

Bike Winnipeg Education Committee Report – June 11, 2015

The Education committee, including Bromley Basford, Mark Cohoe, Laura Donatelli, Dave Elmore, Jim Falloon, Jeremy Hull, John Wilmot, met on June 2 and discussed 5 issues.

1. Employer-based Cycling Courses (Jeremy/Dave)

While MPI is deciding whether to support these employer-based courses through their Cycling Champions program we will go ahead with our plans. Jeremy has been told by Co-operators Insurance that our current policy covers Bike Winnipeg's liability for any errors that may be attributed to volunteer or paid instructors. We have a draft budget and promotional literature and will begin contacting larger downtown employers shortly.

2. Cyclists-Bus Driver Education (Jim/Mark)

This has been on hold pending response from Jim Callahan of the transit union. We plan to follow up now that the strike is over. Jim and Mark will try to set up a meeting for some time after June 20.

3. Bike Together Winnipeg spin-off (Laura)

BTW committee has identified some weaknesses in their current approach to educating children to be safer cyclists. It does not appear that the BTW plans (5 rodeo-like events) will provide a good opportunity for the cyclist education for children that we feel is needed. Laura will continue to attend BTW meetings.

4. Strike Bike (Jim)

Danny Shur to lead two StrikeBike tours again on June 20 – 6 ride marshals per tour (up to 25 participants). Barley Kives of the Free Press is interested and may help to publicize the event. Mark distributed some promotional cards for the event. People can sign up and pay on line.

5. Cycling education in schools (Bromley)

In view of the lack of cyclist education in the schools Bromley presented his idea for a way to introduce this as a component of the Phys. Ed. curriculum. His idea is to create a pilot program that would overcome issues of lack of appropriately qualified teachers and lack of equipment. He proposes the development of a program and curriculum, to be delivered by phys ed teachers in grades 4-9 with the assistance of Can-Bike qualified instructors within a small group of schools. The course would take place for 2-3 weeks in the fall and again in the spring. Bicycles would be obtained and transported from school to school. The program would have students progress from learning and practicing on school grounds to riding on streets in the community.

Bromley will head a working committee to develop a proposal, involving people from other interested organizations. Government funders will be contacted once a proposal is ready.