

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

Present were:

Voting Members: Carr, Croasmun, Duguid, Simmons, Simonds, Stitt, Wood

Executive Secretary: Austin

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

Division of Planning and Operations Staff: Kendrick

Guests: Tony Borres, John Bennett

CALL TO ORDER: 5:05 p.m.

Introduction of New Member

Chairman Steve Simmons introduced and welcomed new Commissioner Lori J. Duguid.

MINUTES

Motion for approval of the July 10, 2012, minutes: Croasmun; 2nd, Carr. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Residential Permit Parking Request – Leland Avenue

This issue was first brought to the Commission last month. At that time, the Commission asked staff to conduct another parking study and report back.

Keith Keeran gave a PowerPoint presentation. Copies of slides are available upon request. Based on the information gathered in the second parking study, staff's recommendation was to not approve residential permit parking as the parking criteria were not met.

Tony Borres, President of the Delawanda Residence Association, and John Bennett spoke in support of request.

Discussion.

Motion to approve staff's recommendation to deny the residential permit parking request: Stitt; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

Designate Bicycle Subcommittee Chair

Chairman Simmons requested a volunteer to serve as Chairperson of the Commission's Bicycle Subcommittee. Commissioner Duguid volunteered.

Motion to appoint Commissioner Lori Duguid as Chairperson of the Bicycle Subcommittee: Simmons; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Informational Items

Bicycle Subcommittee Update

Daniel Moorhead gave update as follows on issues discussed at the July 25th Bicycle Subcommittee meeting:

2012 Columbus Recreation and Parks Projects Recreation and Parks Bike Share Briefing

Brad Westall, from the Department of Recreation and Parks, briefed the Subcommittee regarding projects for bike facilities that the Department of Recreation and Parks will be implementing both this year and beyond.

Mr. Westall also briefed the Subcommittee on the Bike Share Program for which there is a Request for Proposal outstanding that will be evaluated.

Hudson-Mock Connector Overview Olentangy-Alum Creek Connector Phase Two Overview

The consultant gave an overview to the Subcommittee about the Hudson-Mock Connector, a project to provide a bikeway corridor along Hudson Street and Mock Road between the Olentangy Trail and the Alum Creek Trail. Construction is expected to begin in 2014.

The consultant also gave an overview to the Subcommittee on the Olentangy-Alum Creek Connector Phase Two. It is a second phase to a bike route that was built last year that connected the Olentangy Trail and the Alum Creek Trail further north than the Hudson-Mock Connector. This Phase Two is to provide an alignment that is more east/west than what was accomplished with Phase One. It will include a shared-use path construction, where Phase One was only on-street. Construction for Phase Two is expected to begin in 2015.

The overviews communicated the preferred alignment as a result of the preliminary engineering process.

Downtown Action Plan

Staff invited the Subcommittee to take part in the public meeting about High Street parking. That meeting took place earlier this month.

Henderson Road Shared-Use Path Update

Staff gave an update to the Subcommittee on the Henderson Road Shared-Use Path Project. There are two segments to this project. One segment is out for construction and will be built soon. The segment is between Reed Road and Kenny Road. The other segment is between Kenny Road and Olentangy River Road. Construction for this segment is expected to begin in 2013.

Parking Code Amendment Update

Randy Bowman indicated that at last month's meeting, the Commission supported staff's recommendation to update the City's Parking Code. That update would create a new parking fine for parking up over a curb illegally on the tree lawn. Also, that parking code update would create fines for parking in a bike lane and parking in a shared-use path. Mr. Bowman reported City Council passed the Ordinance July 16th. The law will go into effect August 16th. The City will not issue tickets until September 16th. In the meantime, staff will send a final flier to Hague Avenue residents, and the Columbus Police Department and Parking Violations Bureau have been encouraged to give verbal warnings.

Downtown Action Plan (DAP) Update

Jessica Kendrick gave the update on this issue.

On-street Parking

Mrs. Kendrick indicated the public meeting regarding on-street parking on High Street was held August 2nd. Staff has received positive feedback from the business community. One concern, based on comments from the bicycling community, is the narrow locations. Staff will meet August 29th with the Bicycle Subcommittee to discuss how to better address the sharrows on High Street.

Mrs. Kendrick indicated the nature of other comments was confusion or doubts. People do not understand how cars can park and busses can operate together. The comment period closed August 10. Work Orders are being prepared for City crews to install the parking meters. Meters should be installed by the end of 2012 or beginning of 2013. After installation, staff will monitor and tweak, if necessary, to ensure bus operation is not interrupted.

Downtown Action Plan (DAP) Update (continued)

Front/Marconi Conversion to Two-way Operation

Mrs. Kendrick indicated staff is wrapping up the preliminary layout and will begin design soon.

Broad Street

Mrs. Kendrick indicated this part of the DAP is currently in the analysis stage. Staff and consultants are determining how many travel lanes are needed for vehicles. Once that is determined, they will begin to determine what complete-street treatments should be implemented.

Discussion.

Near East and South Area Traffic Control Modification Update

Jessica Kendrick reported staff has met with the leadership from the Near East Area Commission. The next step is to attend, next month, the Livingston Avenue, Columbus Southside, and the Near East area commission meetings. There will be an open house later in September. Staff will seek this Commission's approval in October.

Parking Policy Update

Randy Bowman gave the update on this issue.

Loading Zone Policy

Mr. Bowman indicated staff met with representatives of the Short North Alliance and Capital Crossroads and reviewed the existing Loading Zone Policy and characteristics of loading zones. Staff will bring the proposed updated policy to this Commission in September or October.

On-street Handicap Parking Policy

The Ohio Legal Rights Services (OLRS) contacted staff and asked to review the policy. Staff is currently working through the comments from that group. Mr. Bowman will soon vet the draft policy with the Public Service Director, and may be able to bring the draft policy to this Commission in September.

Commissioner Simonds requested a staff member familiar with the On-street Handicap Parking Policy attend the Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues meeting scheduled for August 23. He will email specifics of the meeting to Mr. Bowman and Mr. Keeran.

Parking Policy Update (continued)

Residential Permit Parking Policy

Randy Bowman indicated staff will brief the Italian Village Society on August 14th about the prospective changes to the Residential Permit Parking Policy. He indicated staff has received a petition from people in the neighborhood requesting the City stop issuing permits to employees of Short North businesses, as they believe it is adding congestion to the Italian Village side of High Street. This will also be discussed at the August 14 meeting. Mr. Bowman indicated he will suggest forming a focus group with representatives of the Short North Alliance, Italian Village Society, and the Italian Village Commission. He requested a volunteer to represent this Commission. Staff will brief the University Area Commission on the prospective changes on August 15th.

Commissioner Wood volunteered to represent the Commission on this issue.

Discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia R. Grove
Recording Secretary

Steve Simmons
Chairperson

Patricia A. Austin
Executive Secretary

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

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012
5:00 P.M

Present were:

Voting Members: Carr, Croasmun, Simmons, Simonds, Stitt, Wood

Advisory Member: Mull

Executive Secretary: Austin

Division of Mobility Options Staff: Christian, Keeran, Lewis, Popa, Stefanik

Division of Planning and Operations Staff: Kendrick

Guests: Tony Borres, Jennifer Kangas, Joel-Henry J. Mansfield, John Bennett, Mark Stasik, Kevin Rice, Joseph Hebdo, Sarah Danner, Glenn McEntyre, Bill Price

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Motion for approval of June 12, 2012, minutes: Stitt; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Curb Ramps Prioritization and Funding

Jim Christian, ADA Manager, Division of Mobility Options, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the citywide 2012 curb ramp projects. Copies of slides are available upon request.

Discussion.

ACTION ITEMS

Residential Permit Parking Request – Leland Avenue

Keith Keeran gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on this issue. Copies of slides are available upon request. Mr. Keeran indicated staff received valid petitions requesting residential permit parking on Leland Avenue from Milton Avenue to High Street. The restriction sought was “no parking from 5:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. every day, except City permit.” Staff’s recommendation was not to approve the request, as the parking percentage requirements were not met during the parking studies conducted. Mr. Keeran indicated that after Tony Borres, Delawanda Residents Association, was notified of staff’s recommendation, he requested the City waive the

requirement and grant an exception to the City's policy. He also requested the restriction apply to only the eastern most two thirds of Leland Avenue. These requests were also denied by staff. Mr. Borres then requested a hearing before this Commission.

Advisory Member Mull reported on this issue. He indicated late shift police officers were directed to look at the parking situation the entire month of June. The results of this effort indicated there may be quality-of-life issues, but there are no issues to keep police going back to the area until called or on routine patrol. Lt. Mull will ask the liaison officer for the area to reach out to the owners of the local establishments in an effort to discourage patrons from parking on Leland.

Tony Borres, President of the Delawanda Residents Association, and Kevin Rice, area home owner, gave a PowerPoint presentation (copies of slides are available upon request) in support of their request to approve permit parking, so they can reduce the number of non-residents parking on Leland and thereby reduce the issues they are facing. The issues include limited parking for residents, blocked driveways, noise, littering, hit-and-run accidents, vandalism, and physical threats. They indicated the patrons of local establishments are the biggest contributors to those issues.

Jennifer Kangas and Joel-Henry J. Mansfield, area residents, also spoke in support of request. John Bennett, Mark Stasik, Joseph Hebdo, and Sarah Danner were present for discussion on this issue.

During lengthy discussion, it was suggested that staff further study the area on a weekend during the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Motion to have staff look at Leland again at the times recommended, and also have Lt. Mull have an officer canvas the area, check again, and then come back with the new findings and recommendations at the August Commission meeting: Simmons; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

Crosswalk Requests – Olentangy River Road at Longaberger

Nick Popa gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on this issue. Copies of slides are available upon request. He reported staff conducted a standard crosswalk investigation into a citizen's request back in 2008 to place a crosswalk across Olentangy River Road near the Ohio State University at Longaberger Alumni House and Fawcett Center. Staff recommended no action be taken at this time due to the crossing being event driven, the availability of alternate existing paths of safe travel, and the fact that OSU has a long-term plan to realign Berror Road. Staff requested the Commission's support.

Discussion.

Motion to support staff's recommendation to take no action at this time: Simmons; 2nd, Stitt. Motion carried.

Staff will look into the possibility of using way-finding signs to encourage pedestrians to cross Olentangy River Road at Lane Avenue.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Potential Parking Code Amendment Update

Nick Popa reported the Parking Code Amendment revision will be heard at City Council July 16th. If passed, enforcement will occur thirty days later. A public meeting was held in June and was received favorably by the community.

Downtown Action Plan Update

Jessica Kendrick gave update as follows:

High Street

The City is getting ready to begin the design to add on-street parking to High Street from Mound to Goodale. Parking meters and associated signs should be installed by City crews by the end of the year. The other part of the High Street project is to add sharrows and adjust lane lines, or widen curb lanes. That will be done next year during a resurfacing project. A public meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 26th; Mrs. Kendrick will advise Commissioner Croasmun when meeting is confirmed.

Front and Marconi Two-way Conversion

Front Street will be converted to two-way operation between Broad and Hickory, and Marconi will be converted to two-way operation from Broad to Spring. Decorative mast arms will be used for signal upgrades. Construction will start in the middle of next year.

Front Street is now five lanes northbound with some full-time parking. It will be converted to two lanes in each direction with a center, two-way, left-turn lane. Parking will be permitted during off-peak hours, but restricted during peak hours. Marconi is now five lanes southbound, but narrows down to three lanes at Broad Street. There is no on-street parking between Long and Spring, but there is full-time parking south of Long. That will become one travel lane in each direction with a center, two-way, left-turn lane. There will be full-time parking on the west side between Long and Spring and full-time parking on both sides south of Long.

Broad Street

There is a possibility that one travel lane in each direction can be removed on Broad from Marconi to I-71. This is currently being analyzed.

Near East and South Area Traffic Control Modification Update

Jessica Kendrick reported on this issue. She indicated staff met with the Chairs of the Livingston Avenue Area Commission and the Columbus Southside Area Commission to brief them on the project. The Chair of the Near East Area Commission was not able to attend the briefing. Staff plans to make a presentation to the Livingston Avenue and the Columbus Southside area commissions on July 31, and hopes to present to the Near East Area Commission on August 9. Staff hopes to have a public open house by the end of July.

Parking Policy Update

Nick Popa reported there will be outreach concerning Residential Permit Parking occurring in August to the Italian Village and the University area commissions. Loading Zone and On-street Handicap Parking policy updates are in progress.

ACTON ITEM

Election of Officers

Executive Secretary Austin indicated Steve Simmons has volunteered to step up as chairperson.

Discussion.

Motion to approve Steve Simmons as Chairperson of the Commission: Carr; 2nd, Croasmun; Simmons abstained. Motion carried.

Executive Secretary Austin asked for a volunteer to serve as vice chairperson. Commissioner Croasmun volunteered.

Motion to approve Valorie Croasmun as Vice Chairperson of this Commission; Wood; 2nd, Stitt. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia R. Grove
Recording Secretary

Steve Simmons
Vice Chairperson

Patricia A. Austin
Executive Secretary

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

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

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012
5:00 P.M

Present were:

Voting Members: Carr, Croasmun, Stitt, Wood

Advisory Member: Mull

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

Division of Planning and Operations Staff: Kendrick, Wilfong

Guest: Alexis Fabrizio

Call to Order: Acting Chairperson Croasmun called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Motion for approval of March 13, 2012, minutes: Wood; 2nd, Stitt. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

Residential Permit Parking Request – Neil Avenue (east side) from 6th Avenue to King Avenue

Staff recommendation: Keith Keeran gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on this issue. (Copies of slides are available upon request.) The Division of Mobility Options staff received valid petitions for residential permit parking on the east side of Neil Avenue from 6th Avenue to King Avenue. Restriction sought is no parking 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays, except for City permit "B" or "P." All criteria are met; approve request.

Discussion.

Alexis Fabrizio spoke in support of staff's recommendation.

Motion to approve request, as presented, for residential permit parking on the east side of Neil Avenue from 6th Avenue to King Avenue: Stitt; 2nd, Carr. Motion carried.

Speed Limit Adjustments

Winchester Pike East of Ebright Road

Staff recommendation: Jessica Kendrick reported there is currently 1/3 of a mile of Winchester Pike east of Ebright with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour in between two 55 mile-per-hour zones. The segment is too short to be a speed zone. Staff's speed study indicated the calculated speed was 53 mph on this section of roadway. Staff recommended raising the speed limit to 55 mph.

Discussion.

Motion to approve staff's recommendation: Croasmun; 2nd, Wood. Motion carried.

Parsons Avenue – I-270 Overpass to Rathmell Road

Staff recommendation: Jessica Kendrick reported this speed study was triggered because there are no speed limit signs posted in this area. The last known speed limit appears to have been 35 mph. The county jurisdiction to the south is posted at 50 mph, the county section to the north is not posted, and the city section north of that is posted at 35 mph. Staff's study indicated 50 mph should be the recommended speed limit for the city's section.

Discussion.

Motion to approve study, with the request to gain a report from staff on their discussion with Franklin County to study the county section adjacent to the city's study. Carr; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

Potential Parking Code Amendment

Staff recommendation: Randy Bowman indicated staff was approached by two neighborhood leaders who are concerned about the condition of the tree lawn along Hague Avenue from just north of Broad to just south of Sullivant Avenue. The complaint is that residents who live along that section of Hague Avenue are parking over the curb and tires are leaving ruts in the tree lawn, and they want the City do something about it. In response to their concerns, the Department of Public Service, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety/Division of Police, and the Code Enforcement Section of the Department of Development, developed an action plan. Mr. Bowman reviewed the action plan (copies available upon request). Mr. Bowman also reviewed and requested Commission approval of draft ordinance that would amend City parking regulations and restrict vehicles from parking over the curb onto the street lawn area, and prohibit vehicles from parking in a bike lane. Staff has met with the Greater Hilltop Area Commission; they support the City's action plan, the creation of the parking infraction, and the City's outreach efforts. Mr. Bowman requested a volunteer to represent this Commission.

Discussion.

Motion to approve the parking code amendment presented by staff with the revision to add the \$50.00 fee for parking in a bike lane: Croasmun; 2nd, Wood. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Studies Update

Gary Wilfong gave updates on planning studies as follows:

Creative Campus

Staff and stakeholders had a walk through on April 11. Staff received a lot of feedback from the walkthrough. The consultant is now working on meeting with each of the stakeholders. Staff wants to know about their individual site plans. Staff hopes to begin laying out alternatives in a few months. The biggest change will be on Gay Street. The City will consider brick pavement for Gay Street, and will try to discourage vehicular traffic on Gay between Cleveland and Washington.

Short North

Staff walked the corridor April 13 with representative from the Short North SID. SID is the group that pushed for this project and got the funding from the Mayor's office to do the preliminary engineering study. Staff will meet with the consultant next week to come up with public involvement plan. There are a lot of different commissions and area groups along that stretch. Staff will utilize SID to do a lot of the outreach. There is already one change, the north project limit initially ended at 7th by the new Kroger; that has been extended to 9th. The Department of Development made that request as they had some funding available to extend the project up to 9th and finish that stretch. The time line is similar to that of Creative Campus, but there will be more public outreach needed and a lot of stakeholder involvement.

Hamilton Road

The data collection is complete. The land use projection for the area where the "S" curve will go is being finalized. Staff has met with CASTO; they are providing staff with what they are hoping to put in that area to help with traffic projects. Once that is finalized, MORPC will assist staff with the traffic modeling. Once staff receives the modeling from MORPC, they can finalize what the cross section will be. Within a month or two, Mr. Wilfong will bring some typical sections to look at.

Downtown Action Plan Update

Randy Bowman gave a PowerPoint presentation on this issue. Copies of slides are available upon request.

Discussion.

Lane Avenue Campus Safety Update

Bill Lewis gave an update on this issue as follows:

At the last meeting, staff reported the results of staff's investigation of crosswalk requests from the OSU student government along a couple of intersections on Lane Avenue east of High Street. At that time, the Commission expressed some concerns. Today's update responds to those concerns.

Staff received a request to install crosswalks at Waldeck and at Tuller. Lane Avenue is three lanes with parking on one side. Waldeck and Tuller are two-lane streets intersecting Lane Avenue. The pedestrian crossing data was collected in January after classes had started. The weather was sunny but cold (35 degrees), still there were a number of pedestrians crossing north/south lane. Staff did not count pedestrians crossing east/west along Lane because those intersections are also stop controlled, so there is really no other treatment staff could recommend. Staff was looking for a recommended treatment for pedestrians crossing the uncontrolled approaches crossing north/south on Lane. Staff counted 118 pedestrians in one hour (9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.) on both approaches at Lane and Tuller crossing north/south, and then 35 pedestrians the same direction at Waldeck. Once staff gathers this data, as well as the average daily traffic data on both streets, they do engineering analysis which gives two answers. One, is a crosswalk justified, and, two, if it is justified, what is the recommended treatment of that crosswalk. The results showed a crosswalk was justified at Tuller, and the recommendation is to put in a type two ladder crosswalk on both approaches, as well as the City's standard pedestrian crossing and advance crossing signs. Staff felt that is sufficient given the speed limit, the volumes, and the width of crossing that the pedestrian encounters. At Waldeck, there were fewer pedestrians crossing, so staff chose not to improve that crossing at this time, given the pattern of the crossing traffic observed was basically to the south and to the west toward High Street and the main parts of campus. Staff's approach is to mark the Tuller street crosswalk, and see if that affects or impacts the directionality of pedestrians crossing Waldeck. The thought being that they may travel on Lane west and actually cross at Tuller rather than Waldeck. Also, at Waldeck, in addition to any signs and markings that could be justified, the City would need to install curb ramps to make it ADA compliant, so that is a little more of a long-term improvement. The curb ramps at Tuller are already compliant. Work orders have been issued to City crews to do the marking and signing at Tuller. Staff will then monitor traffic at Waldeck to see if any pedestrians shift to Tuller. Staff will recount pedestrians in August or September of this year.

Staff will provide the University Area Commission with a project update and description. Staff has tried twice to meet with the OSU students and rescheduled twice at their request. Staff has not heard back from the students.

Discussion.

NOTE: NO LONGER HAVE QUORUM

Near East and South Area Traffic Control Modification

Jessica Kendrick reported staff is still working through meetings with the various parties to inform them of the signal removal project. Staff will meet with the liaisons to the neighborhoods later this month. Then staff will go on to the area commissions and then the public open house. Staff will provide Commissioner Croasmun with date of open house and an updated project schedule.

Bicycle Subcommittee

There was nothing to report on this issue as the subcommittee did not meet in April.

Parking Policy Update

Randy Bowman reported on this issue as follows:

Residential Permit Parking

Staff will be meeting, within the next month, with representatives from Italian Village Society, University Area Commission, and the Short North Business Association, to get their input on some potential changes.

Loading Zones

Brent Simonds, John Angelo, and Cleve Ricksecker will be providing staff with some input about the changes in the loading zone policy. They have some good ideas – they want to prevent unintended consequences. Their concern is if we limit the availability of loading zones, or make it very costly, the small businesses may suffer. Staff will be meeting with them again in about a month.

On-street Handicap Parking.

Staff will meet in the next few weeks with a representative from the ADA-mandated state agency that serves the disabled community. The representative has asked to look at the policy draft. Once staff has her input, staff will brief this Commission in detail and ask for recommendation to the Public Service Director.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Street/Rich Street Two-way Conversion – State Route 315 to Belle Street

Bill Lewis reported this is a new effort staff is undertaking for the east Franklinton area. Currently Town and Rich Street are one-way streets from the bridges to SR-315. On either side of that, they are two-way. A number of studies have recommended looking at converting them from one way to two way. The Franklinton Community Mobility Plan had that recommendation and the Bicentennial Bikeways Plan recommends some sort of bike facility in the Town and Rich corridor. Also, there is now occurring a planning study for the east Franklinton Creative District, which is an effort to try to revitalize East Franklinton. One of their recommendations is also to two-way each street. In response to that, staff has undertaken a preliminary engineering study

to determine the feasibility of converting each of those streets from one way to two way. Staff is looking at traffic volumes and parking. Staff is also looking at the safety aspects.

Staff is looking at two different phases. One is a look at it from the bridges to just west of the interchange. With the results of that analysis, staff, hopefully, will be able to tell ODOT, as they redesign the SR-315 Town and Rich interchanges, how much room we have to leave underneath the bridges when they do reconstruct the interchange. However, in the meantime, staff is going to be looking just east of the interchange to see where to change over from one way to two way, either at Gift Street or Grub Street. That will be part of the preliminary engineering analysis as well. After the preliminary engineering study is complete, detailed design will begin. There are two components to that. One is the roadway ramps, lane control, signal modifications, and two-way operation. Another part of that design effort is streetscapes and gateways. There is a large interest in not only redeveloping the area, but also to make it look more inviting and give it a character that is more telling of what East Franklinton wants to be. As part of that, there is a separate effort to guide staff as to what other streetscape items they would be interested in seeing. There is a large interest to hide/minimize the railroad bridges going in and out of East Franklinton. So a big part of that effort is going to be designing some gateway features.

The preliminary study is expected be done in August. Staff is going to accelerate design and try to get that done by April. The goal is to have everything completed by October of 2013. Staff will be outreaching to the Franklinton Community and a number of different organizations. There are several public meetings scheduled. Staff will be going in front of the Arts Commission regarding gateway features that would be developed as part of this effort as well.

Mr. Lewis requested a volunteer to represent this Commission. Commissioner Stitt volunteered.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia R. Grove
Recording Secretary

Valerie Croasmun, Acting Chairperson
Chairman

Patricia A. Austin
Executive Secretary

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

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012
5:00 P.M.

Present were:

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

Advisory Member: Mull

Executive Secretary: Austin

Division of Mobility Options Staff: George, Popa

Division of Planning and Operations Staff: Kendrick, Wilfong

Guests: Tricia Kovacs, Nancy Reger

Call to Order: 5:10 p.m.

Motion for approval of February 14, 2012, minutes: Simmons; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Lane Avenue Campus Safety Study and Speed Study

Campus Safety Study

Nick Popa reported there was a request by OSU student Nick Parker to examine pedestrian safety on Lane Avenue east of High Street; specifically, that intersections be examined for new marked crosswalks at Lane and Tuller Street, Lane and Waldeck Avenue, and Norwich Street at Tuller Street. In addition, the students inquired about the re-marking of the existing crosswalk at the signalized intersection of Lane Avenue and Indianola Avenue.

Mr. Popa indicated staff has conducted a standard crosswalk evaluation study in response to Mr. Parker's request; the conclusions of the study are:

- 1) a marked crosswalk is not warranted at Norwich Avenue and Tuller Street;
- 2) the existing pavement markings at Lane Avenue at Indianola Avenue are in excellent condition, so no additional markings are recommended;
- 3) at Lane Avenue and Waldeck Avenue, a marked crosswalk is warranted but not recommended due to the proximity to Lane Avenue at Tuller Street which has the higher volume of pedestrians crossing; and,

- 4) marked crosswalks on Lane Avenue at Tuller Street are warranted, and the recommendation is to install marked crosswalks on the east and west legs of Lane Avenue at Tuller Street. Associated pedestrian signage will be installed to go along with those crosswalks. This work will be completed sometime in 2012.

Discussion.

The Commission requested additional information on the safety study/Crosswalk issue. Staff will provide requested information at the April 10 meeting.

Lane Avenue Speed Study

Jessica Kendrick reviewed the results of the speed limit study conducted by staff on Lane Avenue from High Street to Summit Street. Staff recommends lowering the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph due to high pedestrian and bicycle activity, roadway characteristics, and the high number of crashes.

Discussion.

Motion to accept staff's recommendation to pursue the reduction of the speed limit on Lane Avenue, from North High Street to Summit, from 35 mph to 25 mph: Simmons; 2nd, Wood. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Informational Items:

Planning Studies

Gary Wilfong gave updates on planning studies as follows:

Creative Campus and Short North

The Short North kickoff meeting was held today. The Creative Campus kickoff meeting is scheduled for March 15. The next step is to collect data, then, staff will look at alternatives. The first stakeholder meetings will probably occur in one month at the earliest. Commissioner Wood and Chairman Stephens will be advised of the meeting dates.

Hamilton Road

This study is still in the data-collection phase. A public open house will probably take place in mid to late summer.

Traffic Standards Code Update

Gary Wilfong indicated a goal of the Public Service Department for 2012 is to update the Traffic Standards Code. The Traffic Standards Code was originally adopted by the City in 1997. It is the Code that details what is required of developers when they are developing a parcel, and what the City's expectations are going to be with regard to traffic. It defines when a full traffic study is required, and it states what the study is to include. The Code is out of date and needs to be updated. Staff hopes to present a draft document to the Commission this fall and present recommended changes to City Council this December. The Commissioners will be provided with a schedule of events.

Downtown Action Plan

Jessica Kendrick reported that since the last Commission meeting, COTA has performed a study and determined that moving bus lines from High Street to Front Street is not a possible short-term solution. So, in order to implement parking this year on High Street, the Plan will focus on the possibility of consolidating bus stops on High Street and filling in parking where possible. The Advisory Panel has also finalized the evaluation criteria that will be used to measure the future scenarios. The Advisory Panel has also provided locations critical for parking on High Street that Burgess and Niple and COTA used to develop alternatives for the parking on High Street. The next Advisory Panel meeting is scheduled for March 27. During this time, the City's consultant will run some alternatives through a traffic model. At the next meeting, they will be prepared to show these concepts. There are a total of six concepts that will be shown in simulation. Each concept will know the number of parking spaces that will be provided by each concept, and then each one will have operational pros and cons. Staff may also see some results for the two-way conversion of Front and Marconi streets.

Discussion.

Tricia Kovacs asked if right turns off of High Street will be considered. Ms Kendrick indicated one of the concepts is to remove all of the turn restrictions, or as many as possible.

Near East and South Area Traffic Control Modification Update

Jessica Kendrick reported that on March 15 a meeting will be held with the neighborhood liaisons. The next step will be to meet with the area commission chairs, and then on to a public meeting. Staff hopes to place the signals on flash in May for a six-month study.

Tricia Kovacs addressed the Commission. She expressed concern about the possible removal of six signals on Bryden. If all being considered are removed, there will be no signals on Bryden between Parsons and Nelson. She said it is easier for blind pedestrians to cross with a signal. Also, at the southeast corner of Kelton and Bryden, there is an apartment complex where a lot of people who are elderly and disabled live. Ms Kovacs indicated she brought this information to the committee on accessible issues. She recommended leaving the signal at Kelton and maybe leaving another signal at Champion or Ohio. She also suggested leaving the crosswalks at locations where signals are removed.

Bicycle Subcommittee

Nick Popa reported as follows on issues discussed at the February 22, Bicycle Subcommittee meeting:

Henderson Road Shared-use Path

The City is planning to construct a shared-use-path facility on Henderson from Olentangy River Road to Reed Road. This will be a quick-to-construct method. The section from Olentangy River Road to Kenny Road will be designed by a consultant firm. The section from Kenny Road to Reed Road will be designed in house. Staff discussed design details with the Subcommittee. Staff will take the Subcommittee's comments to the design consultant, especially those concerning the area by Olentangy River Road as it is more complex. Also, east of Lauraland Drive, the path is proposed to go on the north side of Henderson. Unfortunately, as you get down toward Olentangy River Road, the space is limited, so the path will be about six feet wide east of Lauraland. West of Lauraland, staff is looking at putting in an eight-foot path. This will all be concrete construction. The Subcommittee discussed providing an alternate route for bicycles to cross the street at Lauraland, and then utilizing some residential streets in the neighborhood to access Olentangy River Road. This project is in the preliminary engineering phase, so all of those options will be looked at. The design should be completed by summer, with construction to begin later this fall. The other project that goes from Kenny to Reed will have a similar construction schedule.

Discussion.

Green Lane Project

Columbus was recently invited, as one of 32 cities, to apply for inclusion in the green lanes project being conducted by the Bikes Belong Foundation. Out of those 32 cities, six will be selected to participate in the project. This is a new effort that will work closely with the six cities to help them build world-class cycling networks on city streets. These will be cities that are poised to make significant progress in the next two years in installing cycle tracks and/or related improvements, which Bikes Belong is calling green lanes. The project will facilitate a partnership between the cities and provide them with resources and technical assistance while expanding the knowledge base and sharing it widely. Highlights of this project include trips for City staff to go to Chicago and New York City, and then a trip to the Netherlands or Denmark to observe those cities bike facilities. Bikes Belong will also provide technical evaluation assistance to selected cities. This will be a two-year project. The City submitted an application for this on March 9. The selection will be made April 2, 2012.

Discussion.

Traffic Signal Detection of Two-wheeled Vehicles

There have been a lot of inquiries about this on the City's 3-1-1 system. The City now has a new option on the system where one can choose bicycle detection at a signalized intersection. Division of Mobility Options staff is working with the signals section personnel of the Division of Planning and Operations on this issue.

Downtown Action Plan

There was discussion at the meeting regarding this issue.

MORPC's Regional Bikeways

This is part of MORPC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MMTP). They are now calling this the proposed regional potential bikeway utilization methodology. It is a methodology to categorize future bikeways in a way that can be applied throughout the entire region. A representative from MORPC gave a presentation at the Subcommittee meeting. Key dates for the overall MMTP are:

February 29 - draft document out for review
March 20 - open house at MORPC from 4:00 to 7:00
April 13 - comment period closes for the plan
April 27 - final document completed
May 10 - plan adoption by MORPC.

Dublin/Urlin Watermark Spot Improvement

This intersection improvement was discussed. The project is being done in conjunction with an ODOT urban resurfacing project that will take place on Dublin Road. It will improve bike access through the intersection from Urlin and then across a short stretch of Dublin Road where shared-use path will be provided along the south side of the road that will connect to Watermark. Bike lanes will be provided on Watermark all the way to Grandview Avenue. The project will connect the neighborhood to the north of Dublin Road with the Scioto Trail. This year, an ODOT project will extend the Scioto Trail all the way down to the Dublin Road Water Plant, and that will connect a key piece of the trail.

Bike Parking Shelters

Eighteen shelters will be installed by the Department of Public Service. The first phase has ten shelters - - eight have been installed. The final two shelters will be installed this spring. Phase two has eight shelters that will be installed by Christmas 2012. The Downtown Special Improvement District is also going to install about six shelters beginning this spring.

Community Mobility Traffic Management Plans

Nick Popa gave updates on plans as follows:

Spring Sandusky Overall Traffic Management Plan

Medians will be installed on Fifth Avenue east of the Olentangy River and west of Perry Street. A median and bump-out will be installed on Third Avenue east of the Olentangy River. Construction should be completed this summer.

Linden Area Traffic Management Plan

Some traffic calming features were removed on Maize Road and Norris Road. Temporary replacement markings were installed on Maize Road.

Franklinton Community Mobility

Staff has the design for the Town Street curb extensions and some sidewalks near some of the railroad bridges. That design is underway and will be completed this summer. Staff is also looking at the Rich Street and Town Street two-way conversion. Staff has a preliminary engineering proposal in for that. A notice to proceed will be issued within the next two weeks.

Olde North Columbus Traffic Management Plan

Work orders have been drawn to install angle parking on North Street. Work will be completed as weather permits.

Weinland Park Community Mobility Plan

Staff has a proposal for preliminary engineering at seven locations and three additional (if authorized) locations. Along Indianola Avenue south of Eleventh, curb extensions and traffic circles will be installed. On Sixth Avenue between Fifth and Sixth, sidewalk will be installed. Curb extensions at the intersection of Sixth Avenue and Fifth Street may be incorporated. A notice to proceed for this design is expected within the next two weeks. Preliminary engineering should be completed in June and the design work soon after. A public meeting to review the project with the Weinland Park Community Civic Association will be held sometime in May or June.

Staff will advise Vice Chairman Simmons when meeting arrangements are finalized.

Fourth Street and Summit Street.

A traffic study incorporating bike lanes and additional parking has been completed. The City is asking ODOT to review the study. Any work that would occur on Fourth and/or Summit would be in conjunction with an ODOT urban paving project scheduled for state fiscal year 2015.

Discussion.

Hilltop Traffic Management Plan

Some features will be designed in the Hilltop. Staff will develop a request for proposal later this year.

NEW BUSINESS

2012 to 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Nancy Reger from the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), gave a PowerPoint presentation on this issue. This is a four-year plan, with a horizon year of 2035. It includes a lot of long-range transportation elements, but it really covers 2012 through 2016. The projects identified on this transportation plan are those transportation related projects that local communities want to make sure they are working on in the next four years or more, so that they are eligible to receive 80% federal funding through MORPC. The draft Plan is available online at MORPC's website. The comment period ends April 13. The Plan will be adopted May 10, 2012.

OTHER BUSINESS

Governor Kasich's Faith-based Initiative for Student Safety

Vice Chairman Simmons informed the Commission that Governor Kasich's office has a faith-based initiative for student safety. The first area selected for this initiative was Highland Elementary in the Hilltop. A group called the Shalom Zone is participating in the creation of the student safety area. The first effort in the safety program will be "corner dots." The Columbus School District will provide a safety cone and vest for an adult to stand on a corner to help children cross the streets at the safest location. Vice Chairman Simmons indicated he met a gentleman at the first meeting at Highland Elementary, who remembered favorably the Transportation and Pedestrian Commission's participation in the neighborhood walk. The Commission's efforts in the Hilltop area seemed to have made a long-lasting, positive impression.

Discussion.

The Commission would like updates on this initiative as it progresses.

Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Improvements

Commissioner Simonds indicated there is a need to include more sidewalks and curb ramp improvements in the City's budget. There are over 300 curb ramps on the list right now that are not being funded. He has spoken to Mayor Coleman about this issue and will also discuss with Councilperson Paley. Councilperson Paley will attend the next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues.

Discussion.

Commissioner Simonds will bring a map of the unfunded curb ramps to the next meeting.

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

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