

Bike Winnipeg Education Committee Report, March 9, 2016

The Education committee did not meet as a group this month, but the following activities took place:

Proposal for Bicycling Education in the Schools

There was a second meeting of the steering committee for the proposed Bicycling Education in the Schools project. The meeting was attended by Jamie Hilland (Green Action Centre), Lea Grzenda (Green Action Centre), Brian O'Leary (Seven Oaks School Division Superintendent), two Principals from Seven Oaks S.D., Geoff Heath (the WRENCH), Anthony Lokke (MPI), Shannon Bunkowsky (MPI), Bromley Basford (Bike Winnipeg Ed. Committee), Dave Elmore (Bike Winnipeg Ed. Committee, etc.), Mark Cohoe (Bike Winnipeg Ed. Committee), Jeremy Hull (Bike Winnipeg Ed. Committee).

Based on comments from the superintendent and principals from Seven Oaks S.D. it is clear that they are ready to go ahead with the program and to provide release time for staff to be trained as bicycle education instructors. They may also help with the cost of buying a fleet of bicycles for the program. They want to make sure, however, that there is a good process for consulting with parents who they feel are key to the success of the program. Brian suggested that it might be necessary to go outside the school division to find an appropriate control area for evaluation purposes because new programs that are adopted within Seven Oaks tend to spread quickly to other schools.

Shannon and Anthony from MPI again indicated their support for the program and that they can cover the cost of the project manager. They would do this through an open request for proposals, once the details of the work have been worked out, and once the terms of reference of the steering committee are more formally established. MPI can also provide resources in kind, such as staff time. Jamie and Anthony had a meeting to discuss this and further meetings are planned to work out details. Drafts of the proposed RFP/job description and committee terms of reference will be circulated among the committee members for feedback before being finalized.

There was also general agreement that the term of the pilot project could be shortened from five years to three years. Other details were discussed, including how to source and finance the purchase of a fleet of bicycles. Various committee members were tasked with following up on this issue. It was also noted that there is a need for program development, over and above the project management role, and additional resources will be required to support that activity.

Following the meeting Jamie and MPI have been in touch and are looking towards a possible May start for the project manager. We are hoping that if all goes well the project can get started next year.

Workplace based Cycling Education

Nothing more was done on this during the month. We will continue to work with MPI as they develop their Downtown Commuter Cycling program, and they may yet be able to accommodate some of the employers we have been in touch with into that program. They plan to start, however, with their own MPI employees.

Bus Driver – Cyclist Education

A few additional educational resources (videos) have been identified by Laura. We are still looking for someone to take the lead on this issue, which would involve follow up with the transit union and considering whether a Manitoba educational video is needed and how it can be produced and financed here.