



MEETING NOTES

TOPIC: Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Implementation Meeting

DATE: February 13, 2012

NOTES BY: Jeff Bergman

PRESENT: Jeff Bergman, Planning Department
Becky Douglas, City Engineer's Office
Jim Lemke, Parks Department
Ben Wagner, Parks Department
Laura Garrett, Healthy Communities
Dave Hayward, City Engineer's Office
Kelli Thompson, Healthy Communities
Rae-Leigh Stark, Planning Department
Jeff Fetterer, Bike Ped. Committee

ABSENT: Jamie Brinegar, Parks Department
April Williams, Parks Department

The discussion began with updates on several topics generally related to the implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan:

- Laura Garrett shared that the "Columbus by Bike" map was complete and distribution had begun through Parks Department facilities, the Visitor's Center, area hotels, etc.
- The group discussed providing bike route and bicycling information on the City's website. It was noted that the Technology Advisory Committee had reject the proposal to add this content to the City's website as a separate page or category. The members of the group questioned the TAC's authority over this topic. It was agreed that the Parks Department will host the bicycling content on their pages and that the Planning and Engineering Departments would provide links to that content.
- It was noted that May 18 is "Bike to Work" day.
- It was noted by Dave Hayward that he is working through the Tipton Lakes Homeowners Association to add "sharrows" to Tipton Lakes Boulevard. He noted that little input had been received from Tipton Lakes homeowners despite information placed in their newsletter, etc.
- Dave Hayward announced that Hoosier Rails to Trails is planning a north-south bicycle route that will link northern Indiana to Louisville. Dave will be working with them on route ideas through Columbus.
- Dave Hayward indicated that he is looking into how pedestrian crossing signals are used in the City and possibilities for increasing their use. He indicated that many people do not realize the importance of pressing the pedestrian walk button (which in some cases extends the crossing time from 8 seconds to 30 seconds).

- Ben Wagner noted that the Parks Foundation will soon kick-off a People Trail fundraising campaign with a goal to raise \$1 million and to provide a connection to the broader bike-ped. system within 3 blocks of every home.
- Dave Hayward indicated that the search for a new MPO director was underway and it was hoped that position would soon be filled.
- Laura Garrett indicated that bicycle repair stations would be installed at key locations in the community.
- Dave Hayward shared that he and Ben Wagner were looking into the possibility of rerouting the Haw Creek People Trail under Rocky Ford Road. He noted the need for a sidewalk on the south side of Rocky Ford Road in this area and for better pavement markings where the existing sidepath crosses the entrance to Candlelight Village.
- Kelli Thompson reported on Safe Routes to School efforts – specifically, as to a “no idling” campaign at local schools and a street crossing instructional video for students.
- Dave Hayward reported continued work on obtaining a grant to install rapid flashing beacons to assist with pedestrian crossings of several problem intersections (similar to the devices installed at the Central Avenue and Parkside Drive intersection).

Rae-Leigh reported that the Bicycle Route signs have been installed on 19th and 17th Streets and Peregrine Drive (project T1-8). The group indicated that it will be necessary to observe the signs and their use and to make any needed corrections to both the existing signs and plans for future installations. That review should include whether or not the destinations were adequately labeled and the spacing of the signs was appropriate (close enough to be reassuring to cyclists, but not cluttering the street). The group discussed other bike routes that could be installed in 2012, noting some additional funding available from Health Communities for this purpose.

It was noted that the County Road 200 South sidewalk from the Shadow Creek Farms neighborhood to Southside School was currently being designed by the Shadow Creek Farms developer and was being reviewed by the Planning and Engineering Departments (project T1-2). This sidewalk was required to be installed by the developer when the subdivision reached a certain density; that density was recently reached. It was also noted that the City will be responsible for corresponding improvements to the County Road 200 South and 150 West intersection (as a part of project C-8).

Ben Wagner indicated that the Haw Creek trail re-alignment project is still ongoing (project T2-1). He stated that more detailed plans for the route of the re-alignment are being developed to aid in easement negotiations with the property owner.

The group discussed the future organization of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan implementation, specifically ways to merge in the discussion of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and involve more members of the public to assist in prioritization. The group discussed re-organizing as a sub-committee of the MPO technical advisory committee and using the MPO policy board as the body that would vet and appoint public participants. The group noted that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Safe Routes to School Plan would likely have shared projects, priorities, and funding sources. Adding representatives from the BCSC transportation department and the Columbus Police Department to the Bike/Ped. Plan implementation discussion was suggested as a method of also adequately representing SRTS.

Jeff Bergman agreed to set up the next meeting of the group (as it presently exists) in May. Jeff will send an e-mail with possible dates and a link to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan implementation section of the Planning Department’s web site.