

Camp Hill Bicycle Friendly Community Project Update – June, 2016

Camp Hill's Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) initiative got started in earnest in the spring of 2015 with a meeting between Mayor Mark Simpson, Councilman Carl Schultz, and Tim Poole, a professional bicycle and trails advocate who is acting as a citizen/volunteer for this effort. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to pursue the bicycle and pedestrian elements of Camp Hill's recently-adopted strategic plan. We agreed to pursue the BFC designation through the League of American Bicyclists (LAB).

A community meeting was publicized and conducted, at which the general concept was introduced, and interested people were identified to join a committee and help lead the effort. We agreed to organize around the "5 E's" of the LAB criteria, which will be described later in this document. The group decided to complete the LAB application for the August, 2015 round. While (not surprisingly) we did not receive recognition from LAB, they did provide a "report card" and detailed feedback, which are attached separately to this report.

Various tasks have been undertaken over the past year, which are detailed below. Throughout this time, we have had broad support (if not always participation) from the community. In particular, we have had excellent support from the Mayor, Boro Council, administrative departments including Public Works and Parks and Recreation, the Camp Hill Police Department, the Camp Hill School District, including the Superintendent and individual school principals, and the PTOs. We have also had great support from the Harrisburg Bicycle Club (HBC) and Bike Harrisburg, the regional advocacy coalition.

Engineering

Camp Hill Boro Council allocated \$2,000 in seed money during 2015, which was primarily used to begin an effort to expand and modernize bike rack capacity around the boro. The Engineering sub-committee completed an analysis of locations where bike racks could be added or upgraded based on current or anticipated use. A design was agreed upon, and an initial purchase was made. Bike rack installation started at Boro Hall – where there previously were no racks – and continued to Willow Park. Upgrade plans have been developed for Siebert Park and Eisenhower Elementary, with the intent of having new racks in place for the start of the 2016-17 school year. Plans are underway to continue this effort to other public facilities including the Middle/High School complex and Fiala Fields.

A business bike rack program is under discussion.

A wall-mounted mirror is being installed in the underpass to Siebert Park to improve visibility and safety.

Pedestrian warning signals are being improved at 21st and Walnut Streets.

A significant section of the sidewalk / bike connection from Siebert Park to Parkside Drive is being replaced.

More complex improvements such as bike lanes, bike boulevards, and streetscaping have been discussed. An engineering study will likely be necessary to identify appropriate solutions and provide the basis to pursue funding.

Education

CHSD has a Safe Routes to School program. We have expressed our willingness to assist with this program by providing volunteer leaders for “bike trains”, improving routes, or any way we can add value.

During Bike Month, May 2016:

- A bike rodeo was planned during the elementary PTO May Fair event, but was rained out. With the assistance of HBC and Bike Harrisburg, a bike safety exhibit was still provided for the indoor portion of May Fair.
- At the Middle School, CHPD and the American Trauma Society (ATS) participated in a school assembly on bike safety. After school, ATS and HBC provided a bike safety exhibit, and Recycle Bicycle and Holmes (our local bike shop) provided bike safety checks and basic tune-ups for students.
- Middle School students were asked to track their biking or walking to school in May. Students who kept their forms and turned them in to the Middle School office were entered into a prize drawing which was conducted by Holmes at the end-of-year awards assembly.

Through Bike Harrisburg, a bicycle curriculum used in the Philadelphia schools was obtained, and some funding was made available to customize this for our area. Unfortunately, the elementary principal who was most interested in this went on maternity leave, so this did not go anywhere this year. We would like to revisit this in the future.

Encouragement

In conjunction with HBC, rides that are friendly to families and novice riders are being held on Wednesday evenings starting from Boro Hall. These rides were held June-August in 2015 and are being done again throughout the riding season in 2016.

During Bike Month, May 2016:

- A Bike Month kickoff ride was held which included the Mayor, council members, CHPD officers, and various members of the community.
- The Wednesday evening rides mentioned above were held throughout the month.
- Our region’s observance of the International Ride of Silence starts and ends at Camp Hill Boro Hall with a ride to and from the State Capital.
- Other rides were organized by private citizens, including three by the local “Biker Babes” group.
- Organized commuting opportunities were provided during Bike to Work Week.
- Camp Hill was represented at the Spoke ‘n’ Gear Expo at the State Capital.
- Using the National Bike Challenge, an adult bike challenge was conducted, with Holmes providing prizes to the rider logging the most miles and to one random participant.
- Mid Penn Bank sponsors a bike segment in the annual Camp Hill Memorial Day Parade.

- “Team Camp Hill” had about 30 riders signed up for the annual Tour de Belt ride around Harrisburg’s Capital Area Greenbelt. Over 20 actually rode in the rain-threatened event. T-shirts provided by the boro were designed and produced by the high school graphics program.

All of our activities have been promoted through the boro newsletter, web site, and our own Facebook page at “Bike Camp Hill”.

A promotional flyer and poster were created and are on permanent display at Boro Hall, and have been taken to various biking and community events.

Better mapping and signage of safe bike routes around the boro is desired, but may have to wait for the engineering study mentioned above.

Enforcement

CHPD has been actively involved in bike safety education.

CHPD has a large role in the Safe Routes to School program, especially working to ensure the safety of walking and biking to and from school.

CHPD took the lead role in acquiring new warning signs for the 21st and Walnut intersection.

CHPD has a bike patrol and has been active in community rides including the Bike Month kickoff ride and the Ride of Silence.

Evaluation/Planning

The BFC committee exists and has been meeting regularly for over a year.

Camp Hill Boro Council adopted a “Complete Streets” Policy in April, 2016.

Resources

Camp Hill Boro

<http://www.camphillborough.com/>

Camp Hill BFC Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BikeCampHill/>

Camp Hill School District

<http://www.camphillsd.k12.pa.us/district.cfm?subpage=1778106>

Harrisburg Bicycle Club

<http://www.harrisburgbicycleclub.org/>

Bike Harrisburg

<http://www.bikeharrisburg.org/>

League of American Bicyclists

<http://bikeleague.org/community>

Attachments

BFC Flyer

Bike Month Schedule

Complete Streets Resolution

LAB Report Card

LAB Feedback

Photo Gallery

