

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET
GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
DECEMBER 14, 2010
5:00 P.M.

Present were:

Voting Members: Conte, Croasmun, Simmons, Stephens

Advisory Member: Schwab

Public Service Representative: Tilton

Executive Secretary: Austin

Division of Mobility Option's Staff: Bowman, Keeran, Lewis, Popa

Division of Planning and Operations Staff: Green

Guests: Anne Marie Dennison, Craig Deep, Michael Gallagher, Jeff McNulty, Bob Vitale

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Motion for approval of November 9, 2010, minutes: Simmons; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Stelzer Road Planning Study Update

Executive Secretary Austin informed the Commission staff has asked the Ohio Department of Development to extend the study limits farther south to include the area in front of the old Woodland Meadows site. Staff has not yet received an answer from them. This study is on hold pending an answer from the Ohio Department of Development.

Bicycle Subcommittee Update

Alum Creek Drive between Williams Road and Livingston Avenue

- Bikeway Treatments

Nick Popa presented PowerPoint slides (copies of slides are available upon request) and talked about Alum Creek Drive between Williams Road and Livingston Avenue. He indicated staff has received reports of cyclists being ticketed on Alum Creek Drive for riding in the middle of a lane and impeding traffic. One of the issues is cars are passing cyclists too closely. So one cyclist decided to take a lane rather than share any portion of that lane with motor vehicles. Staff has received requests for the installation of “Bikes May Use Full Lane” signs on Alum Creek Drive. This sign is included in the Federal Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, but has yet to be adopted by the State of Ohio. In addition, in 2008, a cyclist was killed near the intersection of Alum Creek and Watkins Road.

Mr. Popa reported that at the October Bicycle Subcommittee meeting, staff asked the Subcommittee to come up with recommendations for low cost bikeway treatments on Alum Creek that could be implemented quickly at a relatively low cost. Mr. Popa reviewed pertinent information that was provided to the Subcommittee. He also indicated staff and the Subcommittee took a bike ride on this stretch of Alum Creek.

Mr. Popa indicated staff has received some feedback from the Subcommittee members. Recommendations received include: install “Bikes May Use Full Lane” signs; install signage to direct cyclists over to the Alum Creek Trail and not use Alum Creek Drive; install share-the-road signs; do nothing at all so as not to encourage cycling on Alum Creek Drive.

Staff will continue to compile comments from the Subcommittee members and discuss this issue at the January 26 Bicycle Subcommittee meeting.

Discussion.

Covered Bike Shelters

Chairman Stephens indicated the Subcommittee provided a long list of prioritized options of where to put covered bike shelters.

Nick Popa indicated the City’s consultant will begin designing the locations and the actual shelters. Staff hopes to get this project bid out in the spring.

Community Mobility Plans Update

Bill Lewis gave updates on community mobility plans as follows:

Linden Area Transportation Management Plan

Two public meetings were held in November regarding Maize Road and Norris Road traffic calming features. Both meetings were well attended by residents of Maize and Norris, as well as Linden residents in general. Staff is now compiling public comments. Staff will review this information with Public Service Director Kelsey and determine the next steps.

Discussion.

Franklinton

An ordinance was passed December 13 by City Council to enter into an agreement with the consultant to start the design process for the Franklinton Plan traffic features. The scope document will be completed this week. Consultant will begin work next year.

Weinland Park

This Plan has two phases. One is the Plan itself; the other is Fourth Street and Summit. Staff is still working with ODOT on Fourth and Summit to determine whether a road diet is feasible on both streets. Staff is also working with ODOT and MORPC on modeling. Implementation should begin in 2015 in conjunction with ODOT's urban paving work on Fourth Street and possible surface treatment on Summit. Staff also has design money funded through the next bond sale which will occur mid 2011. Staff wants to proceed with adopting the Plan, minus Fourth and Summit, to get an idea of what to go into design with next year rather than have Fourth and Summit hold up the whole Plan. Staff will meet with the community over the next couple of months and develop priorities for implementation, which will then feed the design contract later next year.

Discussion.

Hilltop

Staff has received all the deliverables from the consultant and will process the final invoice. Within the next few months, staff will present the final Plan to this Commission.

Discussion.

Valet Parking Update

Randy Bowman indicated the stakeholder comment period was extended to the end of this month. Staff has been in contact with the Central Ohio Restaurant Association (CORA) and is working through some question and comments with them. Once the comment period is over, staff will assess the suggestions and remarks, some of which may be included in a revised draft of the policy to be reviewed with Public Service Director Kelsey and Mayor Coleman. Staff will then review the final draft with the stakeholders and this Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ISSUES:

Speed Limit Studies

Executive Secretary Austin introduced Jessica Green, the Division of Planning and Operation's new studies and analysis engineer.

Ms. Green distributed and reviewed information (copies of hand outs available upon request) and made recommendations on the following speed limit studies:

Nike Drive from Hilliard-Rome to Atlas Street

Staff recommendation: The length of this segment of roadway is about 0.5 mile. The ADT is 2331. The existing speed limit is 25 mph with an 85% speed of 40 mph. Ninety-one percent of the vehicles exceed the posted speed of 25 mph. Ninety-four percent of the vehicles are passenger cars. There are two short segments of sidewalk on Nike Drive. One is about 950' long on the south side of Nike at the west end approaching Hilliard-Rome. The other is about 550' long on the north side at the east end approaching Atlas. Staff recommends increasing the speed limit from 25 mph to 35 mph.

Discussion.

Atlas Street from Nike Drive to Renner Road

Staff recommendation: The length of this segment of roadway is about 0.8 mile. The ADT is 2437. The existing speed limit is 25 mph with an 85% percent speed of 46 mph. Ninety-seven percent of the vehicles exceed the posted speed of 25 mph. Ninety-four percent of the vehicles are passenger cars. There are no sidewalks on either side of Atlas. The land use along Nike and Atlas is commercial and manufacturing, with the

exception of two apartment complexes on Nike. There are no single family residences on either street. Staff recommends increasing the speed limit from 25 mph to 40 mph.

Discussion.

Motion to accept staff's recommendation as presented to change the speed limits on Nike Drive and Atlas Street: Simmons; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

Scioto Darby Creek Road from Leap Road to Dublin Road

Staff recommendation: The length of this segment of roadway is about 1.6 miles. The ADT is 7927. The existing speed limit is 50 mph with an 85% speed of 48 mph. Ninety-eight percent of the vehicles are passenger cars. There are no sidewalks along this segment of Scioto Darby Creek Road. The land use along Scioto Darby Creek Road is mostly industrial with some small businesses and residences. Staff recommends decreasing the speed limit from 50 mph to 45 mph.

Discussion.

Motion to accept staff's recommendation as presented to recommend reduction in the speed limit in the studied area of Scioto Darby Creek Road from 50 mph to 45 mph: Simmons; 2nd, Conte. Motion carried.

Residential Permit Parking

Keith Keeran gave PowerPoint presentations (copies of slides available upon request) on the following residential permit parking requests.

South Fifth Street (both sides) from Blenkner Street to Jackson Street

Staff recommendation: Staff received valid petition to expand existing Residential Permit Parking Area "A" to include both sides of South Fifth Street from Blenkner Street to Jackson Street. Restriction sought is two-hour parking from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except City permit "A." All criteria are met. Approve request.

Randy Bowman indicated staff briefed the German Village Commission (GVC) about this request. The GVC expressed some concerns about looking at this area as a microcosm. The GVC asked that staff consider looking at the broader issue when staff receives residential permit parking requests. They also asked if staff was aware of any specific business or situation that generates a large number of outside parkers.

Jeff McNulty, who initiated the petition request, indicated the businesses on the requested block signed off on the petition and are in favor of any restriction they can get.

Discussion.

Michael Gallagher, whose law firm is located in the petitioned area, spoke in support of request. He indicated he believes the major influx of parkers come from the Franklin County Judicial Complex. Also, Lindey's restaurant is staff intensive and they bring a lot of parkers. In addition, the church parking lot is no longer available for parking, as it is now leased by Children's Hospital.

Discussion.

Motion to approve staff's recommendation to grant residential permit parking request on South Fifth Street (both sides) from Blenkner Street to Jackson Street: Conte; 2nd, Simmons. Motion carried.

Kerr Street (east side) from Gill Alley to Prescott Street

Staff recommendation: Staff received a valid petition to expand residential permit parking "I" to the east side of Kerr Street from Gill Alley to Prescott Street. The restriction sought is "No Parking, Except City Permit "I." The signature criterion is met. Staff's parking study indicated the parking criteria were not met during daytime business hours; were met during the Italian Festival; and were met from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. during a study done in the evening on a regular weekend with no special event. Staff recommended a restriction of 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. instead of the full-time restriction sought.

Randy Bowman indicated staff discussed this case with the Italian Village Commission (IVC). They understand there would be a nighttime competition for these parking spaces, but were inclined to suggest that the City avoid, if possible, daytime restrictions in support of the businesses. Staff reviewed the City's recommendation presented today with the IVC; the members seemed to be pleased with staff's recommendation. Mr. Bowman indicated the IVC expressed concern that permit "I" has been in place for a long time, and there have been a lot of changes in the business environment in the Short North since permit "I" was put in place. He indicated he thought the IVC is interested in taking a look at permit "I" to see if restrictions should remain, or if changes should be made that would benefit both the businesses and the residents. Mr. Bowman indicated a committee may be formed to look at the immediate need and longer-term concerns about the permit parking/public parking availability in the Short North. The City wants to assess the facts as staff can gather them; however, the City's staff is limited.

Craig Deep, circulator of petition requesting extension of residential permit parking “I,” spoke in support of request. He indicated the petitioned area has become the de facto parking lot for area restaurants. He indicated there are seven parking spaces on the other side of the street that aren’t restricted at all because there are no front doors facing Kerr. Mr. Deep said the petitioners are just asking for the same privileges of a full-time restriction that the rest of Kerr Street has, with a fall-back restriction of 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. during week days and a fall-back, full-time restriction on Saturdays and Sundays, as there are many weekend activities in the Short North.

Anne Marie Dennison, resident of petitioned area, spoke in support of request. Some of concerns mentioned were: often cannot park close to her home to bring in groceries; non-residents leave beer bottles and other trash; her vehicle was hit several times by non-residents who fled the scene.

Discussion.

Motion to recommend approval of residents’ request to expand the “No Parking, Except City Permit “I” full-time parking restriction to include the east side of Kerr Street from Gill Alley to Prescott Street: Simmons; 2nd, Conte. Discussion. Conte offered and Simmons accepted friendly amendment that this Commission strongly encourage the neighborhood to request a study of Permit Area “I.” Additional discussion. Motion carried as amended.

Some of the reasons for the Commission’s recommendation on this issue are: 1) expansion of Permit “I” to include studied area would add continuity; 2) it did not appear, from the data presented, that there was a problem during the days that would affect businesses; and, 3) there was not enough data to understand exactly what was happening during the days of the weekends.

As this Commission is a recommending body to the Director of Public Service, the Director will make the final decision on this issue based on this Commission’s recommendation and staff’s recommendation, which are not congruent.

Staff will notify the petitioner and this Commission of the Public Service Director’s decision.

(Transcript of discussion of this issue is available upon request.)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 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.