



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

### **Minutes of the Monday, October 26, 2020 Meeting**

**Note – This meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams.**

**Members Present:** The members present were Michael Bates, Rebecca Green, Emma Lindholm, Jeannie Martin, Brian Meilton, Jordan Schweller, and Kelly Whalen.

City Support staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director), Dan Whited (Service & Engineering Director) and Celia Thornton were present. Larry Creed (EMH&T Engineer) and Brad Westall (City of Columbus Greenways Planner) presented. Also present were City Council Members Peter Bucher, Rachael Dorothy, Beth Kowalczyk and David Robinson.

Minutes from the September 28, 2020 meeting were approved by all.

**Bike Boulevard Presentation:** Mr. Hurley welcomed City Council members and Mr. Whited to the meeting. Mr. Whalen reminded the board and guests that bike boulevards are heavily featured in the City's Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan and that when it was adopted, there were questions by both the board and City Council as to what constituted a bike boulevard. This presentation is our first attempt to educate ourselves and answer those questions. Mr. Hurley shared that he was excited to do some education and to circle back to using the Master Plan as a guiding document. He reminded the board that bike boulevards are recommended in 16 out of 35 active transportation projects, and that they are recommended for 16 of the 18 Tier One, or most easily implemented, projects. Ms. Thornton then began the presentation with a National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) definition of a bike boulevard, types of bike riders, the best reasons for utilizing bike boulevards and a map of Worthington showing potential locations. Mr. Creed then began his portion of the presentation and spoke about the specific design elements that are used when creating bike boulevards. These are varied depending on the street, but usually focus on streets with low vehicular traffic and speed limits, and then add various engineering designs such as mini-circles, speed bumps, and chicanes. There are also specific techniques for crossing intersections and high-volume roads. After Mr. Creed answered a few questions, Mr. Hurley introduced Mr. Westall, who was invited to speak to the board about Columbus' experience and use of bike boulevards. Mr. Westall encouraged everyone to review the Clintonville Neighborhood Greenways website. That was a Clintonville resident driven project.

He finds projects are most successful when the residents understand how this benefits their neighborhood, and when the boulevards provide safe access to trails, schools and parks. Mr. Westall stressed that these treatments work best when they are part of an overall plan of networks that work together to provide alternative transportation options. The City should also be prepared to commit to doing the full treatment and network, and then to maintaining it over time. Ideal bike boulevard project candidates get people where they want to go- bus stops, access to other neighborhoods, trails, shopping districts, etc., and the last half mile is just as important as the overall project. In places like Northmoor Park, the boulevards change the expectations of drivers in those areas and vehicular traffic understands that bikers come first and motorists second. Mr. Westall then asked for questions. Ms. Dorothy asked about how he worked and coordinated with the Service Department. Mr. Whalen asked if driver mindsets seemed to shift on these streets, making it safer for bikers. Mr. Creed and Mr. Westall agreed that they did, and they gave some specific examples. Mr. Hurley asked about how the boulevards were perceived by neighbors and Mr. Westall said that they had mostly positive reactions and Mr. Creed said most he spoke with welcomed the traffic calming since it made it safer not only for bikers, but for children, joggers and dog walkers in the community as well.

**Board Member Introduction Round Table:** Since the board has added a few new members, some of which we have not had the chance to meet in person yet, Mr. Whalen asked each board member to introduce themselves and give a little background information.

**Project Funding Status / Pingree and 161 Crossing Project:** Mr. Hurley shared the good news that the Pingree/161 crossing has had its funding restored from the earlier freeze due to COVID financial impacts, and that City Council is restoring the boards remaining 2019 and 2020 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) funding. The crossing project will need to go back out to bid this winter and will be ready for construction next spring. Mr. Whited confirmed that the timing of spring is important, especially for the concrete island.

**November Project Prioritization Preview:** Ms. Thornton will be sending out last year's project prioritization chart so that board members can re-evaluate or reaffirm prioritization that was done last year. Mr. Whalen said he intends to dedicate November's meeting to the project prioritization process, focusing on 2021, and encouraged board members to bring new ideas. In January he would like to spend time prioritizing educational opportunities. He also reminded the board that there will be no meeting in December.

## **Updates:**

1. **Sunday Stroll & Roll Activity Recap** – Ms. Thornton shared that despite the weather and a global pandemic, she thought the activity was successful. The partners were happy with the opportunities it provided for them and all seemed eager to partner again in the future. She then asked the board members who volunteered to share their experiences. Ms. Martin and Mr. Bates both said they had some people stop by and that many people were curious. Mr. Bates thinks that if this became an annual event it could really grow and engage a lot more of the community.
2. **Middle School Building Project SRTS Re-engagement** – Mr. Hurley said that Ms. Horton had inquired about where the schools were with their redevelopment plans. Mr. Hurley believes the best way to stay involved and make sure that the boards' priorities are front and center is for the SRTS sub-committee to re-engage with the school board. Ms. Thornton will reach out to that group and begin to make plans to engage.

**3. Bike & Pedestrian Accommodations in Upcoming City Development Projects** – As new development occurs in the City, such as the mall or UMCH property, Mr. Hurley promised that he will work with Mr. Brown and will keep an eye out for where projects may intersect with board priorities, but he also asked board members to stay aware individually and bring any concerns back to the board, so he can pass them onto the appropriate City staff and we can work to try and engage in those development discussions. Mr. Bates shared that at a recent Architectural Review Board meeting, Council Member Myers specifically asked about bike and pedestrian accommodations on Wilson Bridge Road and Mr. Brown assured him that additional pedestrian accommodations would be added. He took that as a good sign that City Council members are also reviewing plans with these issues in mind.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.