

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2012
5:00 P.M

Present were:

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

Advisory Member: Mull

Executive Secretary: Austin

Division of Mobility Options Staff: Bowman, Keeran, Lewis, Popa

Call to Order: 5:05 p.m.

Motion for approval of May 8, 2012, minutes: Wood; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Potential Parking Code Amendment Update

Randy Bowman indicated there will be a meeting June 13, at 5:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers about the potential parking code amendment. This is relative to Hague Avenue ruts in the tree lawn. The next step is the public engagement meeting on June 28. Staff will enter the Ordinance into the system for a City Council Agenda in July.

Discussion.

Downtown Action Plan Update

Randy Bowman gave update on this issue. He indicated the City's goal is to add metered parking to High Street this year. The goal for next year is to convert Front Street and Marconi to two-way operation. Coupled with the Front/Marconi conversion, and working with the LeVeque Tower developer, there will probably be some changes on Broad Street between High and the Broad Street Bridge. The consultant group Burgess and Niple is helping with this effort.

Staff has reviewed the Plan with many different stakeholders, and an Advisory Committee has been formed. The Committee has workable solutions for both High Street and Front and Marconi. Staff is currently reaching out to government entities along High Street to see if they will agree to have some meter parking in front of their properties. Following responses from the government entities, the next step is to brief COTA leadership on the Plan. Following that, a public input/comment meeting will be scheduled for the week of July 23. Staff will advise the Commission of the exact date at its July meeting. The City has money in this year's budget for

metering High Street, as well as construction bids and construction award over the winter for Front and Marconi.

Mr. Bowman said the immediate focus is on High Street, the second focus is Front and Marconi two-way conversion, and the third focus is Broad Street. After that, staff will look at peak-hour parking restriction removal throughout the downtown and along High Street. Staff will also be looking at the bike lane/bikeway accommodation and possible two-way conversion of other streets in the downtown. The City will ask Alta Planning and Design to participate in the complete streets review.

Near East and South Area Traffic Control Modification Update

Patti Austin gave the update on this issue. It is the removal of fourteen traffic signals, primarily on Bryden Road in the near east neighborhood, that are no longer warranted. Staff met a week ago with neighborhood liaisons and explained the project to them. They will help staff with the neighborhood outreach. The week of June 18, staff will meet with the leadership of three area commissions and explain the project to them. Staff will report back to the Commission in July.

Discussion.

Bicycle Subcommittee Update

Nick Popa distributed and reviewed the new 2012 Bike Maps. He indicated there were several sponsors and MORPC had a huge part in the project.

Mr. Popa then gave a PowerPoint update on the May Bicycle Subcommittee meeting

2012 Recreation and Parks Projects

Brad Westall from Recreation and Parks was invited to give a briefing on this, but he was unable to attend at the last minute. He will be invited to give briefing at the next meeting.

Mr. Popa indicated that Public Service coordinates a lot of projects with Recreation and Parks. There are several under design right now. A few are:

Spot Improvements at Dublin Road and Urlin Road and Dublin Road at Twin Rivers - These projects will provide connections to the Scioto Trail.

Dublin Road at SR-315 and King at Olentangy River Road - These projects will provide connections to the Olentangy River Trail.

Hudson/Mock Connector and Olentangy to Alum Creek Connector Phase Two
Both of these projects will provide major east/west connections between Olentangy River Trail and Alum Creek Trail.

Shared-use Path on SR-161 – This project will connect the extensive Dublin path system to the Olentangy Trail systems.

Recreation and Parks Bike Share Briefing

The request for proposal for this project was advertised June 9; proposals are due July 12. The notice to proceed is anticipated in September. Brad Westall will update the Subcommittee at its next meeting.

Ohio/Champion Avenue Bike Facilities

This is a bike project the City is doing in conjunction with the resurfacing program. Ohio and Champion is a one-way pair between Frebis and Mooberry. The project length is approximately one mile and the ADT's are roughly around 5,000. This is also a COTA bus route. Staff is considering options for this project. The roadway has been resurfaced, but either bike lanes and/or sharrows can still be applied. Staff and the consultants are considering four options. They looked at full-time parking on both sides of the road and are considering different width travel lanes and bike lanes. They looked at a ten-foot travel lane and a six-foot bike lane or an eleven-foot travel lane and a five-foot bike lane. Staff looked at moving the bike lane off to the left side and also looked at a fourteen-foot shared lane. With the fourteen-foot shared lane there will be an eight-foot parking lane. Staff has taken some input from the Subcommittee and is in the process of going through all the input and options.

Mr. Popa also talked about the sections north of Livingston. The roadway narrows slightly in that area and there is not enough space for a bike lane. Staff is looking at two seven-foot parking lanes and a fourteen-foot shared-use lane.

MORPC's Regional Bikeways Project

The final plan was adopted May 10. Staff was tasked with doing an analysis to see how the regional bikeways that MORPC has on their regional bikeways map compared to the City's Bicentennial Bikeways Plan. Staff found only 8% of the 100% of the bikeways identified by MORPC did not match the bikeways identified by the City.

Downtown Action Plan

The Subcommittee had its regularly scheduled briefing on this issue. The briefing was similar to briefing given today by Mr. Bowman.

Bike Parking Shelters Update

Two bike-parking shelters were recently installed at High Street and Lincoln in the Short North and High Street and East Dominion Boulevard. That completes phase one of the bike parking shelter project.

The Capital Crossroads SID is in the process of installing its bike parking throughout the downtown as part of its federal grant monies. Staff anticipates its bike parking shelters are going to be installed this spring. There are about a half dozen or so that will be installed in addition to several bike parking lockers and several bike racks. Capital Crossroads SID is also updating some of the parking garages in the downtown to include bike racks.

Phase two of the City's bike parking shelters will go out for bid soon. Eight bike parking shelters will be installed in this phase. A total of eighteen shelters will have been installed once phase two is completed.

Parking Policy Update

Randy Bowman gave update on the following parking policy.

Loading Zones - Staff met with a small group about the loading zone rules and regulations and will meet again this week.

Residential Permit Parking - Staff formed a small advisory group to help with the residential permit parking policy. The group consists of representatives of the University Area Commission, Italian Village Society, and John Angelo, the Short North representative. Staff met with the advisory group on May 31. Staff is in the process of reviewing comments received. Staff anticipates they will brief the University Area Commission and the Italian Village Society within the next sixty days.

Handicap Parking Policy - Staff met with attorneys from a state organization on disability issues and is incorporating their input into the draft policy. Staff expects to get their input on the new version within the next two weeks. After that, staff will brief the Public Service Director, and then bring the policy to this Commission for action in July or August.

German Village Alleys

Keith Keeran gave a PowerPoint presentation on this issue. Copies of slides are available upon request. He indicated there are problems with parking in alleys near the south side of Columbus. The Refuse Department contacted staff about several alleys that they have problems getting through and the Division of Police has received calls from residents about parked cars blocking driveways. To address the problems, staff plans to install "NO STOPPING

ANYTIME” double arrow signs in both directions on streets/alleys that have been identified as “hot spots.” Signs will be installed on: Radar between Beck and Sycamore; Willow between Rader and Mohawk; Purdy alley between Sycamore and Lansing; Blackberry Alley between Whittier and Siebert; Concord Place between Jaeger and Ebner; north side of Siebert; Macon Alley between Kossuth and Whittier; nameless alley west of Jaeger between Kossuth and Frankfort; and Macon Alley from Livingston to Sycamore.

Staff’s next step is to notify the neighborhood. Signs will be installed at the end of summer.

Discussion.

Motion to support staff’s recommendation to post no parking signs in the designated “hot spot” alleys as presented: Simmons; 2nd, Wood. Motion carried.

Curb Ramps Prioritization and Funding

Tabled.

OTHER BUSINESS

July Agenda Items

Randy Bowman indicated the Delawanda Residents Association requested a permit parking area on Leland Avenue. They are concerned about patrons of a local bar parking on Leland. Staff conducted its standard parking study and found the parking criteria for permit parking was not met, so they could not recommend approval of request. Staff has communicated with CPD about customer behavior issues; CPD is looking at enforcement in the area. An invitation to attend the July 10 meeting was extended Tony Borres, President of the Delawanda Residents Association.

Discussion.

Request for Crosswalk on Olentangy River Road at Longaberger

Bill Lewis reported on this issue. He indicated staff has been contacted frequently by a citizen to put in a crosswalk across Olentangy River Road south of Lane which would provide a connection for people parking at Longaberger and walking to the Schottenstein Center and back. Staff’s study indicated there are a lot of challenges with providing a safe crossing at this location. Staff has invited the citizen to address his concerns to this Commission; the citizen declined. Staff will present this issue at the July meeting.

Discussion.

Back-in Angle Parking Enforcement

Bill Lewis indicated the City has some areas where there is back-in angle parking only. There is not a specific code that allows enforcement for this. Staff wants to put together some code language that allows enforcement. Staff will bring this to the Commission in July.

District-wide Safe Routes to School Plan

Vice Chairman Simmons informed the Commission there is a grant available for a person who will lead a District-wide Safe Routes to School Plan.

Governor's Faith-based Initiative for Safer Schools

Vice Chairman Simmons reported he is on the committee of the Governor's Faith-based Initiative for Safer Schools. Highland Elementary has been chosen for the pilot program. The Shalom Zone in the area will provide adult volunteers to stand on corners in the "walk" area to just be visible in an effort to discourage bullying of the elementary school students by middle and high school students. Columbus Public Schools will provide vests for this effort.

Operation Life Safe Train

Vice Chairman Simmons indicated he will ride the Operation Life Safe Train tomorrow. A lot of students will ride this train. It looks at violators of railroad crossings and teaches students that railroad crossing are dangerous.

Thank you Chairman Jeff Stephens!!

On behalf of Public Service Director Kelsey, Executive Secretary Austin thanked Chairman Jeff Stephens for his service. Mr. Stephens has provided great leadership to the Commission since its inception in 2003. His term on the Commission expires this month. Chairman Stephens will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 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