



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, November 23, 2015 Meeting

Members Present: The members present were Michael Bates, Lawrence Creed, Ann Horton, Douglas Knight, Emma Lindholm, John Rist, Kelly Whalen and Jeannie Martin (Chair).

City Support Staff present were Celia Thornton (Project Supervisor) and Darren Hurley (Director of Parks & Recreation).

Additional city staff present included Lee Brown, Director of Planning & Building. Also present was resident Cheryl Graffagnino (6360 Westbrook Place, Worthington) to address accessibility and safety when accessing Linworth Park, and to encourage the board to raise its prioritization on the project list.

The minutes from the October 26 meeting were approved.

Linworth Park Access Presentation: Resident, Mrs. Cheryl Graffagnino, provided a brief overview of her observations regarding the lack of safe access to Linworth Park by neighboring residents, particularly the challenges crossing Linworth Road and the lack of a sidewalk along both sides of the road.

The reason Mrs. Graffagnino is raising Linworth Park access issues, and asking the Advisory Board to consider raising its prioritization among projects, is because of the new development (Linworth Crossing) beginning construction at the corner of Linworth Rd. and S.R. 161. She feels this is perfect opportunity to leverage resources and prioritize this project. Mrs. Graffagnino would like the City to consider the possibility of a pedestrian crossing at Westbrook Court and a trail along the west side of Linworth connecting to Linworth Park in addition to a traffic light crossing at Beechview Drive that would provide access to Linworth Park.

Mr. Lee Brown, Director of Building & Planning, updated the Advisory Board by sharing that the Linworth Crossing development has been approved by the City, but progress has been slow. He also informed the group that a 10 foot multiuse trail along S.R. 161 and Linworth Road are part of the development plans, along with trail from Linworth Road crossing into the park and improved crossings at S.R. 161 and Linworth Road. Permits have been obtained and site preparation and demolition are currently in progress.

Mr. Rist asked if a traffic study was done as a part of the approval process. A traffic analysis was completed for Linworth Crossing that required an additional right of way dedication along S.R. 161, restricted turning movements into the site and provided a full access point onto Linworth Road. Mrs. Horton asked if the area in question is identified in any Columbus plans. The answer was not currently and that the trail planned along S.R. 161 out to Sawmill is not actively being pursued at this time.

At this point Ms. Martin, the Chair, modified the agenda to allow Mr. Brown, the City's Director of Building & Planning, to present to the board on the Wilson Bridge Road Corridor study. Mr. Hurley prefaced the presentation by stating that these projects straddled two processes and that they (Linworth Road and Wilson Bridge Road Corridor Improvements) were both nearing the end of their processes just as the Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Board was created. He wanted to assure the board that typically they will receive updates and the chance to provide input at a time when it can impact decisions rather than just receiving a presentation with the possibility of suggesting minor tweaks, as is the case with these projects.

Mr. Brown then proceeded to give a PowerPoint presentation overviewing the Wilson Bridge Road corridor study and plan. The corridor is the "front door" to the community and it was determined that a consistent theme "from river to rail" was needed. After City Council approved the plan it hired three firms to assist with the project: MKSK (design and streetscape), GPD (engineering) and Studio Graphic (way-finding). The focus for Studio Graphic was signage and way-finding for the entire city and money has been allocated towards this end and signage has been funded.

Mr. Hurley added that the philosophy behind the study was that showing the City's willingness to invest would encourage private investment and redevelopment. Mr. Brown alluded to the current redevelopment of the old Toledo Mettler building as proof that this is occurring.

Next discussed was the West Wilson Bridge and Old Wilson Bridge Road intersection, and the businesses complaints as to how busy it was at certain times of the day, along with the new trail connecting the Olentangy Parklands to the Shops at Worthington Place and the next phase of the trail connection that would continue down East Wilson Bridge Road to the Community Center. Mr. Bates questioned why the new section was planned for the south side of the road rather than the north and Mr. Brown, Mr. Hurley and Ms. Thornton cited redevelopment, double road crossings and utilities respectively. Mrs. Horton voiced concerns regarding the High Street crossing and asked what happened to plans for a bridge going over High Street and Mr. Brown explained that it was fairly cost prohibitive. Funding was also briefly discussed with Mr. Rist asking if money had been allocated for any element of this project.

The board then switched subjects momentarily to discuss whether or not to hold a regular meeting on Dec. 28, 2015. They decided to skip that meeting and in lieu to plan a strategic planning meeting in early January to plan their goals for the upcoming year. Ms. Martin also wants the group to focus on project prioritization. Staff was asked to present them with projects that might be coming their way, as well. Mr. Rist suggested that a follow-up meeting time may be needed should all business not get completed. Mr. Knight, Ms. Lindholm and Mr. Bates agreed and a Tuesday night in early January was discussed as a follow-up possibility. Mrs. Horton added that she would like to also discuss opportunities for educational sessions to be added to the 2016 agendas on topics that would be useful to the group, such as Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School. Mr. Rist added that he would like to see project funding as a focus of the meeting, as well. Ms. Thornton was tasked with emailing the board and confirming dates for both meetings.

Mr. Brown again addressed the board to review the City's way-finding plan and he went over signage and talked about the three phases of implementation which are budgeted over the next three years. Mr. Rist asked if anything was being done on the new overpass and Mr. Brown responded yes, that there would be pillars and an arched Worthington sign. The first phase is due to begin in April or May in Old Worthington. Ms. Horton asked if biking would be addressed in Old Worthington. Mr. Creed asked about sign transitions

from Wilson Bridge to Old Worthington and how different the feel is. He also cited an example of what he thought works well in Easton is the consistency throughout the area.

Mr. Creed then gave an overview of the Huntley Road intersection project to the board. After many early discussions regarding the intersection it had been decided that the best way to proceed was to split up the intersection project. The biggest movements were turns (south bound left turns, Worthington Galena to Huntley and then right the other way) which are most inefficient and difficult. The project was also driven by user capacity. From a bike and pedestrian standpoint there is a shared use path planned on the south side of Wilson Bridge and the west side of Huntley. Public comments strongly encouraged bike and pedestrian facilities on the relocated Worthington Galena Road. Columbus wants a shared use path on Sancus and sharrows on Worthington Galena.

Mrs. Horton and Mr. Knight brought up the importance of keeping abreast of what Columbus and the broader community are doing and planning in relation to bike and pedestrian facilities so we can better prioritize our projects.

Ms. Martin then introduced a new possibility for the Olentangy Parklands trailhead redevelopment. She suggested that the bike hub might be better suited at a location closer to the trail intersection before it crosses the bridge and goes to Worthington Hills. She feels it will be more apparent and accessible to those using the trail. Mr. Knight and Mr. Bates preferred it at the original location suggested by the Parks and Recreation Commission (with signage directing trail users to it). Mr. Creed likes Ms. Martin's idea of having it at the intersection where people will see it. This discussion was tabled for the night.

Mrs. Lindholm would like to be at the City Council meeting when they are presented with the High/Stafford crossing improvements to answer questions if necessary. The rest of the board also seemed interested in attending. Ms. Thornton promised to follow up with Mr. Hurley and email the board.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.