

# RPC ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE

October 20, 2014

## MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Ira Weiss (Chair); Kent Huston (Vice Chair); Jeremiah Upp (County Engineer); Scott Tourville (City of Pickerington Engineer); Greg Butcher (Violet Township Engineer); Holly Mattei (RPC Executive Director); Eric Sandine (Village of Lithopolis); Greg Eyerman (Fairfield County VCB); Steve Gayfield (LPRD); and Loudan Klein (RPC); Peggy Portier (SRTS); Carrie Woody (LPTS).

Ira Weiss called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

1. Approval of the September 15, 2014 meeting notes.

Kent Huston made a motion to approve the September 15, 2014 meeting notes. Greg Eyerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Chairman's Report

Ira Weiss opens by discussing the recent bicycle accident that occurred in Pickerington. A rider was struck by a car and found to be in violation of a city ordinance requiring cyclists to be on the sidewalk. He adds that when Pickerington became a city it was most likely part of the code at the time. It is contrary to state law.

Mr. Weiss explained that this has been a point of discussion in past council meetings and hearings dating back to 2010, but nothing was ever passed at that time.

Peggy Portier adds that it is legal per the Pickerington ordinance to ride on the streets, if there are no sidewalks available at that location.

Carrie Woody asks if the gentleman struck was a resident of Pickerington. She said it could be difficult for someone who lives outside of Pickerington to know about this law, especially since it differs from state law.

Scott Tourville explains that the bicyclist was found at fault but not cited for the incident. He adds that he spoke with the attorney for the city and hopes that at some point this year to get this ordinance changed.

Mr. Tourville notes that it's something he feels they don't necessarily enforce unless it becomes an issue or there is an incident.

### 3. Review Proposed Developments

Holly Mattei describes the proposed road extension in Spring Creek subdivision phase 2A, explaining that the proposed development includes a road extension of Daventry Drive to Bridgewater Drive via a new road – Bluffton Drive. She also adds that it is in the unincorporated area.

Ms. Mattei discusses the details of the proposal and that there are no lots being proposed at this time. They are proposing sidewalks that will be built at the time of home construction after the plat for the lots has been submitted and recorded. This is only a right-of-way (ROW) plat. The developer is proposing a bridge along Bluffton Drive over the creek. The developer is building the sidewalk on the bridge.

Ms. Mattei mentions that she spoke with the Mayor of Lithopolis pertaining to a similar issue with sidewalk construction being by the home builder not the developer. In the past, the home builder has been responsible for the construction of sidewalks to avoid damaging them during construction. However there was an issue she points out in some instances where adjacent lots were purchased to increase one lot size and subsequently sidewalks were not constructed between homes. However in Lithopolis she adds, they were able to require them under home rule, but in the unincorporated area that would not be possible.

Jeremiah Upp asks if there should be a time table attached to each sidewalk to ensure that they are built within a certain time frame.

Ms. Mattei states that we could require them to construct the sidewalks within the 5 year maintenance period.

Mr. Upp asks how we require the developer to build the sidewalk in this current proposal (Spring Creek 2a) instead of the homebuilder.

Ms. Mattei explains that she doesn't want to apply it to this proposal since they are not proposing any lots. It is just a ROW plat. She goes on to say that when we receive the next plat with lots then it should become a condition of approval.

Eric Sandine asks if the developer owns the lots can you still hold the bond as long as you don't accept the public infrastructure.

Ms. Mattei responds by saying yes, as long as we specify that the developers are required to build the sidewalk. Otherwise, even if the developer owns the lots, they are going to say it isn't their responsibility per the approved construction drawings. She continues by saying that right now the developers are placing language on the construction drawings

stating that they are not required to build them –it is a homebuilder responsibility. The county has been signing the plans agreeing to this setup. We would have to make sure that the language on the construction drawings states the developer is responsible and then hold their bond if they are not built by the end of the 5 year maintenance period.

Ms. Portier asks that in Violet Township, under home rule, can they require the sidewalks to be built.

Greg Butcher responds by saying that he doubts they would be able to.

Kent Houston asks if Pickerington is happy with this road extension.

Mr. Tourville responds by saying that Daventry and Bridgewater are currently in the city of Pickerington and are operated by the township until the end of the calendar year in which the city will take over. He assumes the city would want to acquire this for continuity purposes.

Ms. Mattei adds then when this subdivision goes through approval process maintenance between the township and city should be discussed.

Ira Weiss made a motion to approve RPC staff recommendation. Jeremiah Upp approved Scott Tourville seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### 4. Other Business

Ms. Mattei discusses her recent meetings with MORPC and the applications that have been submitted in particular the projects within Fairfield County. She outlines the main points of each project, the first being Pickerington Road and Refugee Road which scored the highest in its category (major widening). In minor widening she points out that the Pickerington and Refugee Road roundabout scored lower and she has been discussing with other agencies ways to increase the score. Lastly pointing out Hines Road improvements based on its score is currently sitting on the bubble for funding.

Mr. Weiss explains his concern with Hines Road and the proposal to route Blacklick Creek Greenway Trail under the railroad and he doesn't see that as very feasible. So he proposes placing a multi-use path alongside the road to connect the trail that way.

Mr. Tourville then goes into detail discussing the widening along Refugee Road and the improvements at Refugee and 256. First along Refugee Road near Ohio Health there will be connections made to existing paths. Stone Creek Drive is almost finished and there will be a sidewalk on the east side of that. There is a bike path being proposed he points out along along Refugee near Ohio Health pending some intersection improvements. He adds that at 256 and Refugee will be a large intersection totaling 7 lanes in some areas.

Ms. Mattei asks if on the north side of Refugee (east of SR 256) will be sidewalk or bike path.

Mr. Tourville responds by saying it will be sidewalk that will be wide as possible. He explains that the takings for those frontages are extremely expensive and that they are trying to make 6-8 feet pending the costs. He also points out that for the majority of the project they worked to get bike/ped facilities on the north and south sides but there were some limitations.

Mr. Tourville also notes that due to the high volume there will be some access restrictions, and in some instances maybe right in and right out along Refugee to reduce conflict points.

Mr. Upp discusses the final project of the roundabout at Pickerington and Refugee Road. He makes note that the plan currently for the project is very preliminary. A traffic study has been completed, the roundabout is safer, and over time provides more efficient traffic flow.

Ms. Mattei noted that she believes the projects should all receive high point values for collaboration when you look at these three projects as a corridor.

Mr. Tourville points out that they should be in touch with schools, fire department, and sheriff's office for letters of support.

Mr. Weiss adds that school busses are seen as mass transportation and currently get great use out of that intersection.

Mr. Upp adds that he has a meeting with ODOT scheduled for funding on the improved safety project along Coonpath Road. Things appear to be positive and moving in the right direction.

Mr. Weiss states the next meeting is November 17, 2014.

Mr. Weiss adjourned meeting, 1st motion Peggy Portier, 2nd motion Kent Huston.  
Motion carried.