



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, July 26, 2021, Meeting

Note – This meeting consisted of a Bus Tour to potential project locations along Linworth Road, Morning Street, and High Street.

Members Present: The members present were Michael Bates, Danielle Davis-Roe, Rebecca Green, Ann Horton, Brian Iarocci, Brian Meilton, Jordan Schweller and Kelly Whalen.

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

Minutes from the June 28, 2021, meeting were approved by all present, with the new members abstaining.

Bus Tour / Walking Audit: Board members met at the Community Center at 6 p.m. and boarded the bus for a tour of prospective project sites or areas of concern on Linworth Road, Morning Street and High Street at the Larrimer Ave. crossing. On the ride the two new board members (Ms. Davis-Roe and Mr. Iarocci) were introduced. The bus headed first to the Linworth Road / Collins Drive intersection which connects a Columbus neighborhood to Perry Park and a Worthington neighborhood with a path to the Olentangy Trail. Mr. Hurley shared that Worthington had put out stealth stats for speed information and Columbus did an engineering study in the area that would be available at the next meeting. This intersection is currently not lined and there are no lights signaling pedestrian crossing. The speed limit is 35 miles per hour, but residents report that cars often exceed the speed limit. Board members noticed that there were transit stops both north and south of the intersection (COTA Green Route 74), adding to pedestrian needs. They also noticed that all corners needed ADA curb ramp improvements and that the sidewalk on the east side in the Columbus neighborhood (where the road name changes to Loch Ness Ave.) had sidewalk that stopped several feet short of the road. The sidewalk was in need of repair with some of it uneven and broken with a four-inch change in elevation. The bus then drove the route to Perry Park before heading to Linworth Park. There is a similar crossing situation at Linworth Park with residents not having a safe way for children from the neighborhood (Beechview Drive) to cross Linworth Road to the park. The sight distance criteria should increase the treatment on this section of road (there are slight hills on both side of the crossing that prevent a clear view of crossing pedestrians by drivers until too late if exceeding speed limit). Ms. Horton asked if Ms. Thornton could find the original schematic from when Cheryl Graffagnino had presented to the

board on this intersection several years ago. Ms. Thornton said she'd try. The board then got back on the bus and drove to Hartford Park to look at a sidewalk gap in front of 824 Morning Street. A public request had been made stating that this missing link made it difficult for a resident's elderly mother, who lives near this address, to walk where she needs to go (do to sight and balance issues). There used to be a large tree, which has since come down in a storm, that made completing the sidewalk gap difficult. This is the only section missing on this side of the street and is a key segment of walkability to the library, Kilbourne Middle School, low-income senior housing, and downtown Worthington. Ms. Horton asked Mr. Hurley to explain the City's sidewalk policy and its challenges for the benefit of the new members. The board then proceeded to City Hall and got out to look at the High Street / Larrimer Avenue crossing (which will affect middle school students beginning in the fall of 2021 due to redistricting), and to discuss the Worthington Mile proposal while viewing High Street. During the bus ride the process of how the agenda is set each month was explained to the new board members, and the following updates were given.

Updates:

1. **Request For Proposal (RFP) For Design Services** – Mr. Hurley shared that Toole Design had been chosen by a panel of City Staff to act as consultants for the board. In this capacity they will provide scoping of projects, ideas for pilot projects, and board/Council training, among other duties.
2. **Stroll & Roll Event** – Ms. Thornton shared that the sub-committee had met and had chosen locations, date, and a time for the fall event. The group also discussed vendors and volunteers who could potentially partner on the event. She promised to share that information with the board in an email and asked everyone to please consider volunteering.
3. **Family Bike Ride Event** – Mr. Whalen, Mr. Bates and Ms. Horton had volunteered to work a table representing the board at the Family Bike Ride event held at the Olentangy Parklands. The event had small but steady numbers of people come through and they did have some people who were interested in Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Board activities. They also received one comment of concern about the steepness of the trail grade at S.R. 161 and S.R. 315 on the northeast corner, and requested the board look at improvements to that area.

Other

- Mr. Whalen explained to the new board members that this item on the agenda is a chance for members to ask questions or bring up ideas that aren't on the agenda.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.