

# Bikeway Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 18th, 2006

Members Present: Michael Hayes (representing the community at large) presiding, Charlie Pace (bicyclist), Gordon Renkes (bicyclist), Steve Studenmund (representing Franklin County Metro Parks), Brad Westall (representing City of Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks)

Members Absent: Lelia Cady (representing Columbus City Council), Bernice Cage (representing Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission), Mike Meeks (representing Franklin County Engineer's Office), Steve Gray (representing Rails to Trails Conservancy), 3 Vacancies (bicyclist), Vacant (representing local bicycle organizations)

Others Present: Bill Lewis, Dale Hooper (City of Columbus Transportation Division) and guests John Gideon of COBAC, Steve Hardwick, Frank Henry, Bill McMurray, Ira Weiss, Carl White,

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting began around 4:05.

## **Minutes of the November Meeting**

The minutes of the November meeting were accepted with two changes. Under "More on Traffic Calming" The Transportation and Pedestrian (T&PC) Commission DID (rather than refused) approve the Strawberry Farms plan. Also, the T&PC appointed a subcommittee to investigate the Harrison West medians (not Strawberry Farms).

## **How Does Traffic Calming Affect Bicycling**

Lewis provided background on the Harrison West projects. The Environmental Document for the Spring Sandusky Interchange (SSI) required that the City mitigate traffic effects. Most affected were neighborhoods in the Short North. The City worked with these neighborhoods, on designs to reduce the speed and volume of traffic. This resulted in the SSI Overall Traffic Management Plan (SSI-OTMP). The medians on Third, Fifth and King Avenues are the first round of SSI-OTMP projects. A 5 year construction program is underway.

Several people present talked about traffic calming features. Renkes cited bicyclist-motor vehicle conflicts at bulb-outs, traffic circles and speed humps. Hardwick could see benefits as well as problems. He recommended use of San Francisco's USE FULL LANE signs. McMurray noted that traffic on Neil has speeded up, not slowed (despite the presence of medians). Staff indicated that the City specifically designed for constant lane width at medians. Gideon mentioned the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). He said that these advised against using medians around bicycles. He insisted that bicycles were NOT accommodated at these medians.

Hooper had looked at sources like FHWA, the Bicycle and Pedestrian website and others. He said that available information is simplistic and sketchy. Mature guidelines do not say this is good or that is bad. Instead, these outline situations when something is desirable or undesirable. He indicated that this is an experiment. These medians lie on his routes between home and work. After about a year of interaction with the medians, staff should have some solid experience for evaluation.

Gideon suggested that the Committee send the City a letter concerning medians. He distributed copies of a sample letter. The Committee agreed to review the letter and create a final version at the March meeting.

**Columbus Bicycle Plan**

The Committee selected a date for special meeting, to discuss the consultant’s comments on the plan. It agreed to meet on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 PM, at the usual location. Gordon Renkes requested a copy of the draft plan, to compare to the consultant comments.

In response to questions, Hooper made some brief statements about the plan. The City generally accepts the consultant’s comments. As recommended, the plan will be rewritten. The consultants also suggested that the public be involved in development of the plan. The City agreed and a stakeholder group will be created.

**Updated Map of the Clintonville to Downtown Bike Routes**

Hooper distributed copies of an updated version of this map. He noted that the map contained dual route numbers. The City is shifting from 2 to 3 digit route numbers, to allow flexibility in designating n future routes. The map shows both old and new route numbers and contains an explanatory paragraph. North-South routes will continued to have odd numbers, but a 5 will be added. For example route 51 becomes 515. East-West routes will continue to bear even numbers and a 0 will be added. Thus, route 44 becomes 440. Westall stated that the Greenways (paths along streams) will use a different numbering system.

**Henderson and Broad Meadows Detours**

Because of the coincidence of two projects, it had appeared that the Olentangy Path might be closed for 2 consecutive summers. This issue has been mostly resolved. In 2006 the path will remain open on weekends, during construction of the bridge to Broad Meadows Boulevard. In 2007, when the Henderson Road Bridge is reconstructed, a path over bridge will remain open.

**Public Records Law**

Both Hardwick and Gideon have made requests for information, under public records laws. Concerns were expressed that staff is unfamiliar with these laws and responds too slowly. Hardwick asked that the City Attorney’s office make a presentation on Public Records Law, at March meeting.

The Committee asked for a schedule. Hooper stated that since the amount of work was poorly defined, no schedule was created. Hooper said that the public process meeting would be held after he reviews the comments. The comments will control the amount of work needed to rewrite the plan. Further, the City’s response to some comments may have to be decided by people above Hooper. These decisions take time.

**What is the Role of the Committee?**

Several members of the Committee have asked about its role. Lewis said that this is being considered by staff.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned about 6:00.

**Future Meetings**

A meeting focusing on the draft Columbus Bicycle Plan, is scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Regular meetings are tentatively scheduled for, March 15<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup>. Meetings are usually held at the Department of Recreation and Parks offices at 200 Greenlawn Avenue. Contact the Bikeway Coordinator at 645-8079 for confirmation.

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_

R. Dale Hooper, Bikeway Coordinator

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Acting Executive Secretary

Transportation Division Administrator