



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

### **Minutes of the Monday, May 24, 2021 Meeting**

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

**Members Present:** The members present were Michael Bates, Rebecca Green, Ann Horton, Brian Meilton, Jordan Schweller and Kelly Whalen.

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

Minutes from the April 26, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Olentangy River Road Citizen Concerns:** Mr. Hurley reminded the group that the City had received resident crossing concerns on Olentangy River Road at Cambridge Crossing (south of S.R.161), and that Mr. Falcoski and others had attended previous meetings. The City has also received concerns about crossings at Plesenton Drive, Whieldon Lane and Robbins Way. Mr. Hurley brought up Google Maps so that the board could better see issues. All three crossings have older style yellow flashing light systems that can be activated by pedestrians wishing to cross. There is a more modern Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at Troon Trail. Soon after the crossing concerns were expressed there was an electrical surge on the light at Cambridge causing it to malfunction and flash continually until a repair part could be obtained, which further complicated the situation. The northern crosswalks have all been painted with piano keys to better highlight the crosswalks. The Cambridge crossing will also soon be painted and will be redone permanently when the street is repaved later in the year. There has been some discussion about upgrading the existing options versus replacing them with RRFBs. The function is very similar and so the City may opt to try upgrading existing lights first and monitor for improvement. Upgrades include LED lights, plastic heads, new controllers and new span wires for all of the flashers along this road. New signage has been added on posts pointing down to the crosswalk and crosswalk ahead warning signs have been added. A stealth stat has been employed at Cambridge to assess speeds and volume and will be up for 15 days to collect data (May 12-27). Mr. Meilton asked how the City knows if these improvements are successful. Mr. Hurley said that the stealth stat will be deployed again after all of the improvements have been made to see if there are changes to vehicular traffic behavior and will gather more feedback from residents.

**Street Improvement Program (SIP) Priorities:** Mr. Whalen referred the board to the SIP map and noted that it had been revised from the previous meeting, and that Highland Avenue and Caren Avenue have been removed. At the agenda meeting Mr. Whalen said that Mr. Bates had made the comment that we can use the Master Plan to get pretty close to a recommended Bike Boulevard treatment for specific streets. Mr. Hurley shared that thought process with Engineering and got some agreement that there might be some over analyzing, likely because this is still new to the City. Since the streets that called for bike boulevards had fallen off, it won't change anything this year, but is something we can keep in mind for future discussions. Mr. Whalen also confirmed that the thermoplastic sharrow road markings will be redone when Service repaves the 161 access road. Mr. Bates shared that a new group called Building Worthington's Future has created and presented a plan for a shared use path on the west side of High Street from The Shops At Worthington Place all the way down to S.R. 161 (and are calling it "The Worthington Mile"). Ms. Thornton and Mr. Hurley (and City staff) were unaware of this plan. Ms. Green had seen this information online as well and will email a links on it to board members.

**Stroll & Roll / Community Event Discussion:** Mr. Whalen led a brief discussion on ideas for this event. Mr. Hurley mentioned that the police were still interested in partnering on some type of Bike Rodeo with the board if there was interest. After several ideas had been aired it was determined that a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Bates, Mr. Whalen, Mr. Schweller and possibly Ms. Green would continue to refine ideas for this event into a plan. Mr. Schweller also said it would be nice to get a tour of what was happening on the Perry/Phoenix Middle School property. Mr. Hurley promised to get an update and see about the possibility of a tour.

#### **Updates:**

1. **Project Studies/Assessments** – The Pingree/161 work is complete as far as it can be. The City is still waiting for the mast arms to be shipped. On Linworth Road counts are currently being conducted, mostly at Collins Drive, but also at Linworth Park. Columbus will share the results with the City sometime in June/July and then they will be passed to the board for a recommendation. At that time we can also have a discussion regarding paying for the projects.
2. **Request For Proposal (RFP) For Design Services** – Ms. Thornton has written the RFP and selected five firms to send it to. The City will then begin the interview process and ask for approval from City Council. Mr. Hurley hopes to have a firm on board by early fall. Mr. Schweller asked what the board's role was in this process. After the City has an agreement with the firm, the board will help prioritize projects with the firm and make recommendations to City Council regarding the work. The firm will also be responsible for up to four education sessions with the board per year.
3. **West Worthington Working Group** – Mr. Schweller shared that he had had a nice meeting the previous Thursday with the City's Engineering staff. They had been helpful in answering some questions and looked at maps to help determine which ideas might be more feasible than others as far as connections were concerned. He thinks this might be a great opportunity for the new consultants to get some ideas and estimated costs down on paper in order to move some ideas forward. Mr. Whalen asked how the meeting was left with Engineering. Mr. Hurley said he realizes it's frustrating because they are so busy and there are also funding issues, but he said Engineering is open to the ideas and suggest that the new consultant should take a look and scope some ideas to bring back to them. Mr. Hurley also spoke with Mr. Whited later about the fact that now that the Master Plan is finished and

the board is in the implementation phase we need to get him more connected. Mr. Bates asked how involved Engineering is in Parks Commission projects and Mr. Hurley replied that they don't need to be since he and parks staff are more comfortable with those types of projects.

#### 4. **Other**

- Mr. Whalen asked for an update from the SRTS sub-committee, and there wasn't much to report other than that they are interested in partnering with the board next fall for a "Walk To School" event.
- Mr. Whalen suggested that perhaps it was time for another education topic for the board.
- Mr. Whalen asked Mr. Hurley when the City expected to move back to in-person meetings, or whether the board could hold an outdoor walking audit meeting in place of a Teams Meeting? Mr. Hurley said that he expects that meetings will be back in-person beginning in July. He said if the board is interested staff can plan an outdoor meeting for June or July and the board could pick a focus area to look at.
- Mr. Hurley shared that Ms. Martin, an original Steering Committee member who has been a great asset to this board, has decided that with her current job she must resign her position on the board. He highlighted that she deserves a lot of credit and recognition for her work on this board, including lobbying him (as a new director) to create a board like this- she was instrumental in its creation. He thanked her for sharing her passion, technical knowledge and time with this board.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.