



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, October 25, 2021, Meeting

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

Toole Design Group's Tobi Otulana attended, along with City Staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton.

Minutes from the September 27, 2021, meeting were approved by all present, with one correction by Kelly Whalen. In the "Other" category change Holiday Inn property to Worthington Gateway or former Holiday Inn property.

Linworth Road Crossing Review & Recommendations (Toole Design): Mr. Hurley gave an overview of the discussion with Toole from the September meeting. After hearing the board's concerns Toole Design looked more closely at the Collins Drive crossing. After consultation with their traffic engineer and further review of study documentation, Toole does believe it's appropriate to add advanced yield markings (also known as "shark teeth") and supporting signage 100 feet out from the intersection. They believe that this will help address speeding concerns. This type of modification has been shown to help reduce pedestrian/vehicle crashes by 25%. The board had expressed interest in an RRFB (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon). Ms. Otulana shared the criteria for use, which includes:

- Speed (posted and actual)
- Space for a median
- Visibility
- Number of traffic lanes
- Context of the intersection
- Pedestrian volumes

Taking all of these into consideration, along with other City locations of RRFB's, Toole does not recommend an RRFB at this location. Ms. Horton asked for some clarification about the standards and what neighbors want. Mr. Hurley stated that the board has gotten the opinion of two outside engineering teams along with our internal Engineer and all of them agree that this intersection doesn't meet the standards for an RRFB. Mr. Schweller said he knows neighbors will be

disappointed. Ms. Horton followed up asking about curb extensions or other traffic calming options. Mr. Hurley said those were still future possibilities. Ms. Horton then asked Ms. Otulana about the brick pavers she's seeing used in crossings around Columbus, including in front of Bluffsvue Elementary, and wondered if there was data or specific reasons for using them. Ms. Otulana was not aware of any additional safety benefits and thinks they're probably used for aesthetic reasons although in some applications they might be more noticeable than just paint. She did site some concerns in their use for low vision users and mentioned they can become maintenance issues. She offered to do some further research. Mr. Whalen asked if Toole was recommending the same treatment at both the Beechview and Collins crossings. Mr. Hurley said yes to make them consistent for drivers and pedestrians along the same corridor. Ms. Horton then asked about sidewalk extensions at the Collins crossing, particularly on the Columbus side and there was some discussion around this. Mr. Hurley said the next step for the board was to either make a recommendation moving forward based on Toole's suggestions, or to go back to Columbus stating their continued concerns with the crossing recommendations and discuss how to proceed. Mr. Schweller made a motion recommending implementation of the two Linworth crossing improvements at Collins and Beechview as recommended by Toole Design, to include the upgraded crossings originally proposed by the City of Columbus with the addition of advanced warning signage and inclusion of the shark tooth pavement markings. The motion was seconded by Ms. Horton and approved unanimously.

Project Scoping and Prioritization (Toole Design): Mr. Hurley said that the second reason Ms. Otulana was invited to our meeting this evening was to assist us in preparing for our Project Prioritization meeting in November. Ms. Thornton had supplied Toole with past project lists and accomplishments. Ms. Otulana didn't want to reinvent the wheel, so based their work on the Master Plan and other past board prioritization. The Toole team grouped recommendations into projects and sorted them loosely based on cost (low, mid, high). The considerations for prioritization included: 2019 Master Plan priority, cost, level of traffic stress (LTS), connectivity, active transportation demand (meaning connection to points of interest, such as schools, libraries, retail, etc.). Ms. Otulana said that this is a data-based way to prioritize projects, and then the board can filter it using a qualitative lens. The suggestion was that both the board and Toole create their own lists and then a comparison can be done to see where crossover occurs. Mr. Hurley reminded the board that one of the benefits of Toole is to help us scope projects as needed.

Sidewalk Gap Recommendation Follow Up / Next Steps: Mr. Whalen took the board's recommendation to City Council and there was a lot of discussion. The first part of the Council meeting had been discussions on City Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). After hearing all the proposed projects that needed funding, Mr. Whalen felt a little guilty requesting another \$200,000 for sidewalk gap projects. Mr. Hurley said that Mr. Whalen had done an excellent job of making it clear that the board doesn't want to take on sidewalk policy making in the City, but that it's just interested in a program that would close clear sidewalk gaps as identified in the Master Plan. He also said that funding would be provided by the city if the board can come up with a sidewalk gap pilot project. Ms. Horton would like some criteria to use to help board members prioritize gaps. Mr. Hurley reminded the board of gaps raised by residents. It was decided that Ms. Thornton would try to come up with some criteria and send it to the board prior to the November meeting. Mr. Whalen suggested that we prioritize all the gaps into a list and then move down it. He's gone and looked at various gaps around the city and some look easy to accomplish, and others look very difficult. More discussion and brainstorming occurred. Ms. Horton asked about getting the city to promote or recognize this and other work (before and after pictures, etc.). Mr. Hurley said that was a good idea and he would like to do something to celebrate the completion of the Pingree crossing.

Updates:

1. **Pingree and 161 Crossing** – Mr. Hurley said the project is still moving forward, though more slowly than everyone would prefer. The refuge island has been constructed. Engineering has a meeting with the construction firm and when he gets the newest timeline, he will forward that to the board. The final piece will be deciding how to highlight and celebrate this accomplishment.
2. **November Planning Session** – Mr. Whalen reminded all board members to bring their project ideas for 2022 to the November meeting. One thing he is considering is a bike rack inventory. Mr. Hurley said that the board will go through its normal planning process for the following year in November, and then we can share it with Toole, who will simultaneously be creating their own data driven weighting process for projects. What is different this year is that Toole can help the board decide what comes next after prioritization so that projects can keep moving forward, whether that is a study, design work, etc. Mr. Hurley also reminded the board that its CIP allotment is \$150,000 (rather than \$100,000) and in two years will go up to \$250,000. However, it's been Mr. Hurley's experience that if we can start identifying solid projects, we can start asking for their funding separately and not just lump sum amounts. That may help us more projects more quickly and obtain additional funding. Mr. Schweller asked if Toole could help with grant writing. Mr. Hurley said they can assist with that, though Ms. Thornton can also apply for applicable project grants. Mr. Schweller would like to know grant options and application dates for available funds.
3. **Other** – Mr. Hurley shared that one of the successes of the board has been getting him a seat on the City's Safety Committee (which meets quarterly). He shared that there had been a near miss between a motorist and a bicyclist at the Olentangy Parklands crossing. The crossing is being evaluated and a crosswalk and other improvements are being implemented. Ms. Thornton shared that PHB (Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon) education will be going on in certain communities in Franklin County soon. She's heard through MORPC that Worthington's Police Department was taking part in this but has not been able to confirm. Ms. Horton would like to make sure that the board's comments regarding construction phases get to Worthington school administrators and are taken into plan considerations.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.