



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, November 22, 2021, Meeting

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

Minutes from the October 25, 2021, meeting were approved by all except Rebecca Green who abstained.

Sidewalk Gap Prioritization: Mr. Whalen reminded the board that City Council had charged the board to find a way to prioritize sidewalk gap projects. Ms. Thornton attempted to prioritize the projects using a matrix she created from some online resources and shared the results with the board and tried to explain her reasoning. She scored all the gap projects based on the following criteria: safety, proximity to schools, proximity to community destinations, proximity to parks, proximity to transit, relative cost, and ease of implementation. Mr. Whalen felt that ease of implementation should have been weighted more heavily. Mr. Bates wanted to know which streets had resident requests tied to them. Mr. Schweller said that we should prioritize projects first that don't have any pedestrian accommodations on either side of the street. There was also some discussion about leveraging development and making sure that adequate accommodations are going in during building. Ms. DavisRoe proposed that we work with the schools to get a sidewalk around Hartford Park. Ms. Green suggested that projects number nine and ten should be put on hold and not funded until we see what's needed. They are in the Stafford Village area and it's currently in flux. The board had some further debate over the pros and cons of various sites and looked at aerial images on-line of some of the gaps. Mr. Whalen and Mr. Bates had also walked and taken pictures of many of the gaps and shared the pictures and their thoughts with the board. Mr. Bates said that many of the residents on Oxford Street expressed strong opinions against filling in the sidewalks. The reasons weren't just the cost, but also the maintenance (snow, tree roots, etc.). Mr. Hurley suggested that if the board would prioritize a few this evening, then staff could reach out and see which residents are or are not in favor of having a sidewalk added on their property. The board chose the following gaps (numbers are from the original gap list, not the prioritized one):

1. #5 Morning Street
2. #9 and #10 Hartford Street
3. #18 Morning Street

4. #1 Caren Ave.
5. #31 Park Boulevard

Mr. Hurley said that in January staff would try to come back with some additional information including challenges on each of these prioritized gaps.

2022 Project Prioritization: Mr. Hurley said the goal for this evening is to come up with a list of prioritized 2022 projects which can be compared to Toole's list of suggested projects in January, when the final list can be created. Mr. Whalen shared his spreadsheet and thought process for adding projects from last year's list of ideas. Mr. Whalen and Mr. Bates suggested moving the addition of more bike racks citywide up on the list for 2022. Mr. Bates then asked what the recommendation had been for Foster Ave. after the trial projects. Mr. Hurley said that chicanes were the only item tried that had impacted speed. This was recommended to the resident group, but he doesn't know where this is at now. The board could decide to engage in it and add it to the 5-point intersection project. The board then briefly discussed a study for the S.R. 161/S.R. 315 intersection. Mr. Hurley is aware that the new members of the board may not be aware of the five jurisdictional study that was completed a few years ago, but that he could ask Ms. Stewart (Assistant City Manager) to attend a meeting and explain the findings. Mr. Schweller said that if the 161/Linworth intersection is due to be updated in the next few years, then that is more reason to consider doing a study on a multiuse path along Linworth from Snouffer to S.R. 161. Mr. Schweller then asked what was going on with the Rapid 5 project. Mr. Hurley said that Rapid 5 will be forming a non-profit to fund raise to achieve the vision. There was further discussion and prioritizing with the board's top 5 projects being:

1. Plan/scope 161/315 highway corridor for better bike and pedestrian access and experience
2. Plan/scope 5-point intersection crossing at Foster Ave. and Park Blvd.
3. Plan/scope a multiuse path on Linworth Road from Snouffer to S.R. 161
4. Add bike racks to City areas and advocate for them at schools/businesses
5. Add a multiuse path on the north side of S.R.161 from Evening Street to S.R. 315

There were an additional two projects added as possibilities along with the sidewalk gaps. Mr. Hurley reminded the group that Toole will be an asset with their ability to help us scope large projects and at least figure out how difficult or what it would take to accomplish them, which is the first step.

Updates:

1. **Pingree and 161 Crossing** – The City has compiled feedback from residents on how the crossing is working and has passed that feedback along to DLZ. It seems to be working well for residents wishing to cross but has received some negative feedback from drivers. For now, there are orange barrels up to create awareness and add visibility for drivers, and the city is considering if it is necessary to add more permanent visibility. Otherwise, except for adding some solar panels, the project is complete. Mr. Bates expressed some concern about how to re-start the beacon if pedestrians get stuck during crossing and the flashing stopped.
2. **Linworth Road Crossings** – Mr. Hurley had an update meeting with the City Engineer on the crossings. Currently the City is working on an inner-governmental agreement with the City of Columbus. It seems like Columbus may do the one at Collins Drive and the City of Worthington may complete the one at Beechview Drive. Both would have the same treatment.
3. **Alternative Transportation and Trail Grants** – Ms. Thornton handed out a list she'd compiled of seven known regularly funded, alternative transportation grants. She said that some of these are a good fit for projects listed in the Master Plan. She is also happy to research other grant opportunities for specific projects.

4. **Other** – Mr. Hurley reminded the board that there is no December meeting.

Ms. DavisRoe brought up an issue she'd seen in Worthington. She saw a biker riding the sidewalk past Dairy Queen and the biker had one of those 3-foot bars attached to the back of their bike. The bar is intended to remind drivers to give bikers three feet when passing, but in this case was hitting pedestrians trying to use the sidewalk. There was some discussion around it. It is legal to ride bikes on Worthington sidewalks, but obviously pedestrians have the right of way and bikers should yield to them.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.