



## **WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Minutes of the Monday, May 23, 2022, Meeting**

**Members Present:** The members present were Danielle DavisRoe, Rebecca Green, Ann Horton, Brian Iarocci, and Brian Meilton.

City staff members Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton (Project Supervisor) were also present, along with resident Paula Sauer (379 Pittsfield Drive).

Minutes from the April 25, 2022, meeting were approved by all present.

**Visitor Comments:** Ms. Davis Roe welcomed Ms. Sauer to the meeting and invited her to speak. Ms. Sauer thanked the board for allowing her time to speak and shared that she lives where Northland Road dead ends into Pittsfield Drive. She and her husband allow children from the neighborhood to cut through their yard and the woods behind their property so that they can more easily get from one side of the block/neighborhood to the other (terminates in E. North Street). She said it is tricky to walk through the area and asked the board to consider someday putting in an improved path. She realizes that this would require an easement agreement with neighbors but thinks it would be very nice for children to have this cut-through and thought it should be added to the project list of bike and pedestrian planning. She and her husband are moving to Kentucky in July, which is why she wanted to bring it to the attention of the city. Mr. Iarocci asked how many people use the path on average. Ms. Sauer said it ebbs and flows, but that there are two boys who use it regularly and one mom with two children who uses it to walk her children to school. Sometimes there are as many as six children using it at a time. Mr. Hurley shared that he, Mr. Brown (Planning & Building) and Mr. Tennant (Service) had met with her previously from an easement standpoint and that it presents challenges in terms of right of way as there is not an obvious or direct cut-through but that there are some benefits to being able to shorten the walk. Ms. DavisRoe said that the house has already sold, and that it would be nice to find a cut through from North Street to E. Clearview that is an even longer block to go around and theoretically is a route for children to walk to school. Mr. Hurley said staff could take some pictures of the area and Ms. Thornton could add it to her plan under "gaps" so it would not be forgotten.

**Stroll & Roll Event Planning:** Ms. Thornton reminded the board that she had forwarded some preliminary route ideas suggested by Mr. Iarocci. The current plan is to plan our event to coincide

with the Worthington Partnership's Oktoberfest Event on Sunday, September 25. Oktoberfest goes from noon to 6 p.m. and the board thought their event could run from noon to 2 p.m. The suggested route utilizes several of the board's crossing devices, does not include any hills, is shorter than last year's route and incorporates the library, Pingree Park, East Granville Park and the Village Green. The library, police, fire department, and Toole Design were identified as partners and spray chalk along the route was also suggested to help users find their way. Then the board discussed spray painting actual bike boulevard markings along Stafford. Ms. DavisRoe offered to update the City's bike parking map. Ms. Thornton is going to try and find the one created originally by Sustainable Worthington and see if the Worthington Partnership has a map.

**Sidewalk Pilot:** Mr. Hurley reviewed the background on sidewalk gaps including the fall discussion with City Council requesting additional funding for a sidewalk gap program and Council's direction to try a pilot project utilizing bike and pedestrian funds. He is reaching out to the neighbors where we want to construct sidewalk by a letter which will hopefully be followed by conversations. He updated the board that Worthington Schools met with the city and the schools are interested in improving Hartford Park, including a path along the south side of the park providing a more direct connection coming from the east.

#### **Updates:**

1. **Toole Education Session (June)** – Toole is scheduled to give an education session on Bike Boulevards to the board and others at the June meeting. Staff will invite City Council and Service and Engineering staff and will assess what capability Toole has to record the session for later viewing.
2. **Perry School Connections** – Ms. Thornton reminded the board that at our last meeting she'd shared that the school district is now interested in pursuing Safe Routes To School and that they are also working with Toole Design to develop a travel plan. Before even finishing the travel plan, they are going to make some immediate improvements around Perry Middle School so that students can better access the school by walking and biking. However, they are not going to complete the multi-use path directly in front of the school's property, due to funding, but they are making other on-street improvements and connections into the back of the school property. That trail is more useful to other users trying to go across the front of the school rather than being useful to students trying to get to school. Ms. Horton pointed out that from a school safety perspective having that trail in place acts as a boundary and allows the public to pass by rather than being drawn further onto school property, so it does indirectly benefit students and administrators.
3. **Linworth Road Projects** – The City of Columbus has begun work at the Linworth and Collins Drive intersection.
4. **Melbourne/Riverlea Connection** – The Service Department has been physically observing and monitoring the drainage of this area and Ms. Thornton is staying in communication with the residents. Once the City has determined what the drainage recommendations are, they will update the board. At that point, the board can prioritize the connection and staff can get a cost estimate. Due to June's training, this item will not be discussed again until July.
5. **Other** – Mr. Hurley shared that MORPC Attributable Funding is opening another cycle which will accept stand-alone bicycle and pedestrian projects and the city is considering applying. This is the same funding that is paying for the northeast gateway. Ms. Horton asked about the lack of trees in the northeast gateway, especially along the trail. Mr. Hurley assured her that the Arbor Advisory Board is looking at a plan for that area. Ms. Thornton shared that anyone could donate a tree to be planted in that area through the Worthington Park Improvement Fund. Ms. Green gave the board a brief update on a LinkUS COTA meeting

that she attended. More information can be found on their website at <https://linkuscolumbus.com/>.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.