

**Baraboo Bicycle Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
**September 30, 2021**

**Members present:** C. Gabrielson, C. Harding, B. Hartup, B. Koenig, S. Mordini, B. Konen, A. Workman

**Members absent:** T. Pinion

**Others present:** Mayor Nelson

**Call to Order**

Workman called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m and confirmed compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Motion by Hartup, second by Harding, to approve the minutes of the September 23 meeting. Motion carried.

**New Business**

Discussion of Great Sauk State Trail proposed map routes focused around the three significant areas of multiple route options. Each option discussed had benefits and drawbacks, as well as differences in the cost and ease of implementation. Hartup noted that consensus is not necessarily realistic on a preferred route, so the language of “favored option” and secondary option was adopted for each area.

**Discussion area #1: 2nd Ave to Hwy 33/8th St**

*Favored option:*

Shaw to Willow St, turn right on the sidewalk (would need to be widened) to the Riverwalk, opening to a tunnel going underneath Hwy 33/8th St, leading to Berkeley Street (where Domino’s property ends). Hartup opined that the option that follows the Riverwalk from the Manchester Bridge north offers an aesthetic advantage over going through a neighborhood, and provides a Safe Route to Schools.

*Secondary option:*

Trail from 2nd Ave entering Attridge Park near the Splashpad, crossing the Old Manchester Bridge, and following the Riverwalk to the tunnel at Berkeley.

Workman asked if the tunnel is not possible due to cost or other constraints, would the default option be Pinion’s description of the addition of a pedestrian island in the center lane of the rebuilt, three-lane Hwy. 33 for an on-grade crossing of Hwy 33)? The group agreed that this option would be the logical default.

**Discussion area #2: Vine St. crossing South Blvd/Broadway to south side of river**

*Favored option:*

Nelson suggested a bridge south of the roundabout could take advantage of the existing grade on the east, with room for a switchback along the south edge of the Vinnie’s parking lot. Gabrielson said his recommendation would be a bridge at grade by the train depot across Broadway, terminating in St. Vinnie’s back parking lot.

*Secondary option:*

Traffic circle improvements with at-grade crossing of South Blvd/Broadway

Hartup said it would be difficult for him to get behind a bridge if there are no resources allocated to it. Mordini, Harding and Gabrielson all seconded moving forward with a recommendation regardless of allocation. Koenig

suggested that the South Blvd/Broadway existing bridge could have bike lanes included, but Gabrielson recalled that Pinion indicated South Blvd/Broadway was not wide enough for bike lanes. Harding said our primary concern/goal is to recommend the safest route with the least interaction with traffic.

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Discussion area #3: Pinch point between RR and Baraboo River on/near SHS property

*Favored option:*

Create a path between the railway and the Baraboo River on/near SHS property on the south side of the river, starting from the west side of South Blvd/Broadway and connecting to existing City of Baraboo property just south of Mary Rountree and Attridge Park.

*Secondary option:*

At the historic train depot on Vine St, start a bridge that goes over the river and meets up with the Oak St bridge overlook which eventually will be ADA compliant. Bridge construction would look similar to the new bridge east of Circus World. Once on the north side of the river, the GSST would meet up with the existing Riverwalk and follow the path west to Attridge Park. From there the path would continue on 2nd Ave to Shaw St (Discussion area #1: favored option), or turn into Attridge park past the Splashpad (Discussion area #1 above: secondary option)

Pinion showed elevation maps that indicated that it would be challenging to fit a trail along one narrow stretch. Gabrielson said piers and abutments for a bike trail are possible and have been done in the past in Monona on the Harvard River Trail. The group acknowledged that if the Riverwalk was designated the GSST, the entire pathway would have to be removed and replaced. Harding commented that Water St. is never comfortable on a bike: too much traffic from Circus World, Driftless Glen, and other business traffic. Konen said if trail riders reach the historic train depot, there could be a map to the downtown and other spur routes delineated.

The group determined the following “Guiding principles” for route recommendation

- Maintain physical separation/minimal interaction with traffic wherever possible.
- Avoid competition between bike and pedestrian users on Riverwalk as much as possible to respect both user populations.
- Provide a beautiful, pleasant experience that interfaces with the sights and sounds of Baraboo.

These guiding principles were made by biking and walking the route options to get a first hand, trail user’s experience to inform our recommendations. The group also took into consideration the major attractions of Baraboo being for or against the trail being near them, as well as incorporating the Sauk County Historical Society’s acquisition of the historic train depot.

Minimal effort was devoted to route options once the UW-Platteville/Sauk county campus is reached as Hartup voiced that this committee doesn't know the campus’s desire or what the plan is for connections to other various communities. Mayor Nelson said he talked to Brian Zimmert and Zimmert said there’s no real rush, but if the committee has momentum he is amenable to coming to a meeting and not strict on the format of feedback. Harding suggested presenting the route recommendation format as a cue sheet (one sentence for turns), accompanied by a map.

Workman nominated Jared Grosinske to make the map. Hartup seconded and all approved the nomination. Workman abstained.

The group agreed that a good timeframe for the written cue sheet and map be shared to the BAG by Monday, Oct. 11, with Hartup suggesting that the goal date be flexible based on Simmert’s availability to meet with us.

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**Next Meeting Dates:** Mayor Nelson will let us know when Simmert will be available to meet. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 11, at 5:30 pm, City Hall, with Zoom option.