



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Saturday, January 9, 2016 Strategic Planning 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).

Also present were City Council members Bonnie Michael and Rachael Dorothy.

Introduction: Bonnie Michael and Rachael Dorothy expressed their support and wanted to let the board know that they were important to the health, safety and livability of Worthington and its economic success. Council looks forward to the assistance and insight they will bring to many upcoming City projects.

Mr. Hurley reviewed the original council resolution and cited the purpose and specific duties Council requested the Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Board perform.

Strategic Planning: During the strategic planning session, members reviewed the listing of projects proposed by the original Bike and Pedestrian Steering Committee. The projects were presented in the categories representing the five "E's" of Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Encouragement, and Evaluation. Members agreed that prioritizing efforts by category would make sense to ensure that balanced efforts were taking place and not just all physical projects, for example. It was also agreed that initiatives already underway such as the Downtown Mobility Study, would not be prioritized during this exercise as it is in progress and we know it will be a part of our work plan for the upcoming year. The focus of this session is to prioritize things not currently underway to help guide planning and future scheduling.

After a review of the previously listed projects, members brainstormed some additional ideas and clarified some duplication and other technical questions from the original list. The additional project ideas included a creating a "Sunday's Parkway" event or experience in Worthington, Ohio-Erie Trail connections, creating a Bike & Ped Master Plan, adding a Worthington Circulator bus that connects neighborhoods and the business district, exploring options for new and permanent sources of revenue to fund capital projects, a *Yay Bikes* biking/walking assessment, and adding an extended bike/walking path on Westview (connecting to Highland). Once the updates were reflected on the posted lists, members utilized an individual voting

process to advocate critical projects/initiatives in each of the five categories. The top three from each category is as follows:

Engineering

1. Worthington Sidewalk Analysis
2. Worthington Sidewalk Policy
3. Complete Streets Policy

Education

1. Safety Awareness
2. Biking/Walking Assessment of the Community
3. Complete Transportation and Safety Program

Enforcement

1. Develop a Targeted Education and Enforcement Plan with Worthington Police.
2. Evaluate & Update Worthington's Bike & Pedestrian Ordinances and Laws

Encouragement

1. Safe Routes to School
2. Consider a Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan
3. Bike and Ped Friendly Special Event / Sunday Parkways

Evaluation

1. Baseline Data
2. Annual Bike & Pedestrian Survey
3. Road Safety Audits for Injury Crashes

From there, four major themes were selected that will be the focus of the board during 2016:

- 1. Data Collection**
- 2. Awareness/Education**
- 3. Programs/Encouragement**
- 4. Consultant Projects (research)**

These themes were developed as a result of looking at the specific initiatives listed under the five E's and putting them into four broader categories. These themes will help shape agendas and provide direction for staff and board leadership during the upcoming year. The board anticipates unplanned things will come up that will potentially impact agendas and time available, but it is still important to have priorities in place to guide any available time during the first full year of the board's existence. If some items get pushed back due to Council or community direction, the priorities can be adjusted.

Other: Several important discussions occurred as the board worked through the planning and prioritization phases of the meeting, and they impacted selection and prioritization of projects.

1. Mr. Bates expressed the need to be aware of what other City departments and boards are working on and how it might impact or integrate with what the BPAB was doing. The other board members all agreed. Mr. Hurley said that it was staff's responsibility to ensure that communication and coordination between City departments and other boards occurs.
2. Mr. Rist spoke briefly about the possible need for long term funding solutions in order to accomplish bike & ped objectives successfully. He had already spoken with City Finance Director, Molly Roberts, to gain an understanding of how City property tax works and share that information with the group. Ms. Michael responded that these were big, citywide issues, but that it wasn't unheard of (this is how Westerville accomplished their citywide bike plan). She also stated that it would be easier to accomplish through property tax than income tax.

3. Mr. Knight brought up the idea of using this first year as a board to gather important data and get ourselves up to speed so we're better able to prioritize and respond to bike and pedestrian issues. Examples of data gathering include a good understanding of what exists and what is needed in regards to sidewalks throughout the City. Is there tracking on vehicular/bike/pedestrian accidents, or could there be? Another example, how do current city standards compare to complete street standards (and a full understanding of what complete street standards are). While gathering data he thinks the board should focus on building consensus, excitement and demand within the community for upcoming projects. There was strong agreement among the board on both points.
4. Finally, the board decided they wanted to send a memo to City Council informing them of their 2016 goals and make sure that Council thought they were on track. They also brought up the idea of creating sub-committees as needed to accomplish particular goals.