

RPC ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE

September 19, 2016

MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Ira Weiss (Chair); Holly Mattei (RPC Executive Director); Loudan Klein (RPC Staff); Becky Coutinho (RPC Staff); Peggy Portier (SRTS); Kent Huston (RPC); Patrick O'Malia (Economic Development); Greg Butcher (Violet Township); Eric McCrady (FCEO); Ann Probasco (FACFC); Greg Eyeran (FCVCB)

1. Approval of August 15, 2016 meeting notes

Peggy Portier made a motion to approve. Kent Huston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Chairman's Report

Ira Weiss discussed with the committee his most recent Community Advisory Committee meeting at MORPC. He spoke specifically regarding MORPC's top 100 locations for crashes.

Mr. Weiss referenced locations in Violet Township, City of Pickerington, and the Village of Lithopolis.

Mr. Weiss also pointed out the two applications for MORPC's Attributable Funds that involve Fairfield County and those are the Pickerington-Refugee Road intersection and Center-Milnor Road intersection. Mr. Weiss also referenced the Far East freeway at I-270 and Brice Road. This project is within Franklin County, but in many ways impacts transportation in Fairfield County.

3. Discussion on potential "Bike Meet Ups" (Keller Market House)

Holly Mattei discussed utilizing the Keller Market House as a potential bike meet up location in partnership with the Fairfield Heritage Trail Association. She added the purpose would be to raise awareness about the market itself and tie together local foods and active transportation.

Ms. Portier expressed her interest and requested that Ms. Mattei provide additional information.

4. Discussion on Greg Butcher's research on bikeway locations

Greg Butcher began the discussion by providing background on the issue of bikeway locations either inside the right-of-way or outside the right-of-way, or in a dedicated easement. His research involved reaching out to several of his colleagues throughout the central Ohio area.

Mr. Butcher then summarized their responses most notably issues with maintenance, utility cuts, and regulations that accompany grants.

Mr. Butcher concluded by saying it may be more beneficial to place these paths within the right-of-way to help with maintenance and to ensure the maintaining agency is aware of any issues along the path.

Eric McCrady presented on the Heron Crossing multi-use path along Refugee Road and whether or not it should be located parallel to Refugee Road routed within the right-of-way or pushed further back within the subdivision to create a mid-block crossing within the proposed median entrance to the subdivision.

Mr. McCrady highlighted several examples throughout central Ohio where paths along the main road head back within the subdivision across the median and then back down to the main road. He added that the benefit of this is to create a safer crossing for pedestrians and to provide them with refuge to make it across both lanes of traffic as well as the median.

General discussion followed within the committee. The committee agreed this is a unique entrance to what has been previously developed within the County. Mr. Butcher added that the benefits of safety and refuge outweigh the benefits of future maintenance.

The committee ultimately agreed with the recommendation provided by Mr. McCrady to extend the path back into the subdivision, take it across the median, and then back down the entrance to continue along the main road.

5. Proposed national and statewide bicycle route network

Ms. Mattei presented to the committee the proposed national and statewide bicycle route network and specifically the portions within Fairfield County. She presented what ODOT has proposed on their map in comparison to what the Active Transportation Committee recommended last year. She added that ODOT is looking for a formal

resolution from the maintaining agency to approve the proposed routes and allow ODOT to place appropriate signage on these routes.

The committee raised several concerns with the routes as proposed by ODOT. The first was concern was with proposed route utilizing Stringtown Road to High Street into Lancaster. The committee recommended changing this portion to utilize Mondhank Road over OU-Lancaster parking lot to connect to the City bike path.

Ms. Mattei then added that ODOT has also posed an alternative route out of Sugar Grove. The committee had concerns with the propose route avoiding critical landmarks as well as placing riders on higher traveled roads. The committee did not recommend this alternative route, and preferred the route as shown.

All other proposed routes provided by ODOT were acceptable to the committee.

Mr. Butcher made a motion to table resolution till the maps were updated based on the committee's recommendations. Kent Huston seconded the motion and recommended the committee make a motion to approve with changes to avoid delaying the process another month.

Mr. Butcher withdrew his motion. Mr. Huston withdrew his motion.

Mr. Huston made a motion to approve resolution with changes as noted. Mr. Butcher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Update on Stonecreek Drive in Violet Township

Mr. Butcher presented to the committee the recent improvements along Spring Creek Drive. He highlighted several key improvements that include new sidewalks, extension of the MUP, curb and gutter, and wooden guard rail.

7. Other Business

Mr. Weiss made note that next month has Walk to School Day.

Mr. Weiss named next meeting October 17th.

Ms. Portier made a motion to adjourn. Greg Eyerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.