



## **WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Minutes of the Monday, February 25, 2019 Meeting**

**Members Present:** The members present were Mike Bates, Katie Burkley, Larry Creed, Ann Horton, Jeannie Martin, Gary Schmidt, and Kelly Whalen.

City Support staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton were also present.

Minutes from the January 28, 2019 meeting were approved by all in attendance.

**Master Plan/Complete Streets Visit Recap:** Mr. Whalen reviewed the Feb. 11-12 Master Planning engagement process for the board (two open houses, Steering Committee meeting, City Council presentation) and expressed his opinion that things went pretty well. He had been able to attend an open house as well as the Council Meeting. Mr. Hurley said that the consultants would be provided a written feedback summary from the City Council and Steering Committee meetings. He then shared that an opportunity to provide feedback on the plan would be available to the public in an online format, or through an email to Ms. Thornton, for three weeks. One particular piece of feedback was it is difficult for a person not involved in the process to understand how the plan was to work or what specifically was recommended, specifically how the plan works together with the Complete Streets policy. The next step is for Blue Zones to make revisions to the plan based on feedback. A revised plan will be brought back for recommendation for adoption to City Council in the spring.

Ms. Thornton then attempted to walk the board through how the materials provided by Blue Zones (map of bike and pedestrian corridor recommendations and map of street typologies) would interface with the Complete Street documents to provide city staff and the board the necessary tools to make educated recommendations based on a citywide plan each time a street was due for improvement. Mr. Schmidt asked if engineering had done a survey of how much right of way (ROW) the City has on all roads. Mr. Hurley answered that the City has this information in their GIS system.

## Updates:

1. Bike Share Updates and Information Request Follow Up - Mr. Hurley was informed by Lime that due to lack of ridership, they are not currently interested in continuing the bike share program in Worthington. Ms. Thornton has begun researching other bike share options but has not yet identified another interested vendor. If we find other vendors interested in submitting a proposal then the board can discuss another trial or perhaps something more long term. Per board direction, at this time staff is not engaging with scooter vendors but are monitoring the situation state and nationwide. Ms. Thornton shared that the only location in Central Ohio where she knew the Lime bike share program would continue was on The Ohio State campus. She also referred board members to an article on scooters she had placed in their packet from the March 1, 2019 edition of "The Week." The article contained some of the information Ms. Martin had requested at the last meeting regarding scooter accident and injury statistics.

**2019 Priorities and Funding Discussion:** Mr. Whalen began the discussion by saying that he thinks it's important to start this discussion by getting some more information on funding from Mr. Hurley and for the board to decide what criteria it wants to use to determine what projects should be chosen for 2019. Mr. Hurley responded that the 2019 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) has a \$100,000 allocation for bike and pedestrian improvements. However, once the board identifies which project(s) it would like to pursue, then he would forward them to staff and City Council as a recommendation from the board and if approved by City Council, then the funds would be appropriated. Timing of projects is largely dependent on the size of the project and the amount of work required for staff, such as the City Engineer. If the board identifies a larger construction project, then we need to share this information sooner rather than later. Mr. Hurley then stated that Ms. Thornton had included a copy of the Master Plan's short term recommendations in board packets and gave an overview of ones he thought they might be most likely to consider.

Bike Boulevards – As noted by the consultants in the short term recommendations, many of their projects are bike boulevards. There was a lot of feedback during their visit to provide better examples of bike boulevard treatments and how they would be implemented in Worthington where we would be looking at mostly retrofitting into tight street infrastructures without many options for widening or adding to the existing footprint. Blue Zones agreed to do that and have advised while the bike boulevards will remain short term projects they do require some engagement with residents on the street to get buy-in, so may not be the ideal project to kick off the master plan as there could be the possibility of resident opposition in some areas.

Priority Crossings – The drafted Master Plan does discuss at length the challenges of crossing our major roadways and that does lend itself to a couple of the projects that the board has been considering for some time and that were initiated with citizen input. A crossing of 161 at East Granville Road Park and Pingree, along with one at Linworth Park along Linworth Road, are two examples that have been discussed at length. Mr. Hurley asked the Engineering Department to do an assessment of these crossings and provide options with costs the board could consider. It is likely that at least one of these crossings could be accomplished with this year's money. Blue Zones was in agreement that this would be a good pilot project as it wouldn't likely receive much opposition and would be a very visible improvement.

Bike Racks – Another suggestion received by a board member was whether adding bike racks would be a good project to consider this year as it would be a great encouragement and would also give us the ability to impact many different areas in the community. Ms. Thornton has provided a map of all known bike racks in Worthington in board packets.

Sidewalks – The drafted Master Plan does not put a huge priority on sidewalks overall but it does contemplate the value of connections in key areas. If the board feels strongly that this year's funding should go to making sidewalk connections we have estimates attached for some that were identified by the Engineering Department last year. Mr. Schmidt said he didn't think this was a complete list of needed sidewalks. Ms. Thornton clarified that this list was just of sidewalk gaps. She also informed the board that the only calls she'd received from residents regarding the Master Plan online were about gaps (particularly on Oxford). Mr. Schmidt stated that he didn't necessarily agree with the plan's sidewalk recommendations.

Pilot Project Assistance – The Master Plan draft also suggests implementing some pilot projects around town to educate and encourage while building support for infrastructure improvements. While some of this might be accomplished by existing city staff, another consideration might be to set aside some consulting funds to have professionals come and stage one or two demonstration projects around town. This would improve the chances they would reach maximum impact and effectiveness. Mr. Schmidt asked why the board would spend money for consultants on a demonstration project. His understanding is we just thrown down some chalk paint and try something for a weekend. Mr. Hurley said the board didn't need to hire a consultant, it was just a thought depending on the type of demonstration project they were considering. Ms. Thornton added that what if we did one along High Street? We might need cement barriers in addition to paint and it could get pretty involved. There was also some discussion of the process that would be necessary with the city in order to get approval for a pilot project.

Mr. Hurley then welcomed the board to suggest other priorities and have a discussion about the ones he'd just outlined. He said that his goal for this session were for the board to identify one or several projects that they are interested in pursuing so that staff could research and frame them for the March meeting. Mr. Whalen asked for a reminder of what the street improvement process was. Mr. Hurley said that the Service & Engineering Department looks at the roads and have the street tour to assist in picking and prioritizing projects in late spring. Mr. Creed reminded the board that in a previous memo to City Council they had talked about sidewalks and thought the board should consider putting their money where their mouth is and spend some of the funding on sidewalks. There was then board discussion around all of these suggestions with some consensus and interest around completing the 161/Pingree crossing, followed closely by the Linworth crossing. Depending on if there were money left over, could they do both crossings or perhaps further improvements in one area, such as install the crossing at 161/Pingree, add bike racks to the adjacent parks and possibly even fix some sidewalk gaps in that area. Mr. Hurley said that staff would work on the pricing for crossings at Pingree and Linworth Roads, along with bike rack pricing and identifying sidewalk gaps for the March meeting. Ms. Thornton agreed to email the board the bike rack map.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.