

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2010
5:00 P.M.

Present were:

Voting Members: Conte, Croasmun, Moore, Stephens

Division of Mobility Options Staff: Lewis

Division of Planning and Operations Staff: Blechschmidt, Wilfong

Guests: Kenneth Cohen, John Gideon, Tricia Kovacs

Call to Order: 5:10 p.m.

Motion to approve March 9, 2010, minutes: Conte; 2nd, Moore. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Studies:

Gary Wilfong reported on and requested Commission action on the following planning studies:

Lazelle Road

At the March meeting, commissioners were provided with a CD of the draft Lazelle Road Study to review prior to taking action at today's meeting. Mr. Wilfong briefly reviewed the study. He indicated the issue that generated the most discussion was whether to have a roundabout or a traffic signal at Old State Road. The consultant has recommended the roundabout as detailed in the CD provided. There will be roadway widening to three lanes and some new bridges will be built for the railroad.

Discussion.

Motion to approve the Lazelle Road Planning Study as presented: Moore; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

Parsons Avenue

At the March meeting, commissioners were provided with a CD of the presentation for the Parsons Avenue Corridor Study to review prior to taking action at today's meeting. Mr. Wilfong reviewed the study. The consultant's recommendation is for a three-lane section with two through lanes and a center, two-way, left-turn lane. This option provides left-turn lane protection which the consultant believes will reduce accidents. Currently, at all signalized intersections, left turns are prohibited; with this option, that restriction can be removed.

Some of the business owners are concerned about parking. The consultant did a study that looked at the current parking demand and what is available for parking. The study indicated parking can be removed as there is not enough demand to warrant the amount of parking that is out there today. However, there are certain businesses that need on-street parking, so the plan is to alternate parking from one side to another to try and pick up the businesses that would be impacted the most by the loss of parking. If/when this project moves forward to construction, the decision on exactly where parking is needed and where spaces can be removed will be finalized. There will be non-restricted parking on one side or the other.

The consultant has also looked at some possible traffic calming beyond just a road diet. There will also be wider lanes to accommodate bicycles. Division of Planning and Operations staff is working with Division of Mobility Options staff on finalizing exactly how that will be marked out. It will not be a dedicated bike lane, but could possibly accommodate sharrows.

Discussion.

Motion to accept the study and the recommendations in alternative three as proposed in the Parsons Avenue Corridor Traffic Study: Conte; 2nd, Moore.
Motion carried.

Gary Wilfong gave updates on planning studies as follows:

Stelzer Road

ms consultants have basically completed all of their data collection and are in the process of assembling that information into some base mapping. They are working on their capacity analysis for the roadway. The next steps, once that work is completed, is to put together some alternatives. A public meeting will be

held in June or July. The stakeholders have been identified for that area; about sixty stakeholders will be invited to the public meeting.

Commission representative needs to be identified prior to public process. Staff will request a volunteer at the next meeting.

Third Street Streetscape Study

The consultant has been working with utility companies to come up with some alternatives for German Village to look at. Staff hopes to meet with the German Village Society on May 4. Within a couple weeks after that, the document should be finalized. Mr. Wilfong indicated he will possibly have more information to present to the Commission at the next Commission meeting.

Sunbury Road

This study was initiated by Ohio Dominican University (ODU). They are looking at improvements on Sunbury Road. This study started off as a traffic study for some projects ODU has going on in the area. ODU wanted to make it more of a preliminary engineering study that would look at improvements for the whole corridor. ODU has submitted that study for staff to review; comments are due by the end of this week. This is a potential project that ODU would like to see move forward and to find some funding for. As with all projects, the City does not have money for construction. At this point, staff just wanted the Commission to be aware of the study that might develop into more of a City project at some point. If this becomes more of a City project, staff will request more involvement from the Commission.

Discussion.

Community Mobility Plans Update

Bill Lewis gave updates on Community Mobility Plans as follows:

Spring Sandusky

Staff is still looking to build a couple of features when/if money becomes available from a bond sale this year. Staff is working on revising the speed limits on Neil, Fifth, King, and Third Avenues. Revisions should be ready to present to the Commission in late spring or early summer.

Strawberry Farms

A work order has been written to modify a traffic circle on Strawberry Farms at Chickory to make it more visible at night and to further reduce the entering speeds. Hopefully, the work will be completed this spring.

Linden Area Transportation Management Plan

Staff attended the March 18 North Linden Area Commission meeting to discuss residents' concerns on the design of medians and chicanes on Maize and Norris. The residents want them removed as they believe they are dangerous. Staff's response is to continue to monitor speeds and crashes to determine what long-term effects those traffic calming devices have. Currently, the City has no plans to remove those features. The residents may be submitting a petition to the City for removal of the chicanes and medians.

Discussion.

Franklinton

Staff has been given the go ahead to revive the request for proposal for designing the Franklinton features that were in the community plan. Hopefully, this will be funded with the bond sale this year. Staff would like to proceed with designing the features this year.

Olde North Columbus

Staff is still working on work orders to traffic calm North Street and Tompkins.

Weinland Park

Staff is still in discussions with ODOT about developing a schedule for further study and implementation to construct bike lanes on Fourth and Summit. First a traffic study needs to be completed to make sure a travel lane can be removed, bike lanes can be installed, and more on-street parking added from Warren to Hudson.

Discussion.

Milo Grogan

This Plan is on "hold" at this time as staff works through other plans.

Phase 10

This Plan is on “hold” at this time as staff works through other plans.

Greater Hilltop – West Broad Street

Bill Lewis gave a PowerPoint presentation on this community mobility plan. Copies of PowerPoint slides are available upon request. Mr. Lewis reviewed actions to date, various plans regarding the Hilltop, Columbus Zoning Code requirements, West Broad Street alternatives for the 2010 resurfacing project, parking studies, parking options, current West Broad Street Bikeways status, bike lanes, a new interim solution, and current meeting schedule.

Discussion.

A public meeting will be held in April, a presentation will be made to the Greater Hilltop Area Commission on May 11; and staff will request Commission action on May 18.

Parking Meter Advisory Team Update

Commissioner Croasmun gave an update on this issue. The Team is trying to get this wrapped up and make recommendations by the end of April.

Discussion.

Safe Routes to School

Bill Lewis reported that at the February meeting staff informed the Commission of two applications staff submitted to ODOT for Safe Routes to School projects. Both applications were approved for \$500,000 each. Those projects are in Franklinton. One at Town and Dana Avenue where staff is putting in some curb extensions to assist school children crossing the street, as well as some curb extensions on Dana Avenue at Dana Elementary. The second application is for a shared use path along Hague and Valleyview to assist children crossing the railroad track and getting to Westmoor Middle School and an elementary school. Both projects will be undergoing design this year; construction will be scheduled for 2011.

Bike Subcommittee Purpose and Scope

Bill Lewis reported that at the last meeting staff presented a draft idea for a mission statement and purpose and scope for the Bicycle Subcommittee. Today staff requested

Commission discussion, comments, and, hopefully, adoption of this document as the guiding principles for the Bicycle Subcommittee.

Chairman Stephens stated for the record that the Commission appointed a permanent Bicycle Subcommittee. He read the mission statement and purpose and scope as follows:

The mission statement will be to integrate bicycles into the transportation systems of Columbus and Central Ohio by providing a safe and convenient network of bikeways and related bike facilities. The purpose and scope will be to: A) provide assistance in the design and operation of bike facilities; contribute to transforming the Bicentennial Bikeways Plan (BBP) recommended facilities into practical and affordable projects; offer advice and interpretation of design standards for safe bicycle travel and parking; research best practices and determine applicability to Columbus; and project scope review; B) monitor progress in the implementation of all BBP recommendations; C) assist in the prioritization and programming of BBP projects and programs as well as any plan updates; D) collect community concerns regarding general bike issues; E) serve as a conduit for public input when determined necessary; F) provide regular reports to the Transportation and Pedestrian Commission.

Motion to approve the aforementioned mission statement purpose and scope as the mission and purpose and scope for the bicycle subcommittee: Conte; 2nd, Moore.

Discussion.

Motion to amend motion to modify the purpose and scope by changing “project scope review” to “design project scope review for conformance with BBP” and to approve, as modified, the aforementioned mission statement and purpose and scope as the mission and purpose and scope of the Bicycle Subcommittee: Croasmun; amendment accepted by Conte; 2nd, Croasmun. Discussion.

Tricia Kovacs wondered if the purpose and scope is clear enough to indicate that the education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation pieces of the BBP are under the scope of this bicycle subcommittee. Following discussion, commissioners indicated the elements referred to by Ms Kovacs are made clear in the Plan and modification to the purpose and scope is not necessary.

Following discussion Chairman Stephens called for the question. Motion carried.

Chairman Stephens indicated that about ten bicycle subcommittee member applications have been received. The deadline for submitting applications is April 16. He then indicated he will Chair the Committee on a temporary basis, but there is still a voting member vacancy for this Commission, so a permanent Chairman should be decided on after the vacancy is filled. He further indicated that Section VII of the Commission's

Bylaws indicates that with approval of the Commission Chair, with concurrence of the Director of Public Service, the subcommittee may hold a public meeting to solicit broad opinion. Chairman Stephens stated that he, as the Commission Chair, with the concurrence of the Director of Public Service, will have all these Bicycle Subcommittee meetings open to the public at this point. He further indicated that before the May 18 meeting, the members of the Subcommittee should be identify and announced. Once that has occurred, the members of the Subcommittee will begin to work out a regular schedule. The Bicycle Subcommittee meetings will be run much like this Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Easton Parking Variance

Gary Wilfong presented a parking variance that has been requested at 4148 Easton Commons. This is the same area where permit parking was requested last month. The current City Code requires two parking stalls per unit. That requirement will probably be changed in May to require 1.5 stalls per unit. Easton Commons has 370 residential units for which they are requesting a variance to only one stall per unit. Staff feels comfortable with requiring 1.5 stalls per unit.

Discussion.

Motion to deny the current variance request and recommend the developer comply with at least the anticipated parking code change of 1.5 stalls per unit unless they can provide compelling reasons otherwise: Conte; 2nd, Moore. Motion carried.

Zoning Variance – Turkey Hill Gas Station at High and Westview

Gary Wilfong informed the Commission that staff is not asking for any action on this issue; it is an informational item only.

There is a rezoning application at 5271 North High Street for a Turkey Hill Gas Station and Convenience Store. The primary access would be directly across from Sunnyside Lane. They would also have a shared access with the Pig Iron Restaurant. They would have another access via an alley that connects to Kanawha. Kanawha is a signalized intersection so it is anticipated that some traffic would go through that alley to access the signalized intersection. Staff has been working with them on traffic related issues, but has not given a definite go ahead. It is definitely a hot issue with the neighborhood and the area commission did not give its approval. Staff has had discussions with the applicant about widening the alley, but that decision has not yet been made.

Discussion.

ADA Policy Update

Bill Lewis gave an update of staff's draft comprehensive ADA Policy. In addition, over the next month, staff will provide the commissioners with other materials for their review. Staff will seek Commission approval at the May meeting. Currently the City has three different policies to guide implementation of ADA facilities -- detectable warnings, pedestrian push buttons, and ramps in general. This policy in part consolidates those policies and also includes guidelines and federal requirements. The policy is needed to help staff remain compliant with the provision of the ADA Act of 1990.

Mr. Lewis reviewed some of the conditions that would require curb ramps. He reviewed how the policy also addresses the way the City handles requests from the public for ramps, types of curb ramps the City allows, and requirements for pedestrian push buttons. He indicated staff has discussed this with the Building Services Review Commission (BSRC).

Mr. Lewis then gave a detailed description of orphan ramps, described who would build them, and how developers/City could possibly be reimbursed for the cost associated with building/designing ramps that are not part of their development. He indicated staff is still discussing this issue with the BSRC and will present this information to the BSRC working group this month and to the full committee next month. After those presentations, staff will bring this issue back to the Commission for approval.

Discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Parking Policy Update

Chairman Stephens informed the Commission that changes to the parking code will have a first ready at the April 19 City Council meeting and will be voted on at the May 11 Council meeting. This Commission approved the proposed parking policy in August of last year.

Commission Member Vacancies

Chairman Stephens informed the Commission that Lt. Ed Devennish retired from the Columbus Police Division (CPD) and will no longer represent the CPD on the Commission. A substitute from CPD has been identified. For the record, Chairman Stephens thanked Lt. Devennish for his years of service to the Commission.

Chairman Stephens indicated the Commission still has a voting member vacancy. Some candidates have been submitted to the Executive Secretary and the Public

Service Director. He asked that anyone who has any other ideas of submission for candidates, to please make those known.

Tricia Kovacs indicated she knew a person who may wish to submit an application. Chairman Stephens indicated that application has already been submitted.

Hilltop Public Meetings

Chairman Stephens encouraged commissioners to attend the upcoming public meeting and the Greater Hilltop Area Commission.

May 18 Commission Meeting

Staff would like to limit agenda items for May to the West Broad Street/Hilltop Mobility Issue and the ADA Policy.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 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 WITH RECORDING SECRETARY AT 109 NORTH FRONT STREET, SECOND FLOOR, ROOM 209.

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
FEBRUARY 23, 2010
5:00 P.M.
(Rescheduled from February 9)

Present were:

Voting Members: Conte, Croasmun, Simmons, Stephens

Executive Secretary: Austin

Division of Mobility Options Staff: Bowman, Lewis,

Division of Planning and Operations Staff: Wilfong

Guests: Patricia Kovacs

CALL TO ORDER: 5:05 p.m.

Motion for approval of December 10, 2009, minutes: Croasmun; 2nd, Conte. Motion carried.

Planning Studies Update

Gary Wilfong gave updates on planning studies as follows:

Third Street

Approximately twenty-five people attended a public meeting held in January. This study is primarily focused on access on Third Street. Staff is also looking at some traffic calming possibilities, as well as things the residents want looked at such as utilities relocation. Staff is currently working to coordinate a meeting with the utility entities that have services in the area. The purpose of the meeting is to come up with cost estimates to relocate utilities. Once meeting has taken place, another meeting will be scheduled with the streetscape committee for the German Village Commission and possibly the German Village Commission.

Stelzer Road

The notice to proceed was given to ms consultants in late December/early January. The study area is from the new VA Hospital up to I-670 past the Airport. It is based on a study commissioned by the Airport; they did some very preliminary looking at improvements. This study takes it to the next step. There

will be more in-depth traffic analysis to come up with recommended improvements. There will be possibly two public involvement meetings; the first meeting will be held in June/July. A Commission representative is needed for this planning study.

Parsons Avenue

A presentation was given to the Commission last fall. Mr. Wilfong reviewed and distributed copies of slides depicting the highpoints from that PowerPoint presentation. The full study should soon be available at <http://pubserv.ci.columbus.oh.us/transportation/GettingAround/commission.htm>. The consultant recommends alternative number three – a three-lane section with alternating full-time parking with wider lanes for bicycles.

Discussion.

Staff will seek the Commission's recommendation at the March 9 meeting. Mr. Wilfong will advise the commissioners when study is available on line.

Lazelle Road

Mr. Wilfong reviewed and distributed copies of the section of the consultant's draft preliminary study relative to the corridor on Lazelle Road from High Street to Worthington-Galena Road. Staff will seek Commission's recommendation at the March 9 meeting. Staff would especially like the Commission's input with regard to installation of a traffic signal or a roundabout between Flint Road and Sancus Boulevard. The consultant prefers the roundabout; the majority of public comments favor the traffic signal. Staff will meet next week to review City comments with the consultant. At that time staff will request the consultant better address accommodating pedestrians in the roundabout, as well as concerns the public has with the roundabout. This information needs to be incorporated into the study. The study will be posted on line as soon as possible. Mr. Wilfong will advise commissioners when the study is available at <http://pubserv.ci.columbus.oh.us/transportation/GettingAround/commission.htm>.

Discussion.

West Broad Street Walking Tour

Chairman Stephens thanked commissioners and staff for participating in the walking tour and for their thoughtful comments on this issue. He indicated, as the neighborhood was informed, the Commission will not take action on this issue until all data is provided. Currently a parking study is being performed by the Neighborhood Design Center.

Bylaws

Bill Lewis presented and commissioners and staff discussed recommended changes and additions to the Commission's Bylaws.

Motion to approve Bylaws as revised: Croasmun; 2nd, Simmons. Motion carried.

Community Mobility Plans Update

Bill Lewis gave a PowerPoint presentation and updated the Commission on community mobility plans as follows:

Spring Sandusky

Two more features will be constructed when funds become available. The Ohio Department of Transportation has notified staff that the temporary speed limit of 25 mph on Neil, Third, Fifth, and King avenues needs to be changed back to 35 mph, as they were prior to construction. Speed data collected for the monitoring report showed reduction to the 25 mph speed limit is not justified.

Discussion.

Executive Secretary Austin will forward to commissioners a fact sheet stating how speed limits are set.

Strawberry Farms

Staff will be making some changes to a traffic circle to reduce entering speeds and enhance delineation through additional signing.

Linden Area

Four chicanes were installed to help enforce the 35 mph speed limit. There have been complaints about the chicanes on Maize Road. A ten-foot lane width is maintained (in some areas eleven foot) between the bumpout and the median

chicane. The Fire Department and the Public Service Department snow plows have no problems with the chicane; people who speed have problems. Part of the issue was that not all advance signing (traffic calming ahead and divided highway signs) was up when the features were finished, plus they were somewhat hidden by snow. All the signs are up now. Staff believes it would be helpful to add a plaque to “Traffic Calming Ahead” signs that actually indicates whether the calming device is a speed bump or chicane. Staff believes that would better educate the drivers as to the type of caution they need to take.

The same treatment installed on Maize Road was installed on McGuffey Road; there were no complaints.

Discussion.

Commissioner Simmons indicated there was a problem on Hamilton between Hudson and Seventeenth where center bumps were installed; the snow plows actually covered up the signage on the reflectors. Staff will look at the signage and perhaps raise the height.

Franklinton

A design contract is ready to go once funds are available. Staff is also going to look at extending the Hilltop West Broad study down to COSI. Staff is working with ODOT to develop a scope of services for the traffic study to possibly do a road diet that would include bike lanes and address the parking issues in Franklinton on West Broad Street.

Old North Columbus

Staff is ready to issue a work order for one of the first improvements from this plan. To address a speeding problem and provide more parking, staff will narrow the travel lane and install back-in parking on the south side of North Street. Parallel parking will be retained on the north side.

The second improvement from this plan is at Tompkins and Medary. Bumpouts will be installed to help slow traffic and address right-angle crashes. The work order for this improvement is currently being developed.

Greater Hilltop

The Neighborhood Design Center is working on a parking study for West Broad Street.

ODOT's Complete Street Policy Development

Bill Lewis informed the Commission that, as part of ODOT's Complete Street Policy development, ODOT has identified seven pilot projects where they want to implement complete streets. Out of those seven, five are in Columbus. The areas identified are: Fourth and Summit in Weinland, three sections of Broad Street from Prairie Township down to COSI, and the I-70/71 split.

Weinland Park

Staff is working with ODOT to do a traffic study, funded by ODOT, to help staff determine the number of lanes, including a bike lane, on both Fourth and Summit from Hudson to Warren Street.

MiloGrogan

This is a small traffic management plan that is on "hold" right now while staff is working on other community plans.

Phase Ten Signals

This involves an area south and east of downtown where traffic signals will be removed, as they are no longer justified. Staff wants to address removal issues by installing some traffic calming features. Division of Mobility Options Staff is working with Division of Planning and Operations staff to develop a scope of work.

ODOT Safe Routes to School

Franklinton

Bill Lewis reported that one of staff's applications for Safe Routes to School funding has been awarded. Two hundred thirty-five thousand dollars was awarded for Rich Street sidewalks. The project, managed by ODOT, is currently in the design phase. Construction is expected to begin in fiscal year 2011.

Staff has applied for funding of two more projects. One is in Franklinton and involves Town Street and Dana Avenue. On Town at Hawks and Avondale, staff is looking at putting in curb extensions to shorten the pedestrian crossing and also to reduce traffic speeds at those intersections. This will serve the Avondale school. The improvements on Dana serve Dana Elementary. Curbouts will be

installed, along with a raised pedestrian crossing, to shorten the crossing distance and act as a calming device. Staff should hear from ODOT next month as to whether or not this application is approved.

Hilltop

Staff's second application is from the Hilltop school travel plan. It will install a shared-use path along Valleyview and Hague. The purpose is to allow school children living south of the railroad tracks to access Valleyview Elementary and Westmoor Middle schools. Currently children are cutting across the railroad tracks west of Hague and utilizing church and YMCA property. Staff has requested \$500,000 for this application. Staff should hear from ODOT next month as to whether or not application is approved.

Discussion.

As mentioned by Commissioner Simimons, staff may contact Operation Lifesaver for its recommendation for the railroad piece of this pedestrian gate.

Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC)

Bill Lewis reported JARC is a program funded by FTA. It is similar to the New Freedom Grant. This grant program is designed to help people access transit to get to their worksite. Staff applied for a shared-use path along Olentangy from North Broadway to Ackerman. The Bicentennial Bikeway Plan calls for a shared-use path in this corridor.

Parking Meter Rate Advisory Team Update

Randy Bowman reported the Team meets approximately every two weeks and had its third meeting today. The next meeting is scheduled for March 9; three more will be held. The Team is charged with providing advice to the Director of Public Service, on or before April 30, on increasing revenues from some combination of rate increase. Some ideas being considered are: changing parking meter locations, adding parking meters, extending hours of operation, and adjusting duration of meters. Staff will give a full report to the Commission once the Team has made its recommendations.

OTHER BUSINESS

Snow Removal - Sidewalks

Commissioner Simmons expressed concern about the lack of enforcement on clearing snow from sidewalks. He indicated one of the main reasons Columbus Public Schools were closed last Wednesday was because the sidewalks were not cleared. He indicated it was appalling to see the conditions of the sidewalks even one week later.

Executive Secretary Austin indicated she and Randy Bowman share this concern. She talked about the three departments that can, by City Code, enforce this and explained some of reasons why enforcement is ineffective. She indicated staff has discussed this issue with the City's environment steward.

Discussion.

Executive Secretary Austin and Randy Bowman will take this issue to the Public Service Director to determine who may be the right person to lead the snow removal enforcement effort.

Chairman Stephens stated the Commission would like to investigate how to begin a process to better enforce or evaluate the policies regarding snow removal on sidewalks.

Bicentennial Bikeway Plan (BBP) Subcommittee

Chairman Stephens proposed creating a BBP Subcommittee

Discussion.

Motion to appoint a permanent Bicentennial Bikeway Plan Subcommittee: Conte; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

The charge for this Subcommittee will be discussed at the Commission's March 9 meeting.

Thank you to Commissioner Jack Cooley for his Years of Service to the Commission

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Stevens regretfully accepted Jack Cooley's resignation and expressed gratitude for his years of service. Mr. Cooley served on the Commission since its inception in 2003.

There was discussion about filling the voting-member vacancy left by Mr. Cooley. Commissioners were encouraged to suggest candidates.

Mayor's State of the City Address

Executive Secretary Austin welcomed all to attend the Mayor's State of the City Address scheduled for February 24, 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Theatre.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 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 WITH RECORDING SECRETARY AT 109 NORTH FRONT STREET, SECOND FLOOR, ROOM 209.

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009
3:30 P.M.

Present were:

Voting Members: Conte, Cooley, Croasmun, Moore, Simmons, Stephens

Executive Secretary: Austin

Staff: Bowman, George, Keeran, Lewis, Popa, Tilton

Guests: Gary L. Baker, II, Carrie Holliday, Steve Hermiller, Patricia Kovacs, J. Justin Boggs, Marian Lupo, Kenneth Cohen, Michael Lambert, Greg Large, Nancy Rhynard, Dave Horn, Kathy Hoke, Jessica Mathews, Chris Boring, Michael L. Sharpe, D. Bagley, Greg Watson, Geoffrey Phillips

Call to Order: 3:32 p.m.

Motion to approve November 12, 2009, minutes: Conte; 2nd, Simmons. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

West Broad Street Complete Street Alternatives

Chairman Stephens gave a brief background on this issue. He then indicated the Commission would probably not make a recommendation today as more information is needed regarding present and future parking needs. He suggested a community walk be scheduled and encouraged on-going dialogue with the community.

Terry Stewart, Division of Mobility Options, gave background information on this project and introduced the project consultant Josh Sikich from TransSystems.

Josh Sikich gave a PowerPoint presentation. The PowerPoint may be viewed on http://hilltopmobility.com/W_Broad_St.htm. The presentation covered public involvement, various options, former studies, and the consultant's recommendations. Mr. Sikich indicated there was strong support for accommodating bicyclist on West Broad Street, but most businesses favored having parking on both sides of the roadway without the bike lanes. The consultant's recommendation is to allow parking on the south side of

West Broad Street from Harris to Clarendon with bike lanes on each side; the steering committee also favored this option. The Greater Hilltop Area Commission favored parking on both sides without bike lanes.

Discussion.

Terry Stewart indicated the Development Department Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) is now under contract with the City to conduct a parking study in the area. The scope is currently being developed. The final scope for this study will be worked out with the community before going forward with this project.

Chairman Stephens indicated he would like to have this Commission, the GHAC, and other neighborhood stakeholders participate in a walking tour. He also welcomed written comments from everyone who spoke today and those who may not have had the opportunity to speak. Written comments will be distributed to all Commission members.

Dave Horn, representing the Greater Hilltop Area Commission, spoke in favor of parking on both sides of West Broad Street.

Kathy Hoke, representing the Hilltop Community Mobility Plan Steering Committee, spoke in favor of bike lanes on West Broad Street.

Nancy Rhynard, representing the Hilltop Business Association, spoke in favor of parking on both sides of West Broad Street.

Geoffrey Phillips, representing Highway West Neighbors Association, spoke in opposition to removal of parking for inclusion of bike lanes.

Greg Watson, Greater Hilltop Area Commission and realtor, spoke in favor of two bike lanes on West Broad Street.

Dru Bagley, GHAC, addressed the Commission. She indicated she had concerns about the process. She felt more outreach should have been focused on the businesses and retail establishments in impacted area.

Michael Sharp, Highland West resident, spoke in support of bike lanes on West Broad Street and other traffic control devices that are recommended in the Highland West Plan.

Chris Boring, Boulevard Strategies, spoke in support of parking and indicated there should be more of a balance of parking and cycling needs.

Discussion.

Jessica Mathews, cyclists, spoke in support of bike lanes.

Chairman Stephens asked that written comments be submitted to the recording secretary or to him or any other commissioner by December 31.

A walking tour will be scheduled before the end of the year.

Commission Meetings - Schedule Changes

Motion to change the regular meeting time of the Commission to the second Tuesday of every month with the meetings beginning at 5:00 p.m. at 109 North Front Street. This schedule change will begin in January, 2010: Conte; 2nd, Moore. Motion carried.

Bylaws Update

Tabled.

OTHER BUSINESS

Parking Meter Rates

At the request of Vice Chairman Conte, Randy Bowman gave an update on this issue. He indicated the Administration is working on establishing a working group. The Commission will be provided updates on the progress of the group.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia R. Grove
Recording Secretary

Jeff Stephens
Chairman

Patricia A. Austin
Executive Secretary

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINIUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009
3:30 P.M.

Present were:

Voting Members: Conte, Croasmun, Moore, Simmons, Stephens, Wood

Advisory Member: DeVennish

Executive Secretary: Austin

Staff: Bell, Bowman, Dussault, Lewis, Popa, Tilton, Wilfong

Guests: Lelia Cady, John Gideon, Patricia Kovacs, Kenneth Cohen

Call to Order: 3:37 p.m.

Motion for approval of October 15, 2009, special meeting minutes: Conte; 2nd, Wood.
Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws Update and Commission Meetings Time and Frequency

Following discussion on meeting times and frequency, it was decided to change the meeting time to 5:00 p.m. on either the first, second, or fourth Tuesday of each month. Recording Secretary will poll Commissioners for their preference.

There was discussion about the Bikeway Advisory Committee (BAC). Staff recommended that, until formal action is taken on the BAC, a subcommittee of experts be assembled to advise the Commission on implementation of the Bicentennial Bikeway Plan (BBP).

The concept of creating subcommittees and adding appropriate language to the bylaws was discussed. Vice Chairman Conte volunteered to work with staff to revise bylaws. Commissioners will be provided with a draft of suggested revisions prior to the next meeting. Staff suggested a special Commission meeting be scheduled for December.

There was discussion about hearing the voice of cyclists in the meantime and not waiting for another month. It was suggested that this body set the parameters for a bicycle working group to speed up this process. Chairman Stephens asked the cyclists

present today to provide feedback regarding the charge of what a bicycle-specific group should address.

Kenneth Cohen, a League certified instructor for the League of American Bicyclists, addressed the Commission. He suggested bicycle and pedestrian issues be addressed separately. He also indicated he would be available to assist in any way.

Planning Studies Update

Gary Wilfong, Division of Planning and Operations, gave updates and distributed information on the following planning studies:

Lazelle Road

A public meeting was held November 11; approximately twenty-five people attended. There was discussion about two alternatives -- a traffic signal or a roundabout. The intersection would be relocated. On the north is Old State that connects to Lazelle; that would be shifted over to the east to line up with the road to the south to make a four-leg intersection. Comments received through the mail and from last night's meeting were split.

The project would have a ten-foot-wide shared-use path on the north side of the road and a seven-foot-wide sidewalk on the south. This area is the primary concern for a lot of people. Lazelle narrows to two lanes under the railroad, and there are a lot of problems during peak hours. This plan would widen the roadway to a four-lane section under the railroad. There would also be a traffic signal at Lazelle and Flint. Flint Road will continue on to the south.

Comments received were very positive toward this project. The total estimate for the project is approximately \$16,500,000 for construction only. It does not include engineering, design, or any possible right-of-way costs. The major cost involves relocating the road, reconstruction of two bridges, and pavement widening.

The consultant will submit a preliminary report by the end of the year. After the review process, a final report will be submitted. Once a final report is provided, future funding will be discussed; outside funding sources will be sought.

Discussion.

Patricia Kovacs addressed the Commission and expressed some concerns about the roundabout. One concern was the two-lane roundabout narrowed to a single lane at one of the exits. She believed this was confusing and wondered if it could be widened to two lanes.

Parsons Avenue Traffic Study

Mr. Wilfong gave a PowerPoint presentation on this traffic study (Copies of the PowerPoint slides are available upon request).

A public meeting was held two weeks ago; seven people attended. The following week Mr. Wilfong attended a meeting with the Parsons Area Merchants Association; only four people attended.

This study encompasses Parsons Avenue from Livingston Avenue on the north to the railroad tracks on the south by Hosack Street. Parsons is a four-lane undivided roadway with eleven-foot lanes. There is on-street parking on both sides with peak-hour restrictions. The northbound traffic is restricted in the a.m. and the southbound is restricted in the p.m. The average daily traffic range is lower near Hosack and higher near Livingston Avenue. The posted speed varies from 25 mph to 35 mph. The speed study showed ranges of 31 mph to 36 mph for the 85th percentile. There are thirteen traffic signals on the corridor; they all operate at level of service "C" or better during a.m. and p.m. peaks. There are no major queuing issues. Currently there are restrictions on left turns at all of the signalized intersections; left turns are prohibited from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. The largest concerns raised involve these restrictions; people want to be able to turn left at those intersections.

The first alternative is signal optimization. The roadway has the same configuration but the signals will be adjusted to allow left turns at the intersections. It is all within the existing pavement with four eleven-foot lanes. Parking restrictions in the p.m. peak hours would still be required. Everything is satisfactory with this option, and there is a good level of service.

The second alternative is a three-lane section with alternating on-street parking. The alternating parking would not switch back and forth a lot because more parking would be lost, but it would switch a couple of times between the sides. Staff has asked for input to determine where parking is most necessary. There were some concerns with only having parking on one side of the roadway. Staff looked at the current occupancy for parking and found it was underutilized. There were no indications that more parking is needed. Most of the off-street lots are also underutilized. New signal timing and some possible streetscape improvements are suggested. The analysis showed this operates at a good level

of service with the alternating parking. The improvements meet the goals of most of the other studies in that area. There would be no peak-hour restrictions and permanent parking on one side.

The third alternative is similar to the second alternative, but with this option bicycles are accommodated. The travel lanes are thirteen and fourteen feet to accommodate bike lanes. There is not enough room to put in a true bike lane and stripe it as a bike lane, and the road cannot be widened. The average sidewalk width is approximately six feet with buildings right at the right-of-way line. Division of Planning and Operations staff are working with staff from the Division of Mobility options on this bike lane issue. They are comfortable with the lane widths to accommodate bicycles and are working on finalizing the type of pavement markings or signing needed. A concern raised with this alternative was that a seven-foot parking lane is pretty narrow and people would be afraid to open their car door. The comment was also made that some would prefer to not accommodate bicycles because it will lead to accidents. It still operates well and there would be alternating parking.

Of the few comments received, the majority favored alternative three that accommodates bike lanes, but there is a split there as some people were adamant about not losing parking on both sides.

A preliminary study should be ready by mid December for review.

Discussion.

Chairman Stephens requested that studies such as these be routinely placed on the City's website once they are introduced to the public. Staff indicated links would be provided.

Community Mobility Plans Update

Bill Lewis, Division of Mobility Options, gave updates on the following Community Mobility Plans. A map identifying plan areas was shown.

Spring-Sandusky Interchange

This was done in conjunction with reconstruction of I-670. The latest effort is to address the temporary speed limits. Speed limit studies indicated the reasonable speed limit is 35 mph. Staff is preparing a resolution to remove the temporary speed limits in the area and install permanent 35 mph speed limits.

Strawberry Farms

This plan was done as a result of the reconstruction of SR-161 and I-270. There is a circle at Chickory Lane that is having some operational problems. Staff is unable to slow traffic entering the circle fast enough. Modifications will be made to effectuate that as well as highlighting and delineating the circle.

Linden

Currently the construction of Phase 1C is being finalized. This includes some additional medians and chicanes. Once this phase is completed, the design and construction effort will end.

Franklinton

In the current proposed Capital Improvement Budget with the bond sale that is occurring, staff is estimating a design contract for some of the features that were recommended in this Plan. There are also safe-route-to-school projects (to be covered in a later presentation). Also, staff will revisit this Plan based on what was accomplished with West Broad Street in the Hilltop to determine if that theme for bike lanes and parking can be extended into downtown.

Olde North Columbus

This Plan is complete. Staff is working on a couple of projects now on North Street to install some back-in angle parking to address parking needs in the area, as well as to try to slow down traffic. Improvements on Tompkins to slow down traffic are also being looked into; staff wants to implement some horizontal shifts.

Weinland Park

The draft Plan will be sent for comments and prioritization of features to the steering committee this week. Staff also submitted to ODOT another traffic study to look at Summit Street and Fourth Street to see how those streets can be made complete streets with bike facilities and retention of on-street parking. Staff is waiting to hear from ODOT.

Staff will send copies of draft plan to Commission representatives.

Greater Hilltop

The draft Plan is in progress; staff expects to receive the draft from the consultant by the end of November. (West Broad Street Complete Street Alternatives and Safe Route to School applications is part of this Plan and will be discussed later today.)

Milo Grogan

This is a new plan to address truck traffic in a residential neighborhood. There are existing speed bumps. Staff has been working with one citizen and would like to expand that effort to more of a community approach. Staff would like to talk to residents and commercial businesses creating that truck traffic and try to resolve this issue. The goal is to develop framework for this study by the end of the year and begin stakeholder meetings sometime in the spring of 2010.

Commission representation was requested.

Phase 10 Signals

This effort is to proactively address traffic calming needs in anticipation of some signal removals in this area. Staff has identified a possible coordination issue. The Olde Town East neighborhood will be applying for a Safe Route to School Grant for Ohio Elementary School. Some of those features and the City's features will probably overlap. Staff will work with that effort to ensure features are not in conflict. The scope of that work is under review now. This is an effort staff wants to begin soon.

Bicentennial Bikeway Plan

At the October meeting the Commission asked staff to provide an expanded look at the Public Service Department's bike projects and to also try to include some of the projects of the Department of Recreation and Parks. As requested, a list of projects was provided (copies available upon request). Nick Popa, Division of Mobility Options, reviewed some of those projects.

Discussion.

Chairman Stephens encouraged anybody who has specific questions or comments to contact commissioners or Nick Popa.

NEW BUSINESS

National Car Rental Construction Exemption Appeal

Kathleen Dussault, Division of Mobility Options, indicated this issue was successfully resolved prior to the meeting and removed from agenda.

OSU Sidewalk Audit

Kathleen Dussault gave a PowerPoint presentation on this issue (copies available upon request). She indicated staff received from the OSU student government a spreadsheet listing 800 sidewalk violations in the campus area. Seven hundred and fifteen of those were potential sidewalk code violations that would require staff's inspector to go out and investigate each address, create a 311 complaint, and send out a violation notice; staff has completed 54% of investigations and 311 entries. Notices of violation will be sent in December.

Private Development Review

Gary Wilfong, Division of Planning and Operations, gave a PowerPoint presentation (copies available upon request) on this issue. He indicated this is a new topic to bring forward to the Commission. He presented four cases that highlighted some different issues staff looks at with regard to private development and zoning cases. Cases presented and discussed were: 27 Wilson Avenue – a Council variance to permit a dentist office in a residential neighborhood; 1179 Stelzer Road – a rezoning of approximately 138 acres for an Airport Consolidated Car Rental facility; 1953 Morse Road – a Council variance to permit a gas station adjacent to the Northland site; and Agler/Cassady Development – a rezoning of approximately 30 acres to a commercial plan development.

As a result of discussion of the Morse Road site, staff will look into impact on COTA's ability to provide service to the Northland site if the service road is made one way in that area.

As a result of discussion of the Agler/Cassady Development, Commissioner Simmons will discuss the rezoning with Columbus school district personnel.

This was the first time private development reviews have been presented to the Commission. It is one of the trial issues being brought to the Commission as a result of discussion at the October work session regarding the Commission's role. Commissioners will consider if this type of information is of value to the Commission, if it is an issue on which they can provide significant input, and if it should continue to be an agenda item.

ODOT Highway Safety Program Applications

Gary Wilfong spoke about the following safety applications staff has submitted to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Gender Road at Refugee Road

A safety study was performed by E. P. Ferris. The study found significant congestion during morning and afternoon peak hours in conjunction with access management problems resulting in a lot of significant crashes. The existing level of service is "F." Recommendations involve widening of the intersection to provide two through lanes, exclusive left and right-turn lanes on all approaches, and medians on Refugee Road to control access.

Gender Road from US-33 to Lehman Road

A safety study was performed by EMH&T in conjunction with the Village of Canal Winchester. The study found that the volumes of nearly 20,000 vehicles per day resulted in a high number of rear-end crashes during the peak hours as well as other crashes. Several intersections do not have left-turn lanes.

Recommendations involve widening of the northern section for a two-way, left-turn lane and exclusive left turns at Lehman Road, Winchester Pike, and Winchester Highlands Drive, and a traffic signal would be installed at Lehman Road.

A presentation was made to ODOT October 19th for both of these projects. Staff should be hearing decisions on funding soon.

Executive Secretary Austin indicated if these projects are funded, 80% would be funded by ODOT for construction and design; the City would provide a 20% match, which is currently in the budget.

Discussion.

Again, this was the first time this type of issue has been presented to the Commission. It is one of the trial issues being brought to the Commission as a result of discussion at the October work session regarding the Commission's role. Commissioners will consider if this information is of value to the Commission, if it is an issue on which they can provide significant input, and if it should continue to be an agenda item.

ODOT Safe Routes to School Applications

Tabled.

West Broad Street Complete Street Alternatives

Bill Lewis, Division of Mobility Options, gave a PowerPoint presentation on this issue. Copies of PowerPoint slides are available upon request.

Mr. Lewis indicated, as part of the Hilltop Community Mobility Plan, West Broad Street was brought out as a focal point. Staff focused on how to treat it from a complete street standpoint. They looked at a number of scenarios all with the goal of trying to reflect what the community wants. Staff heard a lot of comments that parking needs to be retained to support business. Currently parking is permitted on both sides, but it is restricted during specific times of the day. In addition, the bikeway plan calls for bike lanes on West Broad.

Four alternatives are being considered for West Broad Street from Harris Avenue to Clarendon Avenue. Alternatives are: permit parking on the north side with one bike lane on the south side; permit parking on the south side with two bike lanes; permit parking on both sides with no bike lanes; and, retain existing conditions.

Staff met with the Hilltop Business Association (HBA) on November 11 and asked that they provide input by November 23. Once that input is provided, staff will engage the steering committee involved with this planning effort. Then on December 1, staff will present all the information to the Hilltop Area Commission for its recommendation. Staff will return to this Commission in December for Commission action.

Vice Chairman Conte, Commission representative for this issue, indicated he has suggested that the bike lane markings be removed in a two/three-block area in the downtown (beginning in the vicinity of Wheatland), as those blocks are vitally important to the revitalization of the entire neighborhood. He believes this is worth a lot more study.

Discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Parking Meter Rate Increase

Randy Bowman, Division of Mobility Options, updated the Commission on the Parking Meter Rate Increase. He indicated staff will meet December 16 with some downtown stakeholders on this issue.

Special Meeting Scheduled

A special Commission meeting is scheduled for December 10.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 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 WITH RECORDING
SECRETARY AT 109 NORTH FRONT STREET, SECOND FLOOR, ROOM 209.

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2009
3:30 P.M.

Present were:

Voting Members: Conte, Croasmun, Moore, Simmons, Stephens, Wood

Executive Secretary: Austin

Staff: Bowman, Popa, Lewis

Guests: Lelia Cady, Patricia Kovacs, John Gideon

CALL TO ORDER

Following work session, Chairman Stephens called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m.

MINUTES

Motion to approve September 10, 2009, minutes: Simmons; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Bikeway Advisory Committee Update Bicentennial Bikeways Plan (BBP) Implementation Update

Randy Bowman, Division of Mobility Options, indicated staff will return to the Commission in November with their plan to make the Bikeway Advisory Committee a subcommittee of the Transportation and Pedestrian Commission. This may require code change or a resolution. The goal is to accomplish this as quickly as possible.

Chairman Stephens indicated there is a sense of urgency concerning this issue in the cycling community. They are concerned that some of the cycling issues that may or may not be included in a plan or mobility studies are not getting vetted through a body.

Discussion.

Nick Popa, Division of Mobility Options, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the BBP Implementation (copies of PowerPoint slides available upon request). The presentation

consisted of three main points - - progress since the plan was adopted in the summer of 2008, highlights of significant accomplishments completed to date, and partnerships.

Following presentation, Chairman Stephens asked that staff come back to the Commission in November with a simple one-page/one-slide document stating priorities of what was allocated in the CIP last year, priorities of what is in the works now and what had been identified in the CIP, and projects waiting for funding. Commissioner Croasmun asked that the document also include any bike trail projects the Parks and Recreation Department may have.

Discussion.

Patricia Kovacs, League of American Bicyclists, addressed the Commission and made the following suggestions/comments:

- When the BAC is redesigned, pedestrian and bike issues should be discussed separately, perhaps alternate months.
- The previous BAC had membership requirements in its charter. Those requirements called for representation from various groups including bicycle organizations, Parks and Receptions, Franklin County Engineers, MORPC, Rails to Trails, the Mayor's office, and Metro Parks. Those groups should be represented on the BAC with the addition of a member from the Police Department and the Columbus Safe Routes to Schools team.
- There should be term limits on appointments to the T&PC.
- Need a BAC to provide feedback on issues of interest to all the cycling groups.

Valet Zone Rules and Regulations

Randy Bowman reported staff has briefed the Mayor on the draft policy. The Mayor is concerned about parking in the Short North and has asked staff to get some questions answered. Is parking available in the Short North or could it become available by reaching out to the Convention Center Authority? Staff has met with the Director of the Convention Center Authority and will be following up with him. Also staff will be talking with John Angelo, Director of the Short North Business Association. Once staff gets these questions answered, they will brief the Commission on the final version and fee structure, including examples of what a typical restaurant would pay.

Discussion.

Parking Meter Rate Increase

Randy Bowman gave a PowerPoint presentation (copies of slides are available upon request) about the City's parking meter rate increase. The presentation explained the need, expected gain, analysis conducted, proposal, and next steps to implement a 50% parking meter rate increase.

During lengthy discussion, commissioners expressed concerns about this increase. They will communicate their concerns in writing to the Public Service Director.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 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 WITH RECORDING
SECRETARY AT 109 NORTH FRONT STREET, SECOND FLOOR, ROOM 209.

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009
3:30 P.M.

Present were:

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

Advisory Member: Devinnish

Staff: Bell, Bowman, Kutney, Lewis, Popa, Wilfong

Guests: Betty J. Mead, Mark Colasante, Kenneth Cohen, John Gideon, Gordon Renkes

Call to Order: 3:35 p.m.

Motion to approve August 13, 2009, minutes: Simmons; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Studies Update

Gary Wilfong, Division of Planning and Operations, reported on the following planning studies:

Parsons Avenue Traffic Study

Consultants from P.B. America have basically completed all their research -- traffic counts, turning-movement counts, everything needed to make recommendations. They are now looking into alternatives and further analysis of alternatives. Once completed, a public meeting in the area will be scheduled in late September/early October; commissioners will be advised of time and place.

Third Street Streetscape Project

A neighborhood meeting in German Village was held at the end of July. The majority of discussion was about returning the surface of Third Street to brick; the residents really want that. Resurfacing in brick is not something the City is considering at this time. However, if area residents can raise the money for brick, the City would not object to it and would ensure whatever is done with the streetscape would not prohibit a brick surface. Staff has been working with

consultants, and they are preparing the next step to get to a plan that can satisfy all parties. Another meeting will be scheduled. The meeting might be with the German Village Streetscape Committee rather than an open meeting; commissioners will be notified of time and place.

Lazelle Road Preliminary Engineering Study

Study is near completion. The main focus now is on the section between Flint Road and Old State Road where there are two railroad bridges. Consultants are working with the railroad's representatives and narrowing down alternatives for the bridges. Once completed, a public meeting in the area will be scheduled in late September/early October; commissioners will be advised of time and place. Consultant will finalize report approximately one month after the public meeting.

Chairman Stephens inquired about the multi-use trail.

Mr. Wilfong indicated the plan shows a shared-use path on the north side of Lazelle and sidewalk on the south side. Because of the railroad, the shared-use path will need to be closer to the road than it is at the rest of the corridor. The bikeway plan called for a bike lane, so this is different than what the bikeway plan called for. Division of Planning and Operations staff are working with staff from the Division of Mobility Options on this issue.

Stelzer Road Preliminary Engineering Study

Authorization to proceed has been given. The City is working with ms consultants and has received consultant's price schedule to move forward with the contract. Hopefully, within the next few weeks, the contract will be finalized, and staff can issue notice to proceed to the consultant.

Community Mobility Plans Update

Bill Lewis, Division of Mobility Options, reported on the following community mobility plans.

Linden Area Traffic Management Plan

Final features are being constructed, including some chicanes on Maize, McGuffey, and Hamilton roads, as well as some sidewalk on Briarwood. After this year, construction and design activities for the plan will cease.

Franklinton

Design scope has been finalized but waiting for funding to go into the design phase. Staff, however, has taken some steps toward implementation: legislation will be presented next week to accept a grant from ODOT for the Safe Routes to School program (SRTS), which will place a quarter mile of sidewalk on Rich Street near Dana Elementary School. Staff is also applying for SRTS funds for curb extensions at Hawks and Town, and mid-block at Avondale and Dana avenues for Avondale and Dana elementary schools.

Weinland Park

Staff has gone through the public involvement process and has input from the public. Staff is working with the steering committee to begin setting priorities that the plan will list as its recommended order of implementation.

A separate, but related, issue is staff is also pursuing finalization of the Fourth and Summit corridor analysis. They are looking at not converting the operation of the streets from one-way to two-way, but are looking into the possibility of removing peak-hour parking restrictions and allowing full-time parking on Fourth and Summit.

Staff will invite Commission representatives Stephens and Simmons to the steering committee meetings.

Hilltop

The plan is in the public comment phase; public meetings were held in August. This fall, once the public involvement process is concluded, staff will present draft plan. ODOT has approved the school travel plan, and staff will be applying for a SRTS grant for Valleyview at Hauge for some sidewalks to serve the school complex on Valleyview.

A separate, but related, issue is the treatment of West Broad Street. Staff is looking at alternative typical sections and reducing the number of through lanes from six to four. Staff is in the process of determining if the extra pavement should go toward bike lanes or on-street parking.

Discussion.

Bikeway Advisory Committee Update

Randy Bowman, Division of Mobility Options, reported on combining the Bikeway Advisory Committee (BAC) into the Transportation and Pedestrian Commission (T&PC) as recommended in the Bicentennial Bikeways Plan (BBP). Legislation will need to be prepared. In addition to combining the two groups, a few other housekeeping issues need to be addressed with the legislation. Staff is working on recommendations for the Director of Public Service. Staff will report to the Commission in October on the plan and steps to accomplish this. The goal is have this accomplished by the end of the year.

Chairman Stephens indicated he is eager to have this accomplished as soon as possible. He indicated the cycling constituents have expressed concern for many projects that are underway and wish to ensure we are abiding by and complying with the recommendations in the BBP. He suggested additional comments from commissioners about how to reactivate the BAC should be directed to him and Randy Bowman.

Gordon Renkes, a member of the former BAC and Certified League Cycling Instructor, addressed the Commission. He indicated he is interested in seeing any facilities constructed in the transportation infrastructure be consistent with lawful and competent bicycling. He said he is in favor of establishing a committee, directed by City Council, to promote lawful and competent bicycling and promote recommendation of facilities consistent with it, and to recommend against and stop any facilities which are a danger to both lawful, competent cyclists and also to those who are not trained cyclists. He indicated many times facilities built with untrained bicyclists in mind, turn out to actually confuse them more and cause problems.

John Gideon, Vice President of Consider Biking (comments are not necessarily those of Consider Biking.), Co-founder of Bike Block Ohio, Board Member of the North American Alliance for Biking and Walking, and former member of the BAC, addressed the Commission. He indicated a meaningful bikeway advisory committee is necessary to make sure the bike and pedestrian plans are faithfully implemented. Making it a subcommittee of the T&PC would be good if the T&PC reviews projects to ensure they are in compliance with those plans. He questioned if projects were brought to this Commission for review and mentioned specific projects he believed were not in compliance with those plans. He indicated the statute that created the T&PC clearly intended this Commission would have meaningful input, both to the Transportation Division and City Council, on creating a bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly Columbus. Mr. Gideon suggested the T&PC should insist that before any project goes to City Council, the transportation engineers must present it to the T&PC to ensure compliance with bicycle, pedestrian, and other plans. He further recommended this Commission make its recommendation to City Council before City Council votes on it. Mr. Gideon also believed if a separate advisory board is formed, it should be a bicycle and pedestrian

advocacy committee, and the T&PC should insist the advocacy committee review projects for compliance with City policy and law prior to review and recommendation by the T&PC.

Randy Bowman pointed out that Mr. Gideon's comments are contemplated in the BBP in that the City oversight of projects implementing the plan should be there in the forum of the BAC that is combined in the T&PC. Mr. Bowman addressed specific projects mentioned by Mr. Gideon. He also indicated, with regard to projects not in compliance with the BBC, that some projects in the City take years to implement and design before they get to the construction stage. Once a scope has been set for a project, particularly when outside funding is involved, the City is pretty much locked in to the original scope. But now, with the adoption of the BBP, the City has rules and regulations -- a new City law that requires a deliberate approval process for inclusion or exclusion of bike and pedestrian facilities for private development projects as well as capital improvement projects. Mr. Bowman indicated staff is tracking the implementation of recommendations of the BBP and will brief the Commission at its next meeting.

Discussion.

Valet Zone Rules and Regulations Update

Randy Bowman reported staff has received comments from commissioners and stakeholders. Staff is currently working with City leadership to work out details of fee structure. The goal is to have new rules and regulations effective January 1, 2010. He hopes to give final briefing at the next Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Signal Studies

Len Kutney, Division of Planning and Operations, gave PowerPoint presentations on signal studies. Copies of PowerPoint slides are available upon request.

Easton Commons Drive/Vision Drive at Morse Crossing

Staff recommendation: Based on the requirements of the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, a traffic signal is justified at this location. Approve signal request pending owner/developer agreement and plans being processed.

Eddie Bauer District/Mid-State/Franklin County at Fisher Road Drive

Staff recommendation: Based on the requirements of the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, the traffic signal at this location is no longer justified. Place signal on flash for one year for signal removal study. Restripe north leg of intersection to remove southbound right-turn-only lane.

Motion to approve staff's recommendations to approve traffic signal for Easton Commons Drive/Vision Drive at Morse Crossing, and to begin signal removal study process for Eddie Bauer District/Mid-State/Franklin County at Fisher Road Drive: Croasmun; 2nd, Simmons. Motion carried.

Residential Permit Parking

Keith Keeran, Division of Mobility Options, gave PowerPoint presentations on residential permit parking requests. Copies of the PowerPoint slides are available upon request.

Blenkner Street from Third Street to Lazelle Street – Request to Change Permit Parking from the South Side of Blenkner Street to the North Side – Case #091009 01

Staff recommendation: Staff received valid petition to relocate existing parking restrictions on Blenkner from Third to Lazelle. Current restriction on the south side of Blenkner is two-hour parking from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., except City Permit "A." The current restriction on the north side is no parking any time. Staff's analysis showed the proposed arrangement would allow for two additional parking spaces. If approved, parking will be consistent on Blenkner Street from Third Street to High Street. Approve request.

Mark Colasante, petitioner, spoke in support of request.

Motion to accept staff's recommendation to change the permit parking from the south side of Blenkner Street to the north side from Third Street to Lazelle: Croasmun; 2nd, Cooley. Motion carried.

Bridgewalk Street from Agler Road to Terminus – Request for Residential Permit Parking Area for Columbus Hickory Ridge Condominiums – Case #091009 02

Staff recommendation: Staff received petition for a new residential permit parking area for proximity parking for Columbus Hickory Ridge Condominiums on Bridgewalk Street from Agler Road to the Terminus. A parking study was not done for this area because there is no one aggrieved by establishing a permit parking area. This is a request by the management/condominium association to provide each condominium parking in proximity to their unit; ten spaces are

requested. Staff recommends conditionally approval. The condition is that if Bridgewalk Street is extended in the future, the City can revisit the affect of this parking restriction and possibly remove it if conditions warrant.

Betty J. Meade, Secretary of the Columbus Hickory Ridge Condominium Association, spoke in support of request.

Chairman Stephens read for the record a letter (copies available upon request) from Vice Chairman Conte, who was unable to attend today's meeting. Vice Chairman Conte opposed request.

Discussion.

Motion to accept staff's recommendation to conditionally grant request for residential permit parking on Bridgewalk Street from Agler Road to Terminus: Simmons; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

American Public Works Association International Conference

Randy Bowman gave a brief overview of the events scheduled for the American Public Works Association International Conference to be held September 13-16 at the Columbus Convention Center. Commissions were invited to attend.

Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission Summit and OTEC

Randy Bowman announced there is a MORPC Summit coming up in October and OTEC is scheduled for the end of October.

ADA Policy

Bill Lewis reported staff is finalizing the ADA policy regulations. Staff is considering a requirement where if a developer builds on a corner, they have to build two adjacent ramps as well as the two ramps opposite to complete the walking route. The BSRC has asked staff to consider when one of the other corners develops that that developer reimburse the original developer for building that ramp.

Scooter Parking

The new garage at Front Street and Rich Street has an area designated for bike and scooter parking. Scooter and bike parking will also be incorporated into the parking garage under construction at Fourth Street and Elm Street.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 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 WITH RECORDING
SECRETARY AT 109 NORTH FRONT STREET, SECOND FLOOR, ROOM 209.