

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012
5:00 P.M.

Present were:

Voting Members: Croasmun, Simmons, Stephens, Stitt, Wood

Executive Secretary: Austin

Public Service Representative: Tilton

Division of Mobility Options Staff: Bowman, Lewis

Division of Planning and Operations Staff: Kendrick

Guest: Tricia Kovacs

Call to Order: 5:10 p.m.

Motion for approval of the November 8, 2011, minutes: Simmons; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Informational Items:

Planning Studies Update

Patti Austin gave updates on planning studies as follows:

Creative Campus

This study is in the area surrounded by the Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus State, and the Columbus Art Museum. Staff is working with those entities on a planning study to determine how to improve connectivity and pedestrian access between campuses. It primarily involves Gay Street, Washington, Ninth, and Cleveland Avenue. The main goal is to encourage pedestrian traffic and discourage vehicular traffic on Gay Street. The study will begin within the next thirty days. DLZ is the consultant.

Short North Streetscape Improvements

Short North representatives have asked the City for funding for a variety of things; such as: more street furniture, bump-outs, mast arm signals, and underground utilities. Staff is doing a preliminary phase to put together both what the Short North can afford and

what the City can afford with funding, and then how to phase it. This study will begin within the next thirty days. Korda Engineering is the consultant.

Commissioner Wood volunteered to represent the Commission on both studies. Chairman Stephens would also like to be notified of activity on these studies.

Downtown Action Plan

Jessica Kendrick gave a PowerPoint presentation on this issue. (Copies of slides are available upon request.) She reviewed the projects involved, key technical evaluation items, and the timeline for completion.

Discussion.

Staff will update the Commission on this issue at its regular monthly meetings.

Lane Avenue Campus Safety Update

At the last Commission meeting, students from The Ohio State University Student Government addressed the Commission. They expressed safety concerns, including the need for crosswalks and a lower speed limit and/or more speed-limit signs on Lane Avenue.

Bill Lewis reported staff has met with the students and understands their request to lower the speed limit on Lane Avenue east of High, as well as improve pedestrian crossing opportunities at Tuller, Waldeck, Norwich, and Tuttle. Staff believes they can add some crosswalks and signs at Tuller and Lane. Staff is also conducting a speed limit reduction study. Staff will meet again with the students before finalizing recommendations.

Discussion.

Phase 10 Signal Removal Update

Jessica Kendrick reported on this issue. She indicated that in the neighborhoods in the near east around Livingston Avenue east of I-71 and north and south of I-70, there was a study of twenty traffic signals that were in need of repair. During the study, it was found that fourteen of the traffic signals were not warranted. Rather than repairing unwarranted signals, staff is going through the process to have them removed. After staff presents this to the neighborhoods and gets approval to move forward, the signals will be placed on "flash" for a six-month study. After the six-month period, staff will reevaluate. Staff expects the study to begin in May and the work to be completed by spring of 2013.

Parking Policies Update

Randy Bowman reported that staff has briefed Councilperson Paley regarding where staff is with parking policy changes in Columbus. It was broadcast on CTV-3. The PowerPoint staff used from that briefing is available online. Staff has three parking policies to work on this year: Loading Zones, Residential On-street Handicapped Parking, and Residential District Permit Parking.

Bicycle Subcommittee Update

Nick Popa gave an update as follows on issues discussed at the January 25th Subcommittee meeting:

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Regional Bikeways Project

MORPC is seeking public comments on transportation projects and strategies for its 2012 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Part of that Plan is to develop bikeway potential utilization methodology for the region. Some of the key points reviewed were:

- The methodology is new and will be evolving overtime and will be adopted as part of the overall transportation plan.
- The Plan is regional and not a substitute for local plans.
- MORPC will still support local bikeways construction.
- The regional complete-street policy is still in effect.
- All MORPC-funded projects still require bike accommodations.

Further information is available at MORPC's website. MORPC plans to adopt the Plan in May. The Bicycle Subcommittee will review the Plan and submit comments directly to MORPC.

Downtown Action Plan

At the Subcommittee meeting, Jessica Kendrick gave an overview of the Plan. It was decided that staff will update the Subcommittee on progress as it is developed.

2011-2012 Resurfacing Projects

Projects from 2011, which will be completed in 2012, include Dexter Falls sharrows, King Avenue bike lanes, 11th Avenue sharrows, Chittenden Avenue sharrows, Ohio Avenue bike lanes, and Champion Avenue bike lanes. This will add approximately six miles of new bikeways to the city. With regard to 2012 resurfacing projects, the City's consultant has begun to analyze another eleven miles of potential new bikeways that could be included in the City's 2012 resurfacing projects.

Bike Racks

In 2011, the Division of Mobility Options installed fifty-two bike racks. That does not include bike racks installed with bike parking shelters.

Bike Parking Shelters

Eight of the ten shelters planned for Phase One have been installed. The final two will be installed this spring. In 2012, an additional eight shelters will be installed in Phase Two.

Share-the-Road Project

Staff developed an Education and Engagement Plan and distributed a draft of the Plan to the Subcommittee for review and comment. The process of determining funding levels for the initiatives included in the Plan has begun. That will include partnership with ODOT. Staff and the Subcommittee plan to roll out the new share-the-road initiatives this spring -- probably in May.

Development Bikeway Fund

These are the fees that are collected from development projects throughout the city when there is a development project that is adjacent to a project recommended in the Bicentennial Bikeways Plan. There is a balance of about \$114,000 in the fund. This is spread out over the entire city. Funds must be spent according to the community planning area from which they are collected. There are approximately twenty-five community planning areas in the city.

Bicycle Friendly Community

Currently Columbus has “bronze level” status through 2013. The Subcommittee discussed whether or not to apply for the “silver” status. After discussion at the Subcommittee meeting, it was decided not to apply at this time; however, the City will apply in 2013.

Bicycle Subcommittee Notes

Notes are available on the City’s website.

Spring-Sandusky Interchange Overall Traffic Management Plan (SSI-OTMP) – Public Meeting

Project fact sheets and public meeting invitations were distributed. (Copies are available upon request.) Bill Lewis reported on this issue as follows:

The City has funds and plans to build the last features from the SSI-OTMP. The features include a median and bump-out on Third Avenue, as well as two medians on Fifth Avenue. There is one median by Perry and one median by the river in front of the Battelle property. Staff

is working on an arrangement with Battelle where they will fund the construction and maintenance of that median.

On February 14, staff will meet with the community. They will meet with Harrison West Society to discuss the Third Avenue feature, and the University Area Commission to discuss the Fifth Avenue improvements. On Third Avenue, the issue is with parking, as the bump-out will remove about five parking spaces. But staff is going to look at increasing the number of spaces on the south side of Third by removing a current restriction close to Perry. So, in the end, one space will be lost to gain the traffic-calming benefits of a gateway feature. Harrison West has agreed to maintain the feature on Third. Construction will begin this fall. That will be the last portion of OTMP that will be constructed.

Discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Traffic Standards Code Update

Jessica Kendrick reported the Traffic Standards Code (City Code 4309) details the City's requirements for determining the impacts of traffic associated with development. The Code defines when a traffic impact study is required, what should be in the study, what has to be performed, what roadway improvements are needed, and the responsibilities of the developer. The current Code was adopted in 1997. Staff would like to update the Code, as there is new research based on predicting traffic growth from new developments. Also, staff has learned a lot of lessons from the current Code and would like to more clearly define some items in it. Staff will update the code this year. Area traffic engineers and representatives from the Institute of Transportation Engineers and the City's Building Services Review Committee will provide input. Staff's goal is to have a revised code ready to present to City Council by the end of 2012.

Discussion.

Executive Secretary Austin suggested Val Croasmun represent the Commission on this issue. Staff will seek the Commission's approval before presenting changes to City Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Congratulations W. Curtis Stitt

On behalf of the Commission, Vice Chairman Simmons congratulated Commissioner Curtis Stitt on his appointment to President and CEO of the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA).

Chairman Stitt spoke briefly about COTA and its goal to: continue the steps that have put COTA in the sound position it is in today; expand service as promised in 2006; plan for a world-class, comprehensive transit system that will effectively serve the community with more than just buses; and build what is being planned.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia R. Grove
Recording Secretary

Jeff Stephens
Chairman

Patricia A. Austin
Executive Secretary

THIS MEETING WAS RECORDED; RECORDING IS ON FILE
AT 109 NORTH FRONT STREET