



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, November 28, 2022, Meeting

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

City staff members Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director), John Moorehead (Service & Engineering Director) and Celia Thornton (Parks & Recreation Project Supervisor) were present. Also present were resident Rachael Dorothy and Potters Creek residents Susie Lucci, Matthew Raymond, and Sheila Fox.

Minutes from the October 24, 2022, meeting were approved by all present.

Visitor Comments: Ms. Dorothy brought to the board's attention that the Colonial Hills Facebook page had recently had a lot of discussion and concerns around speeding occurring in the neighborhood, particularly on Foster Avenue, Selby Boulevard, and at the five-point intersection. She was asking where they should voice these concerns to get some action. Mr. Hurley responded that there is an email address for the Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Board on the city's website, but that residents can also reach out to him or Ms. Thornton directly. He then said that speeding on Foster Avenue was brought to the city's Safety Committee a year or so ago and that a study had been conducted on the road and several trial traffic calming options tried. This was done with a group of residents but was before Mr. Moorehead's time. Mr. Moorehead promised to review the study and review options. Mr. Hurley shared that Mr. Steve Tennant, Service Department Superintendent, had followed up with the petition organizers at the conclusion of the study to share results.

Ms. Fox thanked the board for the improved intersection at Collins Drive, though she added that she would prefer it blinked (had a flashing RRFB) but will take what she can get. Mr. Raymond echoed her sentiments, particularly the flashing beacon. Ms. Horton asked if the residents found the speed on that street difficult. Mr. Raymond said yes, the average speed tends to be 45 mph rather than the posted 35 mph.

1. **2023 Project Prioritization:** Mr. Schweller said that the reason all the Potters Creek residents attended this evening was because he had posted on their neighborhood

Facebook page that this evening the board would be discussing the potential for bike access, or possible solutions, along Linworth Road. Mr. Hurley said the objective for this evening is for the board to get an overview of projects at a high level and then to prioritize them for 2023. Detailed discussion of prioritized projects will occur at later meetings. Ms. Lucci said that Potters Creek feels like an island separated from the rest of Worthington and she would love to expand where she can go on walks or by bike. Ms. Fox suggested the board should see if they can get this project sponsored by Dunkin' Donuts, explore a corporate sponsorship, since it would provide increased access to their business. Ms. Green then re-focused the board on the evening's task of prioritizing projects for 2023. She said they would begin by getting a brief overview of each project by staff and would then have some high-level discussion before attempting to rank projects. Mr. Hurley then referred to the updated spreadsheet (included in packets) and said the projects highlighted in orange were moving and didn't require board funding or action at the current time. He then proceeded to give background, a review, or an update on the rest of the projects. For the Toole Design projects, Mr. Hurley asked how the board wants to consider the three projects Toole has already done some work on and move them forward. The board will have to define what it means to prioritize them. Mr. Moorehead noted that all of the documents we've received from Toole are marked as drafts and that it is important to note this means there will be back and forth to refine the recommendations and that he can help the board understand both long-term and short-term next steps. Toole's recommendations as presented are at a very high level and we are still waiting for cost estimates. These projects will be very expensive and will require reaching out to ODOT and neighbors and more money will need to be earmarked for further consultant studies to drill down to specifics if the board decides to prioritize them further. He said the board must think long term and make some decisions about which ones to promote and spend time and money refining and pushing forward so that there is then the chance to apply for grants and other funding. There was some board discussion about alignment with other city priorities or synergy with other area projects. Further discussions included bike racks, the proposed trail in front of Thomas Worthington High School, and projects that would affect the Worthington Mile. Mr. Bates then requested that the board take a few minutes to discuss Foster Avenue. He is interested in knowing what the neighbors would like to happen. Mr. Moorehead said it would be a good idea to discuss this project early in the new year as there will be a water pipe replacement project happening all along Foster that will end with a full resurfacing project. Columbia Gas is also planning to replace every gas main in Colonial Hills in the next few years. Mr. Bates also asked about re-doing the 5-point intersection. Mr. Moorehead said that there is still an opportunity to align that project with upcoming pavement work. He said that intersection is unique and needs a special solution. He then overviewed the ideal conditions for bike boulevards (low speed, low volume) and recognized not many streets in Worthington meet those criteria. There are strategies engineering can use to slow traffic and discourage cut through traffic, though if it's the main road used by neighbors for access to their homes and schools, those strategies may not be as effective. Rieber Street does not meet the conditions for a bike boulevard in either volume or speed. A bike boulevard should have no more than 1,000 to 3,000 vehicles per day (Reiber had approximately 5,000). Vehicular traffic should not travel faster than 15 to 25 mph. Mr. Moorehead noted that there aren't many ways to divert traffic off that road and that the board may have to identify an alternate route. Solutions like the one Toole suggested on Park Boulevard is not a viable solution for Worthington. The cost of that one street was two million dollars. The entire Northeast Gateway Project cost \$8.9 million. Mr. Hurley said, with the help of the engineering department, the board could move bike boulevards ahead by helping to decide what defines bike boulevards in Worthington (size, marking, signage) and by evaluating all the proposed bike boulevard roadways for compatibility and safety.

More discussion followed on how to prioritize the project list. Mr. Bates reiterated his proposal that one of the projects be to fund a city technology application specifically designed for bike and pedestrian users. Mr. Schweller said he would like to advocate to keep moving the Linworth Road project forward. He doesn't see it as a "one and done" kind of project and thinks there are things that can be done to improve the area and keep the focus on the corridor, such as a bike boulevard along Collins Drive. Mr. Iarocci would like the board to continue advancing the bike boulevard study and discussions. Ms. Horton reminded the board that the city has a Complete Streets Policy and that no matter how hard it may be, the city needs to use that toolbox to help alleviate and improve all roads for everyone, every time the city does a road project. She would also like to keep the sidewalk gap trial moving forward. Ms. Green suggested that the Olentangy Trail etiquette project proposed by Mr. Whalen is low hanging fruit and something the board can accomplish, along with bike racks. Mr. Iarocci agreed. He added he would also like to advocate for more education and encouragement with businesses. Ms. DavisRoe is interested to see if there is a way to work with the school district to get the trail in front of Thomas Worthington High School completed. It would be terrible to miss this opportunity and the board would have to fund it completely later. Ms. Horton agreed and would at least like to see it listed in their plans, even if it's unfunded. Mr. Bates asked what the board could do to keep the S.R. 161 / 315 project moving forward. Mr. Moorehead responded that the project needs more consultant work (approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000 towards further engineering work) and then the City would have to engage ODOT. He explained his ideas on ways to potentially improve the S.R. 161 / 315 interchange for bike and pedestrian users and said he is planning on having discussions with Toole Design on their proposals. He is also planning to ask ODOT when they're planning on re-doing the bridge over S.R. 315, because that would be an ideal time to make improvements. Mr. Iarocci asked about Toole's solutions for the five-point intersection and Mr. Moorehead responded that he also plans to discuss those with Toole and see if they evaluated other options, such as a mini roundabout. There was discussion about the available funding and what projects could be accomplished with what was available. Mr. Schweller advocated allocating \$50,000 towards six projects and to leave the rest in case something important comes up during the year. Mr. Bates agreed and liked the idea of opportunistic funding. Mr. Hurley suggested the board not spend too much time worrying about picking projects they could fund. The board could use that as guidance, for context, but it might be better to decide what projects to prioritize based on their merit. After further discussion the board came up with their list of 2023 project priorities (see updated spreadsheet), which were:

1. Sidewalk Gap (continue filling)
2. Bike Racks (add where needed on City property)
3. Olentangy Trail Etiquette (permanent trail tattoos, updated signage, etc.)
4. Dedicated Bike Web site / App
5. Continue to work with City Engineer and a contracted firm to scope large projects and provide board education

The board then discussed how to allocate the money still available to them and decided to put \$100,000 towards sidewalk gaps, trail etiquette, bike racks and possibly a bike app. Another \$75,000 was reserved for continued engineering study and design. If there is money left the board would like it used for bike boulevard markings and keep it in reserve for unforeseen project needs. The board then had some discussion around how to promote or encourage the building of a multiuse trail on the north side of S.R. 161 in front of Thomas Worthington High School, and if there was an opportunity to partner with the school district. This trail is ranked as the highest priority on the Master Plan. Ms. Horton advocated on behalf of the board providing some level of funding to partner on the multi-use trail along the frontage of the school property. Mr. Bates responded he felt it should be on the schools and

their funding to do so, much like the city asks of private development. The board decided to hold off on any consideration of an offer of funding until more information was available, and more discussion could occur. Mr. Hurley said the city was in discussion with the school district on the trail and that he would keep the board informed as things progressed.

Preview of Education & Encouragement Prioritization in January: The board was reminded that the January meeting would focus on prioritizing education and encouragement initiatives.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.