



MEETING NOTES

TOPIC: Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Implementation Meeting

DATE: February 10, 2011

NOTES BY: Jeff Bergman

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

ABSENT: None

The attendees began the discussion with a review of 2010 projects as follows:

- The sidepath along 11th Street by Fire Station #1 is complete (**project T1-11**).
- The 17th Street improvement project, including bicycle lane markings, will conclude during the 2011 construction season (**project C-5**).
- The Gladstone Avenue bicycle lane markings will be installed with those for 17th Street (**project T1-4**).
- The Owens Bend Trail is scheduled for completion in 2011 (**project C-7**).
- The Haw Creek re-alignment project is proceeding with possible construction in 2012. The Parks Department and City Utilities are currently working together to determine the exact trail alignment and secure the necessary land. (**Project T2-1**)
- Detailed plans have been created for the establishment of the signed bicycle routes identified by the Plan (**projects T1-12, T1-6, T1-15, T1-13, T1-14, and T1-8**).

The group discussed the possibility of creating an updated map of the "current" system showing the completed and in-process projects. This will help the group to identify next steps that compliment the completed projects and improve the system in an orderly manner. Rae-Leigh volunteered to create the updated map.

Jeff reviewed for the group some examples of how the adopted Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan had influenced new development during 2010. Those examples included the following:

- **The Ridge** church at the northwest corner of 25th Street and County Road 350 East: As part of their development of that corner the church was required to widen 350 East to meet the minimum standards identified by the City Engineer, which included adequate width for a future bicycle lane. Jeff B. noted that there was an apparent mis-understanding and the church has already marked the bike lane along their frontage, which they were not required to do.
- **Westside Community Church** at the southwest corner of State Road 46 and Tipton Lakes Boulevard: As part of their site plan approval for the development of that corner the church was

required to provide an easement along their State Road 46 frontage for a possible future multi-use trail (see project F-15).

- The proposed downtown **outdoor sports complex** to be located south of Water Street: As part of their site development plan review the Plan Commission has inquired as to how their site design will accommodate the multi-use trail proposed by the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan to connect the Haw Creek Trail with Mill Race Park.

Dave shared that the Columbus Parks foundation will start a fund drive this summer to raise additional funds for People Trail projects.

The group reviewed and discussed the bicycle route sign plans that were created by the Planning Department in the summer of 2010. Steve indicated that the city attorney should be consulted as to whether or not an ordinance needed to be passed to allow the signs' installation. This was likely not required since the signs were informative and not regulatory. It was further decided that a sign table documenting the type and number of signs needed to be created for each bicycle route. These tables could then be provided to Mike Patterson at the City Garage who would create cost estimates. Steve indicated that he could provide a sample sign table. It was decided that the group should pursue the installation of signs for only 1 bicycle route in 2011. This would serve as a test project and allow adjustments to be made to the sign plans for the other routes based on the lessons learned.

It was reported that Healthy Communities is currently working with the City Engineer's Office and Kent to create a "how to use a bicycle lane" video for public distribution. The group had a general discussion of how the video will be distributed.

It was reported that a trail extension from the west to the east side of Parkside School that was to be funded with a Safe Routes to School grant was on hold. A new grant application may be made for this project after the Safe Routes to School plans were completed in the spring of 2011. It was noted that this may be an appropriate project for the Parks Foundation fund drive, rather than having to manage the bureaucracy of federal funding for such a small project.

It was reported that 27 "C" bike racks were installed by Healthy Communities in 2010 and that additional installations were pending for 2011.

The group discussed the following projects for possible implementation in 2011:

1. **Project T1-5 – 17th & Washington Intersection Improvement:** The group discussed whether or not a subcommittee and/or a paid consultant was needed to address the issues with this project. It was agreed that the first step would be an internal meeting to re-visit the area and discuss options. It was determined that the group should meet again in early spring 2011 to discuss this project specifically.
2. **Project T1-3 – 10th Street Sidepaths:** The group felt this was a "doable" project with internal resources, but that the amount of available right-of-way along 10th Street needed to be verified. All of those in attendance expressed some concern about the number of projects currently being discussed and the current capacities of their offices. Laura volunteered to make an initial review of the 10th Street right-of-way. Steve indicated that, in concept, the City Engineer's Office could do the design work and the City Garage could do the installation (as time and funding allowed).
3. **Projects T1-7 and T1-8 – River Road Bicycle Lanes and Peregrine Bicycle Route:** The group felt that these projects should be coordinated. There was discussion as to whether or not bike lane markings could be installed on River Road in its present condition or if it would be better to wait until after any future repaving project.
4. **Project T1-9 – Parkside Drive Bicycle Lanes:** The group felt that the existing width of Parkside Drive would accommodate these lane markings now. It was noted that the on-street parking on Parkside Drive may complicate this project. The group decided that a certain amount of political will and consensus building may be needed for this project and that it should wait until 2012.
5. **T1-10 – State / 2nd / 3rd Street and Central Avenue Intersection Improvements:** Kent indicated that he would make contact with INDOT regarding this intersection.

The group had a brief discussion about the Haw Creek Trail – Mill Race Park downtown connector multi-use path. It was noted that Tom Wetherald currently owned the former Farm Bureau Co-op. property, which this path would need to cross. Ben indicated that he would contact Tom to begin a discussion about an easement for the path. The group felt the time was right for this discussion, as Tom may sell the property for development in the future.

Follow-up:

- Create updated Current System Map – Rae-Leigh
- Secure Haw Creek Trail re-alignment design and easement / property - Ben
- Provide sample sign table for calculating bike route sign types and numbers – Steve
- Identify bike route signage pilot project – Rae-Leigh / Jeff B.
- Consult with Alan Whitted on bicycle route sign ordinance requirements, if any – Jeff B.
- Complete sign tables for bike routes and forward them to Mike Patterson – Rae-Leigh / Jeff B.
- Organize a spring 2011 meeting to discuss 17th & Washington intersection (T1-5) – Jeff
- Review 10th Street Right-of-way – Laura
- Contact INDOT regarding State / 2nd / 3rd Street and Central Ave. intersection – Kent
- Contact Tom Wetherald regarding an easement for the Haw Creek – Mill Race Park trail connector - Ben