Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026
Springfield, IL

I. **Order/Establish Quorum (Quorum: 4/7; two vacancies currently on the committee – Ben Long, Peter Blythe Kieffer)**

Meeting called to order by Cynthia Thompson at 4:40pm.

II. **Roll Call**

Members present: Cynthia Thompson; Ted Sunder, Taylor Sutton, Mike Klemens;
Guests: TJ Heavisides, Chris Scheufele

III. **Public Comment**

Jason Sass shared that Curb Your Car Week is May 10 – 16, 2026. It will be called Active Transportation Week. He suggested that sponsoring a bike ride during that week, as the committee had discussed in the past, would be a great idea. Ted stated that such a ride would typically be sponsored by the Bicycle Club. Michael stated that he would be willing to reach out to the MacArthur Association and share the idea.

Jason stated that they have a small marketing budget this year that they can use to help promote these activities.

Taylor asked if there are any online trackers for this process.

Jason reported that they are going to make some changes to the Active Transportation Plan before making it official.

He asked TJ if they could put up a sign indicating local traffic only on Edwards.

TJ stated that could be done and asked if the reason for doing so was to support bike week.

Taylor asked how many signs could be put up.

TJ suggested adding a link to the Curb Your Car Week activities asking people to indicate whether they were interested in participating.

Jason stated that there is a Facebook page for Curb Your Car Week.

Jason asked if the owners of the Bicentennial Plaza had complained about bike or scooter traffic in that area since it was intended as a pedestrian walkway.

Ted stated that the Bicycle Club map is online.

TJ suggested handing out a bicycle map at Earth Fair

He also asked each SBAC member to write a short article for the newsletter about their favorite trail.

IV. Approval of Agenda.

Approved.

V. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Approved.

VI. Discussion Items – Council Projects and Priorities:

- Bicycle Park (BMX track, cross-country trail, rodeo skills course).
  None

- Bicycle Facility Enhancements (bike racks, parking corral, lanes, signage, connectivity).
  The group discussed the possibility of developing greenways or bike boulevards that would increase connectivity to bike lanes, trails, and destinations. The routes would be low traffic streets where vehicle speed was reduced, with an eye to creating comfortable routes shared by cars and bicyclists.

  TJ suggested criteria be developed, otherwise many residents would seek the designation to slow down traffic. Taylor suggested asking Earth Fair attendees.

- Bicycle Tourism (apps, routes, signage)
  Cynthia said the International Mountain Biking Association offers national recognition as Trail Towns for communities that have off-road biking facilities. She added that her hometown of Decorah, IA recently received the designation.

- Bike/Walk Safety Education.

- Adult Education

  Curb Your Car Challenge/Active Transportation Week
  The SSCRPC will conduct its Curb Your Car Challenge from May 10 - 16, 2026 encouraging commuters to bike, bus, run or walk to work. Anyone who brings their bike can ride free on SMTD buses during the challenge.

  Also, all rides are free on Transit Tuesday, May 12.

Chris Scheufel reported that he will lead a group ride from Washington Park to the farmer's market on May 13.

Walk with a Doc Program
Nancy said that Springfield Clinic is looking to promote wellness at its facility at the new Scheel's Sports Park with a Walk with A Doc" program.
She suggested, given proximity to bike trails, that a "Ride with a Guide" program might be a new addition.

Earth Awareness Fair
Mike reported on plans for the Earth Awareness Fair where Nancy and Cynthia will join him to ask attendees about their needs for cycling infrastructure.

- Springfield Bicycle Club Involvement
  Chris reported that the Bike Club completed a trash pick-up along the Wabash Trail and this year's Springfield Century will have a Route 66 theme.

VII. Committee Reports
None

VIII. Old Business
None

IX. New Business
None

X. Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment.
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45pm. The next meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11 at Municipal Center West – 7th and Monroe, Public Works Conference Room – Second Floor.