to presenting a Slow Roll ride in 2017.
- B. Connections with Evan Dawson:
  - 1. Bill Collins, RCA Member, on the 'Whats New RTS' "Connections..." segment.  
<http://wxxinews.org/post/connections-whats-new-rts>
  - 2. <http://wxxinews.org/post/connections-rts-ceo-bill-carpenter>
- C. Letter from Monroe County Transportation Commissioner Terrance Rice to Daryl Odher [Attached].
- D. Main St. Project Meeting, Department of Environment Services, City of Rochester, March 2, 2017.

## X. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, February 16, 2017, 7:00 P. M., Room 206, Hylan Hall, University of Rochester.
- B. Meeting adjourned, 9:15 P. M.
- C. Minutes configured and respectfully submitted by Harvey Botzman, February 6, 2017.



## Department of Transportation

Monroe County, New York

**Cheryl Dinolfo**  
County Executive

**Terrence J. Rice, P.E.**  
Director

January 11, 2017

Mr. Daryl Odhner  
595 Chestnut Ridge Road  
Rochester, New York 14624

Dear Mr. Odhner:

Thank you for your letter regarding bicycle space on county roads.

Contrary to your understanding, we do support bicycle space and the benefits that they provide and furthermore, concur with creating such space for bicycles wherever possible. Our recommendation is to provide this space as multi-purpose shoulders, rather than dedicated bike lanes. Necessary roadside activities such as trash pick-up, mail delivery, loading, pedestrians (if there is no sidewalk), parking, etc. are prohibited in bike lanes therefore we opt for a more optimal use along the County road network. It is more difficult to provide a separate shoulder area from the bike lanes as it would add more pavement width compared to a shared use shoulder.

In addition, the Monroe County Department of Transportation is the Traffic Engineer for the City of Rochester and as such, we work with City staff regularly on the provisions of bicycle accommodations throughout the City street system. These accommodations include bike lanes, shared lane markings and signs, bike boxes as well as multi-use shoulders, all of which you may have seen throughout the City.

Thank you again for your interest in this important topic and for your interest in transportation on our road system. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terrence J. Rice" followed by a small mark that looks like "1/12".

Terrence J. Rice, P.E.  
Monroe County Director of Transportation

TJR/sal

File H:\Sub\ADMIN-PLANNING\MCDOT Response to Daryl Odhner re bike accomodations.doc