



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, August 22, 2022, Meeting

Members Present: The members present were Mike 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 John Moorehead (Service & Engineering Director) were present. Also present was resident Rachael Dorothy. Staff member Jeremy Dean (Recreation Program Coordinator) joined the meeting for the second agenda item.

Minutes from the June 27, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved with a noted edit to include Brian Meilton as present (virtually).

Visitor Comments: Ms. Dorothy complimented the board for their on-going work and noted she has been pleased to see so many residents out on the sidewalks and streets biking and walking this summer.

Bicycle Boulevard Pilot Program Proposal: Mr. Hurley introduced City Engineer John Moorehead after reminding the board of the bicycle boulevard presentation made by Toole Design at their last meeting in June. Mr. Moorehead shared a presentation regarding a proposal for a trial program to add pavement markings on selected bike boulevard routes. The markings would be modeled after the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Multi-Modal Design guidelines. The markings would be our traditional sharrow emblem with a green box to draw attention to it. The markings would be spaced 250 feet apart in both directions. The proposed locations would be on three streets being paved as part of the city's annual street improvement program. They would include a half mile stretch on Rieber Street, about a third of a mile on Whitney Avenue, and seven tenths of a mile on Highland Avenue. These streets were chosen because they are identified in the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan as future bicycle boulevards. The program would be a trial and would help inform if this treatment should be followed on the remaining bicycle boulevards over time. Service and Engineering Department does not have funding to add this to the program. Mr. Moorehead is proposing this to the board in hopes they would consider funding it from the annual bicycle and pedestrian allocation in the city's capital improvement program (CIP). Mr. Hurley had shared with Mr. Moorehead the board had some unused funds held over from the

previous covid years. The cost to do all three streets as proposed would be \$51,350. The cost to do Rieber Street is \$17,117, Whitney Avenue is \$9,585, and Highland Avenue is \$24,648.

Ms. Horton asked if the city would be doing community outreach and would that include the schools on the route. She was concerned people might be confused by the markings and not sure what it meant in terms of kids riding in the streets. Mr. Moorehead said the city would do some outreach and education, but he wasn't exactly sure at this point what that would include. Mr. Hurley indicated if the board recommended this trial project it would go to Council and then staff would reach out to the people living on the affected streets in some way. Mr. Hurley said as a trial it is easier because people can voice concerns even after it is applied understanding it isn't necessarily a permanent application. Mr. Bates indicated he strongly supports the project, and he feels people are already using these streets for bike and pedestrian activity and this would only make it safer. Ms. Green stated most routes we will be looking at already have schools on them and asked if signage would be a part of the project. Mr. Moorehead indicated it had been discussed but had not been decided yet. Mr. Hurley added the signage could be more easily added at a lower cost, so we had a little more time to decide how to incorporate it into the trial project. Mr. Bates indicated Columbus has bike boulevards with signage and additional road markings at the transition points to make it easy to follow and clear when you are turning or transitioning. Mr. Iarocci loves the proposal and would like to see us move forward immediately. Ms. DavisRoe is excited about it and wants to see us move forward by the end of the year. Mr. Schweller stated he is struggling to find any issues with it, but he would like staff to clarify at some point the total commitment as if we do this trial and like it we will be committing to this application on all the bike boulevards at an additional cost. Mr. Moorehead indicated it would need to be determined how quickly we could move ahead with additional applications and whether that could be added to the street program budget or if bike and pedestrian funding would need to be dedicated in an on-going way for it to continue. Ms. Horton feels it is a great opportunity to move forward with the recommendation from the master plan and likes it paired with communication to educate the community. Mr. Whalen is in favor, would like to see all three of the proposed roads included and is in favor of adding signs to it as staff see fit. Mr. Meilton seconded the importance of the signs and likes the idea of adding a QR code to the signs to give residents an opportunity to learn more. Ms. Horton made a motion to recommend the city move ahead with the pavement markings as proposed by the city Engineer on all three streets as a trial project to include signage at key locations and communication to residents on those streets about the project as well as schools on the routes. Mr. Bates seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Stroll and Roll Event Update: Mr. Hurley introduced staff member Jeremy Dean. Mr. Dean, along with staff member Chris Wiseman, have been filling in for Celia Thornton during her leave in planning the logistics for the upcoming Stroll and Roll event. An email update was sent to the sub-committee working on the event and was included in the board packet for the meeting. Mr. Dean shared a map showing the current route being proposed along with secured partners including the Worthington Police, the Worthington Library, and Toole Design. There is additional outreach underway to hopefully secure some local businesses and sponsors for the event. Board members asked various questions about the route and shared some concern about encouraging people to try to bike along High Street and especially in Old Worthington during a congested event. Mr. Dean noted the concern and agreed to review with staff and then circle back to the sub-committee. There was also some question about whether the city would consider coning off a lane on High Street for bikers and walkers during the event and Mr. Hurley agreed to explore the idea but cautioned he didn't think it was likely. The board thanked Mr. Dean for his work.

Olentangy Trail Etiquette: Mr. Whalen shared a presentation regarding trail etiquette on the Olentangy Trail and some concerns he had experienced. The purpose was to discuss concerns

with trail use and the lack of etiquette and rule compliance including those who don't signal when passing, exceed the speed limit, and the conflicts with e-bikes. Mr. Whalen also shared some root causes that may be contributing to these issues including:

- The trail is labeled as a bikeway on many signs and communications dating back to its opening.
- Rules and other etiquette recommendations are not signed or communicated clearly within Worthington.
- Some users are not educated on the rules of etiquette or do not understand the benefits enough to practice them.

Mr. Whalen proceeded to make some recommendations which included updating the signage to discontinue the use of "bikeway or bike trail", add clear and simple signage to include rules, speed limits, and etiquette standards such as "Call Out: On Your Left" like the Westerville example. He also shared the idea for making the trail pavement markings we had added permanent with new, longer-lasting pavement marking paint. Mr. Iarocci commented he liked the Westerville signage example. Ms. Horton asked if some arrangement could be reached with Metroparks since they maintain and patrol the trail to our north and south. Mr. Hurley indicated he had those conversations before and would discuss it again with their staff. Mr. Bates shared past conversations with the board had been around the idea of bike ambassadors which could be volunteers who would help educate trail users of etiquette and rules for the trail. Mr. Bates asked if staff could make a push on trail etiquette education through social media as a short-term step. Mr. Hurley suggested the city could do that and look at a few of Mr. Whalen's suggestions like changing out some signs and other easier improvements. A larger project might be needed to implement some of the ideas such as all the signage along the trail, posting of signs like Westerville's, etc.

Sidewalk Gap Pilot Program Status: Mr. Hurley shared he had heard back from two residents in the Hartford Park area regarding letters staff had sent out looking for volunteers for our pilot sidewalk gap program. One of the residents was located at 824 Morning Street and the other at 60 East Stafford which was a duplex lot (the sidewalk would be on the Hartford Street side of this lot). Mr. Hurley indicated both were interested and the next step would be for staff to visit them on site to lay out the proposed sidewalk and answer any questions. Assuming the residents still agreed, the Engineering Department would add the sidewalks to the street and sidewalk improvement program and funding could come from bike and pedestrian funds. Mr. Hurley expects to be back in September with an update and a specific request for funding for the two gaps. Mr. Bates recalled City Council might fund this separately. Mr. Hurley indicated he believed their intent was for the board to complete an initial trial and then Council would consider funding a larger program. However, Mr. Hurley was willing to clarify and ask Council if that was the board's preference.

Updates:

1. **Bike Rack Inventory Project Update** – Ms. Green indicated Ms. DavisRoe had been working hard on a project to inventory bike racks around the community and asked Mr. Hurley to share the map Ms. DavisRoe had put together on the screen. Ms. DavisRoe shared her work and the process she went through to create the mapping. The board was very pleased with the project and asked how it could be shared in the community. Mr. Hurley indicated staff would work with Ms. DavisRoe to put any finishing touches on it and consider the best format to share more broadly.
2. **Linworth Road Projects** – Mr. Hurley shared an update from Mr. Moorehead on the Linworth crossing project at Beechview Drive. Mr. Moorehead had indicated he was in the

process of reviewing the design completed prior to his arrival by CT Consultants. Once completed, Mr. Moorehead intends to put the project out for bid and be under construction either late this year or early next year depending on how long it would take to order and receive the required beacon and poles. There has been some delay so our timeline would be dependent on that.

3. **Toole Scoping Status Update/Timeline** – Mr. Hurley indicated he had met recently with Toole Design regarding their progress on scoping the board's priority projects. They are on schedule to have drafts of their project proposals to the board in time for their October meeting allowing time to review before our annual November planning meeting.
4. **Other** – There was no other business to come before the board.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.