



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, August 23, 2021, Meeting

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

Guests Larry Guglielmi (of Lakeside Circle Dr.) and Council Member Rachael Dorothy also attended the meeting, along with City Staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton.

Minutes from the July 26, 2021, meeting were approved by all present, with a change to the hyphen in Ms. DavisRoe's last name.

Visitor Comments: Mr. Guglielmi is a new resident and just wanted to attend and listen.

Linworth Road Crossing Recommendations: Mr. Hurley introduced Mr. Whited, the City's Engineer, and recapped the history of the Linworth Road crossing opportunities and how they became project priorities. Covid-19 created some delays, which turned out to be lucky. Columbus reached out to Worthington early last spring and offered to fund and complete a study of the crossings as they had received some concerns about the crossing at Collins Drive as well. They began the study in May of 2021. Columbus could not attend this evening's meeting, but Mr. Hurley and Mr. Whited reviewed the study information (included in packet) and Columbus' improvement recommendations and met with Columbus engineers to discuss. Columbus suggested that both crossings warrant Level 1 improvements which are marked crosswalks without signalization, but would be willing to upgrade them to Level 2, which includes high visibility crosswalks with signage and sidewalk extensions with improved curb ramps. The intersections do not reach their criteria for signalized Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) or other signalized crossings. Columbus indicated they try to stay consistent throughout the City of Columbus and only place them where warranted because they fear over saturation will lead to driver fatigue and they will no longer yield as they are designed. Mr. Whited was comfortable with the elevated Level 2 proposal and also thought that enhanced pedestrian level lighting should be added. Mr. Hurley stated that tonight was to gather initial reactions and for asking questions. He also asked that board members keep in mind that this is a partnership with Columbus as part of the northern intersection is theirs and we will need to work together. Ms. Horton called attention to the 43 mile per hour average speed.

She believes this may be an enforcement issue and is concerned about middle school age children who may use these crossings to get to Perry Middle School. Ms. Horton also was surprised that there was no acknowledgement of the bus stops present and accessibility issues for those users. Mr. Bates asked if all Linworth Road was in Worthington's jurisdiction. Mr. Whited replied that yes, it was. Mr. Bates then asked if some type of traffic calming could be considered as an additional solution. Mr. Hurley asked if he had anything particular in mind and Mr. Bates said something that gave the illusion of the road being narrower to slow people down, rather than the current feel which encourages speeding. Ms. Dorothy liked Mr. Bates' comments and suggested curb extensions or chicanes as options. Mr. Whited said that maintenance needed to be a consideration and he suggested street trees as a possibility. Mr. Hurley thought that Toole Design could be helpful in reviewing Columbus' recommendations and possibly suggesting a temporary project in the area. Mr. Schweller said that the feedback he's received from the neighborhood was that the RRFB is the level of service they're hoping for at the Collins intersection. Mr. Iarocci asked if there was data that showed that Columbus' reasoning was sound for not putting in an RRFB? Mr. Whited cited National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommendations and understands that if we put high level treatments at lower level intersections, then people begin to ignore them. He said there is justification to use these tools carefully. He also stated that we could start with the Columbus recommendations and see how well it works. Additional pieces could be added if they still seemed warranted as none of the prescribed work in Columbus' recommendation would have to be undone if later we upgraded the crossing further. Ms. Horton said she didn't want to lose Columbus' support as a partner and would rather the process didn't get too bogged down in details that it stalled entirely. Ms. Thornton reminded the board that students on the east side of Linworth are bussed to Kilbourne Middle School and that only a few Phoenix students might use the crossing to get to school, so it's not a major route to school for children. Mr. Bates asked what the board's options were at this point. Mr. Hurley said that the board could request Columbus to come to a meeting, the City could assess internal options (further staff research) or it could request that Toole Design take a look at the findings and either confirm them or make other recommendations. Mr. Whited liked the idea of having Toole review the data and recommendations and have them give their thoughts. Mr. Hurley said he was hearing enough concern that he felt that this process deserved a little more time. He asked for any other thoughts, so they could be passed on to Toole Design, and said that he would bring this back to the board the following month. Columbus thought that Beechview was similar enough to the Collins crossing that they recommended the same treatment at this crossing. Columbus didn't spend as much time at this intersection. Worthington did set up the stealth stat to collect speed data there after a resident concern recently so that data was used by Columbus and available to the board.

Stroll & Roll Event Update and Volunteer Sign-Up: Ms. Thornton updated the board on the parks included in the event, the give away items that she was planning on ordering (reflective bike wheel spoke wraps, spoke beads, and bike lights) and various vendors that had been contacted to participate in the event. She also gave out a draft route of the map and asked for thoughts and suggestions. Finally, she shared the marketing plan and said that she would be reaching out by email for volunteers to work the event.

Consultant Services Prioritization: Mr. Hurley said that the City has contracted with Toole Design to help the board scope projects from the bike and pedestrian master plan and move them forward. They will be contracted to assist with five projects and multiple education sessions. Ms. Thornton recirculated the board's priorities that had been identified for 2021. The board can continue discussing these priorities in upcoming meetings.

Updates:

1. **Pingree and 161 Crossing Project** – Mr. Hurley said that the mast arm had finally arrived and he's hopeful that the project will be completed in five to six weeks. Construction should begin soon. Mr. Whalen asked if the issues at the one corner were going to be addressed and Mr. Hurley replied that they would be resolved as part of the project.
2. **Other** – Mr. Hurley shared an email with the board from Mr. Seth Cramer regarding various sidewalk gaps in Old Worthington and the need for them to be addressed.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.