



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, November 25, 2019 Meeting

Members Present: The members present were Mike Bates, Katie Burkley, Emma Lindholm, Jordan Schweller, John Stephan and Kelly Whalen.

City Support staff Darren Hurley (Director of Parks & Recreation), Lee Brown (Director of Planning and Building) and Celia Thornton were present. Also in attendance was City Council Representative Rachael Dorothy and cycling enthusiast David Roseman.

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

Visitor Comments: Mr. Whalen greeted visitors, welcomed them to the meeting and asked if they would like to speak. Mr. Roseman introduced himself to the board. He is a cycling enthusiast who attends quite a few of the bicycle and pedestrian meetings in Columbus and surrounding suburbs and is involved with Central Ohio Greenways. He was interested in hearing about the board's priorities in the coming year and offered his assistance if there was anything he could do or information he could share. Ms. Dorothy shared that she has been in contact with Visioning Committee member, Cynthia Finland, who is setting up a Worthington Facebook page on busing, and she has contacted Mr. Greeson, the City Manager, about it as well. There are discussions going on right now in the community pertaining to busing and bus routes and Ms. Dorothy wanted to make sure that the board was aware of that.

West Wilson Bridge Road 315 Bridge Renovations: Mr. Whalen introduced Mr. Brown, Director of Planning and Building, who came to present some information about renovations being planned to the West Wilson Bridge Road bridge over the Olentangy River and State Route 315. Mr. Brown shared that the bridge over S.R. 315 is being replaced as part of a 2020 Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) project. One of the items discussed at the meetings has been fencing. ODOT will add chain link fence on the bridge over the portion that crosses S.R. 315. The city is committed to pay the cost to upgrade the fence from basic chain link to black vinyl coated fencing. Mr. Brown wondered if the board would also like to extend the length of the fence to span the rest of the bridge as one of their projects for 2020. If so, he will get pricing on the cost of additional black fencing. In addition to fencing, ODOT is changing the concrete walls by adding an additional

six inches of decking (wall height will go from 36 to 42 inches) and straightening the scuppers which will add an additional foot on each side of the road for bicyclists (changing from five feet to six feet). Car lanes will be 12 feet in width. The timeline for a decision from the board is within the first couple of months in 2020. Mr. Bates asked Ms. Thornton if she could get crash data for the area and asked what the expected completion date for the project was. Mr. Brown said the work would start next fall. Mr. Bates inquired whether the board could fund this project, if it decided to extend fencing, from multiple budgets incrementally from 2019, 2020 and 2021. Mr. Hurley said it wasn't likely, but that there would likely be money left from this year's project that could be applied, along with money from next year. The board promised to let Mr. Brown know of if they were interested by early next year. Mr. Roseman, a visitor, asked if ODOT owned the entire bridge. Mr. Brown stated that they did. Mr. Roseman said he would like a sign on both sides of the bridge, above the trail, stating the road name so cyclists would have a better idea of where they were and what road they were passing under. The board had a few minutes of discussion but did not decide at this time to pay for additional fencing.

2020 Project and Initiative Prioritization: Mr. Hurley began the discussion by letting the board know that next year's funding allocation is currently \$100,000, and the board will likely have additional funds leftover from the S.R. 161/Pingree project of approximately \$35,000. His objective for the evening is to narrow the list of projects that the board is interested in pursuing in 2020, not to necessarily have 100% decided on a plan of action. Mr. Whalen reiterated Mr. Hurley's suggestion that the board select three or four main initiatives that can be further discussed in January. Mr. Whalen shared the responses Ms. Thornton had received from the board via email of projects members would like to pursue. He then utilized a computer to show how he'd organized those ideas into city quadrants and charts with added factors such as cost, time and complexity (charts included in packets). Board members added other ideas to the mix and had a lengthy discussion, which ended in the following ideas being top contenders for 2020 projects:

1. A pilot project on Crandall Dr.
2. a. Pedestrian crossing on Linworth Rd at Beechview (across from Linworth Park)
b. Pedestrian crossing on Linworth Rd. at Collins Dr. (across from Perry Park)
3. Improvements to the five-point intersection in Colonial Hills (Park Blvd. / Colonial Ave. / Foster Ave. / Lake Bridge Rd.)
4. Multi-use path along Linworth Rd. from Snouffer Rd. to S.R. 161

Board members also asked Ms. Thornton and Mr. Hurley to try and do the following prior to the January meeting: sit down with Engineering to see what is possible on Linworth (in regards to the multi-use trail), what is possible at the five-point intersection (speed changes, signage, speed humps, sidewalks) and ideas for pilot projects on Crandall; get input from law enforcement on the five-point intersection and try to get crash data for that intersection and Crandall Drive. Mr. Bates also asked Mr. Hurley to see if the fence extension on the bridge could be paid for in three phases (taking an incremental amount from each of three years). He also thinks the board needs to consider public meetings prior to starting projects. Mr. Hurley said that he and Ms. Thornton would do some research in general on pilot projects and will try and get more information to frame the other projects for January prioritization. Mr. Bates also asked staff not to forget to ask about additional City funding and to look at grant options.

Updates:

1. **Crossing Project (S.R. 161 and Pingree)** – Mr. Hurley said that he had only received one comment back on the information provided via email on the crossing design (from Mr. Whalen asking if there should be a light or sign on the crossing island and the answer was no). Therefore, DLZ will present the project without further changes to City Council at their December 2 meeting. A small presentation reviewing the process we went through is planned due to prior neighbor concerns at Council Member Robinson's request. If City Council approves the project, they will give the City permission to bid. Mr. Hurley is keeping the neighbors informed. He also expects that there will be money left over from this project. DLZ is utilizing existing light posts, but some of the other thoughts for improving the corner are difficult and/or much more expensive than the amount allocated. Service and Engineering is going to repair the existing curb apron and will fix the manholes as part of 2020's street improvement program.

2. **SRTS Initiative** – Mr. Hurley told the board that Council Member Dorothy had shared with him that two of the School Board members, Nikki Hudson and Amy Lloyd, were interested in meeting and engaging with the Bike & Pedestrian Board on Safe Routes to School (SRTS). Due to meeting conflicts (both boards meet on the fourth Monday of each month) we're going to invite them first to engage with the sub-committee and go from there. Mr. Hurley said he would also still be pushing for someone from Worthington Schools administrative staff to be involved. Ms. Thornton then reviewed the notes from the last SRTS sub-committee meeting. The sub-committee had focused at their last meeting on what they hoped to achieve in 2020. The list included:
 - Staying in touch with Wilson Hill on their SRTS initiative (offer help and support)
 - Continuing to try for engagement with Phoenix and Worthingway Middle Schools
 - Keep SRTS in front of the B&P Board so that when we're limited by funding, we can raise awareness and interest through community education and encouragement activities
 - Ms. Lindholm is going to further investigate Safety Patrol program options
 - Push for an annual (and possibly monthly) Walk & Bike to School Day throughout the district
 - Reach out and develop a relationship with the new SRTS Coordinator

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.