



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, April 25, 2022, Meeting

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

City staff members Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton (Project Supervisor) were also present, along with resident Rachael Dorothy.

Minutes from the March 28, 2022, meeting were approved by all present, with Kelly Whalen abstaining.

Visitor Comments: Mr. Meilton welcomed Ms. Dorothy to the meeting and asked if she had any comments she would like to share with the board. Ms. Dorothy shared positive comments on how well the new Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB) was working at Pingree and S.R. 161.

Swearing in of New Members: Members Danielle DavisRoe and Brian Iarocci, who joined the board when virtual meetings were being held due to Covid, were sworn in.

Bike and Pedestrian Funding Balance 2019-2022: Mr. Hurley passed out and reviewed the board's funding status from 2019 to present (included in file packet). At this point the board has a remaining balance of \$295,000 (minus the Linworth Crossing project costs).

Linworth Crossing Projects: The board is already implementing two improved crossings on Linworth Road and Mr. Hurley gave a brief update. At the Collins Drive location, the City of Columbus will put in an enhanced crosswalk with some additional sidewalk and curb ramps. Further south at Beechview Drive, the City's engineering consultant recommended a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) with a crosswalk, which the City of Worthington will install. Mr. Hurley brought up a schematic of the design showing the crosswalk, which had been pushed slightly north to avoid a utility access hole and for better sightlines of pedestrians for drivers. The only downside is that it will cost a little more than previously projected. Mr. Hurley then informed the board that Linworth Baptist Church had purchased land for additional parking on the opposite side of Linworth Road, which means they need a way to get people safely across the road. They have been working with the city on a design and a crosswalk with RRFB will be installed at this

location (just north of S.R. 161). Ms. Horton voiced her concern about the 35-mph speed on Linworth Road. Mr. Meilton was concerned about whether the Linworth Baptist Church crossing would create a backup on S.R. 161 from turning vehicles. Mr. Schweller thinks that now that there are two RRFB's on Linworth, it strengthens the case for one at the Collins Drive location. Mr. Hurley reminded the board that four different engineers (the City of Worthington Engineer, Toole Design, City of Columbus Engineering Department and CT Engineers) had reviewed the intersection, and none felt as strongly about a RRFB at Collins Drive. Mr. Hurley then explained the inner-governmental agreement with the City of Columbus and showed a schematic of the intersection. The city will pay under \$6,000; the City of Columbus will pay approximately \$10,000 and Worthington's Service Department will paint and add signage. There was further discussion about the addition of an RRFB at Collins Drive. Mr. Hurley said he does not have the qualifications to recommend something different than the engineers involved in the project. He understands that instinct is telling some board members that an RRFB is needed but suggests that the board approve the install as agreed with Columbus and then we can monitor the situation. Ms. Green asked what data CT Consultants used to make their determination that an RRFB was warranted at Beechview Drive. Mr. Hurley said they had used the same data that had been previously collected and utilized. Mr. Meilton asked what the next step was. Mr. Hurley said this will go into Columbus' Street Improvement Program and will be completed sometime this summer. Mr. Whalen thinks the board will hear about the lack of an RRFB from residents, especially now that two are being installed further south on the same road. Ms. Horton asked about opportunities to educate the public on these crossings (and how to safely use them from both a pedestrian and driver perspective). Mr. Hurley said he and Ms. Thornton had spoken to Toole this week about "pop-up" education with the community. If there is a consensus around this, rather than bike boulevards, Toole can do it. Ms. Green then asked what Mr. Hurley needed from the board. He said it would be good for the board to make a motion to move forward as recommended on these crossings, particularly on the Beechview crossing since there was a change to that one. Ms. Horton recommended that the board keep things moving forward and made a motion to accept the crossings as proposed. Ms. DavisRoe seconded the motion, and it was approved by all. Mr. Hurley asked if anyone wanted to propose a motion to oppose moving forward on just the Collins Drive intersection. No one proposed such a motion.

Toole Design Project Update and Prioritization: Mr. Hurley shared that Toole Design is scoping the board's priority projects and we expect to get a technical memo with recommendations by the May or June meeting. He and Ms. Thornton have also spoken with them about a June training session on Bicycle Boulevards. Staff from Service & Engineering as well as City Council members would be invited to attend. Ms. Horton request that the training be recorded as a resource for future trainings. Mr. Hurley said staff would ask Toole about the option of recording the session or making it a hybrid meeting.

Summer/Fall Events and Activities: Ms. Thornton asked board members to consider various days/dates/routes for the fall Stroll & Roll event. There was discussion around linking it to another city event (in the hopes of getting more participation). Routes and length were also discussed. Ms. Thornton said she would send out an email with potential dates and include other regional and City event information. The board can have further discussion via email and then the sub-committee can work on the rest of the details and bring them back to the board for final approval.

Updates:

1. **Family Fun Ride Award** – Mr. Hurley shared that the Family Fun Ride, which some board members had volunteered at, had won an Ohio Parks & Recreation Association award in the Law Enforcement category (since it was a partnership with Worthington Police Department).
2. **SRTS Updates** – Ms. Thornton shared that at the direction of the Worthington School Board she was contacted by Tim Gehring (Director of Facilities Management) to begin initiating Safe Routes to School discussions between the school district and the city. Mr. Gehring has also engaged Toole Design to help them navigate the process and help them create a school travel plan. The first infrastructure project will be to pave a path and improve some connections around Perry Middle School.
3. **Melbourne/River lea Connection Follow Up Scheduling** – Mr. Hurley said the city will try to move this forward and that it will be on a future agenda. City staff will bring back options and pricing to the board, and then the board can decide how this project fits in with all their other priorities.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.