

RPC ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE
May 19, 2014

MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Ira Weiss (Chair); Peggy Portier (Safe Routes to School); Eric McCrady (FCEO); Eric Sandine (Village of Lithopolis); Kent Huston (RPC); Steve Gayfield (Lancaster Parks and Recreational Department); Scott Tourville (City of Pickerington Engineer); James Mako (RPC); Bob Clark (Economic Development); Greg Eyerman (VCD); and Holly Mattei (RPC Executive Director)

Ira Weiss called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1. Approval of April 21, 2014 meeting notes (see attached).

Kent Huston made a motion to approve the April 21, 2014 meeting notes. Steve Gayfield seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Chairman's Report

Ira Weiss said there were three things he wanted to let everyone know about. Mr. Weiss said thank you to all for electing him as Chair. The first thing was in regards to a Safe Routes to School Policies, Resources and Fundings Workshop at ODOT. At the meeting they presented county health rankings. Fairfield County was 15th in Healthy Outcomes and 12th in Health Factor Ranks. The Health Factor Ranks included healthy behavior in regards to tobacco, alcohol, clinical care, etc. Mr. Weiss also commented that Fairfield County was one of the healthiest counties in Ohio.

The second thing Mr. Weiss presented was the League of American Bicyclists ranking of Bicycle Front League Communities. Ohio went from being 32nd to 16th. In a quote from ODOT they said, "Bicycling is a growing transportation choice and activity for many Ohioans. We continue to support investment and programs and infrastructure which supports safety and connectivity."

Mr. Weiss' third item was Discover Ohio by Bike which is funded by ODNR.

Kent Huston wanted to know who would be circulating the reports.

Mr. Weiss said that was a good question and that probably all of the agencies would since 1000s were printed. They would make them available to visitors and get some for our kiosks.

Greg Eyerman stated that Convention and Visitors Bureaus will ask for a supply especially if their counties would be included.

Mr. Weiss said that it is pretty spread out around the state and there is a map on the back of the report.

3. Update on Bikeways in Baltimore

Ms. Mattei gave an update on the Bikeways in Baltimore. She indicated that Kent Huston, Greg Bachman and herself attended the Baltimore Parks and Recreation meeting at the end of April. She said Baltimore was proactive in their approach to get more cyclists to go through Baltimore. A park off of 158, at the crossroads of Washington Street is where Baltimore wants the trailhead to start, because water and sewer is there for a potential restroom and there is also plenty of parking. Ms. Mattei also provided a copy of the Rolling Forward Plan to Baltimore. She also let them know that RPC staff would help them put together a map. She also urged Baltimore to involve the public with a possible public meeting where the public could provide their input.

Kent Huston commented that Baltimore might not get what they wanted done immediately but it was at least started.

Peggy Portier said that she already had someone interested at the Fairfield County Trails Association meeting.

Ms. Mattei said that FHTA attended the Baltimore meeting and she asked Peggy Portier what his perspective was.

Peggy Portier said that he seemed ready to go and wanted their input in what they wanted and also that he was willing to accept comments and ideas.

Mr. Weiss asked what it took to appoint a representative from Baltimore?

Ms. Mattei said that Marsha Hall was there representative but since she left there has not been a replacement. She also said that she would be willing to have the new administrator come here but he has a lot of meetings and might not be able to attend regularly.

Mr. Weiss suggested that an alternate might be appointed.

Kent Huston said that even a resident who has an interest could be here.

Ms. Mattei suggested having them talk to others who might be interested if Scott could not come. She also said that she would keep working with them and once there is a map in place she will share it with the Committee for their approval.

4. Other Business

Ms. Mattei had three things to update the Committee on. The first was the Refugee Road Update.

Ms. Mattei said at the last meeting they were considering marrying the project on the other side of Pickerington to this project. A concern she brought up was that they would be subjected to following federal law and the prevailing wage permits.

Scott Tourville said that Refugee Road on both sides of 256 will probably be subject to Federal Regulation anyway. He said that ODOT presented for safety funds for Refugee Road and that Pickerington would not officially own that part of Refugee Road until after the application deadline. Mr. Tourville also said that the east part of Refugee Road is not Pickerington's.

Ms. Mattei said that someone other than the RPC would need to sponsor on the application. She suggested a Pickerington representative or someone from the County Engineer's Office. Ms. Mattei also said the best course of action would be to wait and look at the Clean Ohio Funding that will have another round of applications in February.

The second item of Ms. Mattei's is a review of MORPC's Active Transportation Plan. She used the presentation from the stakeholders meeting that her and Mr. Weiss attended last week. The meeting discussed five topics: the reason MORPC is preparing the plan, the purpose of the stakeholders meeting, scope and timeline, review network data, and the next steps.

MORPC said that they wish to be the first in the Midwest with a comprehensive transportation plan. Both the East and the West Coasts have plans but there are hardly any in between. They also want to address how it is going to integrate into the current plan. The plan MORPC must do to receive funding for transportation plans needs to include planning strategies, and identification of infrastructure projects over the next 20 years. The result in this plan is a Transportation Improvement Program that results in the funding.

Ms. Mattei also said MORPC has a Thoroughfare Plan whose main goal is to get pedestrians, transit and bicyclists into the Active Transportation Plan. She also described how there were two committees, the working and the stakeholders committees. The working committee is the steering committee that works for the local interest. The stakeholders are the communities and interest groups that will give the information back to the communities and act as liaisons. Ms. Mattei said that she and Mr. Weiss attended the stakeholders meeting.

MORPC will also be including a cost benefit analysis by an OSU professor in this plan. The Regional Bicycle and Transit Network is based upon a review of local plans. It identifies major bicycle corridors and only includes the major routes. A Need Gap Assessment will also be provided and it will look at the three major types of facilities (bicycles, pedestrians and transit). The Assessment identifies the key corridors that need to be addressed. The Timeline shows that MORPC is expecting to complete the project by June 2015 and adopt it by September 2015.

Ms. Mattei said that before Mr. Weiss and her left the meeting they looked at a larger paper version of the network map of Fairfield County and made sure to correct the map so that it reflected local plans. MORPC had looked at Rolling Forward and reflected the plans recommendations.

Mr. Weiss stated that after Ms. Mattei left the meeting he added the connections to Blackgood Creek Freeway Trail and other future possibilities. He also stated that he was glad that MORPC is looking at all the modes.

Ms. Mattei went on to give the Committee the third update that dealt with Carroll's Neighborhood Revitalization Program. Mr. Mako provided slides. Ms. Mattei said that they were applying for a \$300,000 CDBG grant because they met the income requirements. They had recently done similar grants for Thurston and Pleasantville. One of the proposed projects is to put sidewalks in along High Street since there are currently no sidewalks. The middle school put in sidewalks but then stopped so they are considering extending the sidewalk from school property over to High Street.

Bob Clark asked how far they are proposing the sidewalks to go up. To Water Street or past it?

Ms. Mattei responded that originally they were going all the way up but funding worked out that they stop at Center Street or just past Center Street.

Bob Clark asked if there were sidewalks on Center Street.

Ms. Mattei pointed to where the sidewalks are on Center Street.

Peggy Portier asked when the RPC would know if Carroll got the money.

Ms. Mattei responded that the applications are due June 20th and they would find out if they got the money sometime in late July.

Peggy Portier asked if Carroll was going to be applying for anything else.

Ms. Mattei said that some of the other projects include Oberley Street because it ties into the interchange project and also that is where all of the traffic from the interchange will be coming into town. The canal bed drainage improvements need to be addressed since it does not drain properly. A propose park basketball court improvement is considered because right now it floods. The last project is Beaver Street paving.

Mr. Weiss asked if there were any questions for Ms. Mattei.

Peggy Portier stated that she was glad that they were going to fix the pinch point on Oberley Street before all the traffic off of 33 causes problems.

Mr. Weiss told Ms. Mattei he was glad that she could tie what she was doing to what ODOT was doing.

Mr. Weiss thanked Ms. Mattei and asked if there was anything else that needed to come forward.

Mr. Weiss thanked everyone for coming. Motion to adjourn. Scott Tourville motioned. Peggy Portier seconded motion. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be June 16th at 2:30 p.m.

DRAFT