



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, September 26, 2022, Meeting

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

City staff members Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director), Celia Thornton (Parks & Recreation Project Supervisor) and John Moorehead (Service & Engineering Director) were present. Also present was resident Rachael Dorothy.

Minutes from the August 22, 2022, meeting were approved by all present.

Bicycle Boulevard Pilot Program Proposal: Mr. Hurley introduced City Service and Engineering Director John Moorehead. Mr. Moorehead had attended the last board meeting where he discussed bicycle boulevard street markings that had a green background. He apologized to the board because after the meeting he read deeper into the State of Ohio's guidance material and realized the green marking he had previously proposed is approved for all uses except for sharrows (except in some very special circumstances). This leaves us again with the question of what to use. There are various options from different communities, and he shared some from Columbus (which the board deemed too large) and a unique one created by Tacoma, Washington for their streets. Unfortunately, we can't proceed until we decide what sharrow marking Worthington wants to adopt and marking will not occur this fall as previously hoped. He is certain it can be done in the 2023 cycle. Mr. Moorehead also wants to take the extra time to complete some additional vehicular traffic counts and speed recordings using the stealth stat equipment to make certain that the streets we designate as bike boulevards truly meet the safety standards. Mr. Bates asked where he wanted to deploy the stealth stat. Mr. Moorehead said on Rieber Street, Whitney Avenue and Highland Avenue. He also indicated that from this point forward he would try to work so that the board has information well ahead of any repaving rather than having to make decisions after the fact. He also said that after the study if the roads don't meet the safety standards required of a bike boulevard that the city would look at introducing traffic calming solutions or explore alternative measures to get them to bicycle boulevard standards. Ms. Horton requested that the city look at what markings Westerville and Dublin are using to designate bike boulevards.

Stroll and Roll Debrief: Ms. Green was thrilled with the way the event went this year. The people she saw seemed to enjoy the event. Counts indicated 104 people stopped at the library location and approximately 50 visited each of the other locations. Ms. Otulana spoke with every group that stopped at Pingree Park and only received positive comments about the bike boulevards. She did receive a few additional suggestions about other bicycle and pedestrian improvements people would like to see and will share them with Ms. Thornton through email.

Updates:

1. **Toole Scoping and 2022 Project Prioritization** – Mr. Hurley reminded the board that the November meeting includes 2023 project prioritization and January 2023 for education and encouragement planning. This year the chairs would like to prepare ahead of time as much as possible so that the meeting can be used efficiently. Board members should bring new project ideas to share and discuss at the October meeting. After the October meeting, Ms. Thornton will attempt through email to accomplish as much of this preparation as possible. Toole Design's project scoping information will also be shared through email since the final version won't be available until after our October meeting (though we anticipate some preliminary information may be available at the meeting). The projects Toole were asked to scope were: 1.) Linworth Road connection; 2.) S.R. 161 and S.R. 315 exchange; 3.) 5-point intersection on Park Road in Colonial Hills.

2. **Project Updates** – Mr. Hurley shared the good news that two of the neighbors with sidewalk gaps have engaged with Mr. Hurley and the Service and Engineering Department and are excited about the prospect of putting in sidewalk and want to move ahead. The locations are on Morning Street and the duplex on the corner of Stafford and Hartford. The city is preparing an agreement for them to sign. The next step will be to take the agreement to City Council and figure out how to fund the trial projects. Also, two additional neighbors further north on Hartford asked about what was going on and may also be interested in filling sidewalk gaps. They need some additional follow up with the City Engineer.

The Linworth Road and Collins Drive enhanced crosswalk project is completed.

3. **Bike Rack Inventory Follow-Up** – Ms. Thornton shared Ms. DavisRoe's bike rack map with the city's GIS team and they are entering her information into the city's GIS system. Ms. Thornton would also like to create a separate city webpage for biking education and encouragement that includes links to all relevant information such as maps, bike racks, etc. Mr. Bates suggested that the city needs to create an app for bikers.

4. **MORPC Attributable Funding Grant** – Mr. Moorehead had given an update to City Council the previous Monday regarding an Attributable Funding Grant application being submitted by the city and due this Wednesday (9/28). The \$15 to \$40 million funding is available bi-annually from the federal government and is distributed through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). The city applied for grant funding for two projects, both of which were shared use, off street paths. The first is the East Wilson Bridge Trail Extension which would extent the NE Gateway project trail along East Wilson Bridge Road and would include a 10-foot path on the south side of the road, lighting, and crosswalk improvements at High Street and Wilson Bridge Road. The second project submitted was the Worthington Mile concept (phase one) which included a shared use path on the west side of High Street from Wilson Bridge Road to the intersection with Worthington Galena Road. MORPC may ask the city to prioritize one project and if that is the case the first choice would be the East

Wilson Bridge Road trail project. Mr. Hurley added that the city has applied for funding for this project before which can be helpful. Ms. Thornton shared that other projects discussed were shared use paths along Linworth Road and Worthington Galena Road, but neither were conceptually far enough along to be applicable yet. Ms. Horton shared concerns about the intersection at High and Wilson Bridge Road, particularly citing the BP gas station as problematic. Mr. Meilton asked what the timing was if awarded. Mr. Moorehead said tentatively 2025. If the city happened to get awarded funding for both projects, then the city would push the Worthington Mile project to 2026. The city is also responsible for a 20% match in funding that will have to be accounted for in the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Ms. Dorothy made a plea that the board and city not forget the southern section of the city. She and Council Member Kowalczyk regularly see Chapala workers riding bikes on or along High Street to get to the restaurant.

5. **Market Day Bike Corral** – Mr. Hurley met with the new head of the Worthington Chamber of Commerce and said he is very excited about having a bike corral at Market Days this year. Mr. Iarocci had previously had a conversation with the chair and made this suggestion. Mr. Iarocci offered to staff the corral and thought the board could sponsor it and use it as another way to share information with the community. A conversation ensued about what the corral would look like and what was needed to make it possible, including fencing, volunteers, signage and education materials. It was agreed that Mr. Iarocci would discuss it further with Ms. Thornton who would help get things arranged via email. The Market Days event is on Saturday, October 8.
6. **Other** – Mr. Hurley shared that an 88-year-old resident biker had been struck by a car at the corner of New England and North Sinsbury earlier in the month. The gentleman was a resident of that neighborhood and a regular user of the Griswold Center and was known to staff. He later died of his injuries.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.