

Meeting 12/2/08

Present: George Wilkes, Jim Johnson, Rick Schubert, Kay Costello, Fritz Sobanja, Harris Mills, Jeff, Kern, Michael O'Phelan

Others interested but not in attendance: Nathan Baker, Jeanne Wright, Jonathan Hedstrom, Jim Sulerud

I tried to get people to discuss the nuts and bolts of how our working group would function, but of course nobody would have any of that, so we moved on to issues and left the organizational stuff to "evolve" as time progressed.

It was suggested that county board members (? and maybe city councilors?) receive copies of CCLEP minutes.

Discussion Topics:

Walking and Biking

- Minimize sprawl - urban planning goal

- Pedestrian- and bicycle-based land-use and transit corridor planning.

- Better marking of bike lanes and pedestrian crossings .

Current bike lanes in G. M. are not helpful. Possibility exists to improve a network of bike and pedestrian routes throughout residential Grand Marais. Traffic could be calmed in certain areas esp. Hwy 61 in GM.

Bump-outs in downtown GM work well to make area more pedestrian accessible. Winter pedestrian travel is difficult because of snow plowed onto sidewalks from streets. This , of course, brought up the whole snowmobile-route can of worms.

Bicycle pools - European model

Mass-Transit

- Within Cook County

- AEOA Bus - or other - could be enhanced in a number of ways i.e. more hours of operation, scheduled routes.

Increased service could spur increased demand and social acceptance. Harriet Quarles also operates a private shuttle service out of GM. Scheduled shuttle service needed by customers of resorts along shore, they don't want to drive after going to bars or late nite events. Between Thunder Bay and Duluth - Bus service is currently only 2 days/week.

Ride-Sharing

Use internet to coordinate ride-sharing - this could be improved, possibility to engage other organizations such as cook county churches.

Telecommuting

Better internet access; Broadband - Everyone would like to see this advanced, there is a group working on this , contact???

Efficiency of Goods Shipped into and out of Cook County

- Smart Transport (well, O.K., I just made that up)

- Use internet to coordinate shipment of goods

- Water-based transport

- Helium Heavy Lift Platforms - Yea right!

Vehicle Efficiency

- Hybrids

- Plug-ins

- County and City vehicle fleets

- use of more small vehicles such as golf carts, scooters,

electric

bikes and of course this brought up the ATV issue , oh boy!

Alternative Fuels

- Bio-diesel from waste veggie oil , may be worth looking into

setting

up a community facility to fully use this resource locally instead of having it trucked out of the county. Some people are already using fryer oil as fuel here in Cook County - Scott Sorenson, Nathan Baker, Mark Spinler.

Bio-diesel - other

Electric

Ethanol

Air car

Support Local Economy

The more we produce locally the less transportation costs the community would incur.

It was agreed to meet again in about a month. How about Tuesday January 6th?, same time same place?

Agenda for that meeting would be to start to select projects and form an action plan.

Homework: start to select projects and form an action plan.

Thanks,

George