City of Columbus – Bartholomew County Planning Department

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MEETING NOTES

TOPIC: Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Implementation Meeting

DATE: November 14, 2011

NOTES BY: Jeff Bergman

PRESENT: Jeff Bergman, Planning Department

Kent Anderson, CAMPO

Ben Wagner, Parks Department April Williams, Parks Department 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

Becky Douglas, City Engineer's Office

The group reviewed to-scale drawings of the bicycle route signs to be installed on 19th Street and Peregrine Drive (project T1-8). The group agreed that the 2 inch high directional text was appropriate for the signs and that placing the final sign order should proceed. Dave Hayward reported that Alan Whitted had researched the requirements for the installation of the bicycle route signs and concluded that an authorization ordinance passed by the City Council was not needed.

Dave Hayward reported that the River Road and Gladstone Avenue bicycle lanes (projects T1-7 and T1-4) are complete and have had a positive effect on reducing vehicle speeds on those streets. He indicated that speeds on Gladstone are down by 2 mph in one direction and 8 mph in the other.

Rae-Leigh Stark provided a draft of an updated current bike/ped. system map. The group commented that the signed bicycle routes should be distinguished in some way from the unsigned routes on the map. The group indicated that maintaining a current system map would be useful in gauging progress and viewing the relationships between past and proposed projects. Jeff Bergman noted that the Planning Department intends to add a Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Implementation section to the on-going projects area on the Department's webpage. He indicated that the current system map could be included with that material.

The group discussed the possible expansion of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan implementation working group to include additional members of the public. It was noted that this would help in evaluating completed projects and prioritizing future projects. It was further noted that an expanded committee could fulfill one of the requirements for Columbus becoming a designated "bicycle friendly community". The group agreed that there would be benefits to an expanded, more formalized committee. However, the group agreed that the committee's discussions should remain informal and not overly structured or bureaucratic.

Dave Hayward and Kent Anderson reported that they had met with Jim Ude with the INDOT Seymour District office regarding the 2nd / 3rd / State Street intersection. Jim had indicated that INDOT is working on state-wide ADA issues and this effort may include improvements to this intersection.

After some discussion, the group agreed that Ben Wagner should proceed with contacting Tom Wetherald about an easement on his former co-op property on 3rd Street for the future construction of the downtown loop trail (project T1-1). The group also discussed the pending lease agreement between the City and a private business for the conversion of the former Senior Center (the old City Power House) to a restaurant. The group agreed that an easement for a future downtown loop trail was not needed at this time, but would be a priority should the City ever consider selling the property.

Ben Wagner provided an update on the Haw Creek Trail re-alignment (project T2-1). He indicated that the Park Board has authorized preliminary design of that trail re-alignment in order to provide more definition to the ongoing easement discussion with the property owner.

The group discussed the trail spur to be constructed around the northeast side of Parkside School in the context of recent irrigation improvements to the soccer fields in that area. It was concluded that the improvements would not eliminate the possibility of this connection.

The group discussed the possibility of the Flintwood Drive bicycle route (project T1-14) not terminating at the Flintwood temporary dead-end but instead being re-routed to Richards School and then along the future Par-3 Drive sidepath to Rocky Ford Road. The group felt that this option should be kept open as it would facilitate a more immediate link between the neighborhoods on each side of Rocky Ford Road (as opposed to waiting for a future Flintwood extension).

The group discussed options for making the connection between the 19th Street bicycle route and the Haw Creek Tail more clear and deliberate. It was agreed that this connection likely would occur in Lincoln Park by using the existing drive and then either (1) installing a short section of trail by the mental health building parking lot or (2) removing a small section of curb near Hamilton Center. The group discussed the possibility of adding "sharrows" on the Lincoln Park drive to help direct cyclists and warn motorists.

Dave Hayward noted that he would be meeting soon with the Tipton Lakes board to discuss the possibility of adding "sharrows" to Tipton Lakes Boulevard and Goeller Boulevard. These markings would signal the shared use of certain lanes by bicyclists and vehicles.

The group discussed the possibility of an update to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan to identify "sharrows" and "bicycle boulevards" as possible facilities and provide standards for those options. It was noted that this may be appropriate and would also provide an opportunity to check on implementation progress with the public and update the City's new elected officials.

Ben Wagner noted that the Park Master Plan project is underway and currently in the initial public input stage. He indicated that the most frequently mentioned positive is the People Trail. The initial comments have encouraged the improvement and expansion of the system.

The group agreed that the next meeting should be February 13 at 3:00 p.m.