



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, June 27, 2022, Meeting

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

City staff members Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director), Robyn Stewart (Assistant City Manager), John Moorehead (Service & Engineering Director) and Celia Thornton (Project Supervisor) were present. Also present were Council Member Beth Kowalczyk, Tobi Otulana (Planner, Toole Design), Mariel Colman (Project Engineer & Planner, Toole Design), and resident Rachael Dorothy.

Minutes from the May 23, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved.

Bicycle Boulevard Education Session with Toole Design: Ms. Green welcomed visitors and guests and introduced Ms. Otulana and her co-worker, Ms. Colman, who joined the meeting remotely through Microsoft Teams. Ms. Otulana gave a brief overview of the presentation and explanation of what would be covered, including what bicycle boulevards are, who benefits, implementation, examples from other cities, and how they could be adapted in Worthington. The presentation was video recorded for future use and is available upon request. Some of the highlights included: that while all roads are available to bicyclists, bike boulevards set expectations for speed and volume, which allow for a safer and more comfortable experience by bikers; every bike boulevard will be unique, and design will depend on the individual road characteristics; the board should use events and partnerships to encourage network use. At the end of the presentation, Ms. Otulana provided time for questions. Board members asked some questions about specific Worthington locations that are on their 2022 project list including the Colonial Hills 5-point intersection, S.R. 161/ S.R. 315 crossing, and Highland Avenue. There was some discussion with input from Mr. Moorehead regarding standards and how they complement complete streets. Ms. Colman recommended demonstration projects for a day or weekend, or short-term implementation projects, in certain locations to get community buy-in. Ms. Kowalczyk asked about how to educate residents in how to properly use bike boulevards. Ms. Thornton mentioned that we have a fall partnership with Worthington Library to do a book display highlighting bike and pedestrian topics and that community rides, like Stroll & Roll, may be able to help with this

concern. Mr. Hurley assured the board that Toole can come to a future meeting for more in-depth discussion on individual projects.

Introduction of John Moorehead, City Engineer and Service/Engineering Director: Mr. Hurley introduced the new City Engineer, John Moorehead. Mr. Moorehead said that he was glad the city had a board like this one focused on improving bike and pedestrian access and use. Mr. Moorehead is also a biker; he lives in Worthington Estates and used to commute up to the City of Powell by bike for work. He looks forward to working with this board on future ideas and projects.

Sidewalk Gap Pilot Outreach Update: Mr. Hurley has sent four letters out to residents with sidewalk gaps as previously discussed and prioritized by the board. He sent them about a week and a half ago and hasn't heard anything yet but is still hoping for some response. If no one responds, he will find another way to reach out.

Updates:

1. **Linworth Road Projects** – The City of Columbus is almost finished with the new curb ramps at the Linworth and Collins Drive intersection. The City of Worthington will be doing the street painting which will occur later in the annual street improvement program schedule. The Beechview intersection design work done by CT Consultants will be passed on to our new City Engineer for review.
2. **Stroll & Roll Event Updates** – Ms. Thornton is continuing to work on the event. Toole Design will focus on the bike boulevard aspect of the event.
3. **Other** – Mr. Bates had received an email from Mr. Rist (former Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Board member) who asked him to share a thought with the board. Mr. Rist's suggestion is that the city paint striped bike lanes green, particularly in the new Northeast Gateway intersection because it requires a car turning right or left onto Wilson Bridge Road to cross over the bike lane. In his opinion that is not safe and is a prime example of a necessary painted bike lane, which is the common practice among cities that have bike lanes. Mr. Moorehead agreed that green colored pavement markings for bike lanes have been growing in popularity for the past 15-20 years. They've seen more frequent use in western states but are not yet common practice in the state of Ohio. He said the Federal Highway Administration allows these markings through "interim approval," so they're essentially in a testing phase. He also stated that ODOT's recently published multimodal design guide suggests situations where green markings could enhance traditional markings. The merge Mr. Rist mentions at the NE Gateway project is one such situation. At the time that project was undergoing the design and approval process, ODOT wasn't quite at a point where these green bike lanes were supported. Toole assisted with the new guide's development and would be well suited to address any questions on this topic. He acknowledged that, as with any new engineering implementation, there will be challenges and that and his department will continue to monitor and adjust as necessary.

Mr. Whalen would like the board to consider adding an agenda item on the Olentangy Trail for the next meeting. The point would be to discuss ways to improve the pedestrian experience on the trail, particularly regarding speed, signaling and signage.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.