

RPC ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE

July 21, 2014

MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Ira Weiss (Chair); Eric Sandine (Village of Lithopolis); Kent Huston (RPC); Steve Gayfield (LPRD); Bob Clark (Economic Development); Jeremiah Upp (FCEO); James Mako (RPC); Greg Bachman (FCEO); Greg Butcher (Violet Township); and Holly Mattei (RPC Executive Director)

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

1. Approval of June 16, 2014 meeting notes (see attached).

Kent Huston made a motion to approve the June 16, 2014 meeting notes. Eric Sandine seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Chairman's Report

Mr. Weiss had several things to report to the committee. The first item was to say thank you to the Lancaster/ Fairfield County Chamber for printing 5,000 trail guides. They were first handed out at the Tour de Cause.

The second item Mr. Weiss brought was the Columbus Bike Map.

Mr. Weiss also said that Mr. Butcher and Ms. Mattei had recently attended MORPC's attributable funds committee. Mr. Weiss asked Ms. Mattei what would be happening in regards to those funds.

Ms. Mattei said that the meeting went well and that they introduced the projects that requested funding. They also went over budget differences of previously funded projects to see what was coming in over or under budget. The next meeting they will be going over the newly submitted projects to see which should be made a priority.

Mr. Weiss said that if he understood it correctly then the applications right now are just preliminary ones and they will do a final application later.

Ms. Mattei said that was correct and that the final applications are actually due in August.

3. Reviewed Proposed Developments:

Mr. Weiss said that there were a couple of proposed developments in Spring Creek.

Ms. Mattei said that the first development was Spring Creek Storage One which was located at the southeast corner of Refugee and Milnor Road. It is bounded by Refugee

Road, Milnor Road and Springcreek Drive. It is the commercial portion of the Spring Creek subdivision, and storage units and retail spaces are being proposed. They are proposing to split the lot in two parcels and have access off of Springcreek Drive which is a requirement of the preliminary plan approved of Regional Planning back in 1999 and had also been planned when Spring Creek Section 1 was constructed. RPC staff is presenting this plan to the ATC to ensure the sidewalk and bike path plans for this corridor are incorporated into the development. We had planned for a sidewalk on the south side of Refugee Road and a bike path on the north side.

There was discussion about possibly flipping the sidewalk and bike path locations. Ms. Mattei said this was previously discussed and it was determined that the sidewalk would be on the south side. Therefore, this proposal includes a sidewalk, because the site is on the south side of Refugee Road.

Jeremiah Upp said the developer's engineer Rob Beiter recently contacted him to discuss the difficulties in constructing the sidewalk.

Ms. Mattei said that one thing she wanted this group to figure out was the curb ramps, which the plans do not currently include. Our Tech Review Agency has said that they need to show the curb ramps at this intersection but it has been difficult engineering it. So there was some discussion about whether we wanted to allow crossing of Milnor Road to happen further south to align to the driveway to the commercial center down in this area but Todd May would rather see it at the intersection.

Mr. Upp said that he would rather see it at the intersection because there is a signal there.

Ms. Mattei said she was just wondering what the engineering dilemma of putting it at the intersection would be.

Mr. Upp said that he did not know but that he did ask for the developer and the engineer to come in and sit down to look at the options and what the problems they are facing.

Ms. Mattei said what she is getting from Tech Review and at least one person from here is that we would want the crossing at the intersection. So we need to let the developer know that the preferred location for the curb ramps is at the intersection.

Mr. Weiss asked if that was agreeable to everyone.

There was further discussion regarding the need for a refuge ramp across the street. There was no clear direction on this and the group left it that the developer may need to install the refuge and this would be explored further.

Mr. Weiss said okay and the second item to review is also in Spring Creek.

Ms. Mattei said yes it is. Dominion Homes is in the process of constructing Section 2 Phase 2 of Spring Creek. This section has already been platted through the City of

Pickerington but it was never constructed. The way the City of Pickerington is interpreting the pre annexation agreement for the subdivision is that the development of the roads and infrastructure must comply with the township requirements, which are the county subdivision regulations. So the Regional Planning has agreed to be the coordinating agency through the approval of the construction drawings. The 1999 preliminary plan approval required a bikeway to be constructed along the northerly drainage way in Spring Creek. RPC staff questioned if this is going to be provided or if the city was waiving this requirement. Scott Tourville is saying that because of the pre-annexation agreement, they need to put the bikeway in, and if they don't want to put the bikeway in, then they need to request a bikeway waiver through the Regional Planning Commission (because that is the process it would go through if it was still in the unincorporated portion of the county).

Ms. Mattei wants the Active Transportation Committee to weigh in on the bikeway waiver request as it moves forward through the RPC process. Since 1999, a lot of change has occurred in this corridor. For example, the RPC now has this ATC committee that looks at regional transportation systems for bicycles, and we now have a plan for a regional trail along Refugee Road. The bikeway originally required in 1999 would not connect into the regional path proposed along Refugee Road, except from Springcreek Drive. Also, the path proposed in 1999 would go through backyards versus along the main corridors that we are planning for along Refugee Road. There is also a conservation easement that has been recorded along the back of the lots where the 1999 bike path was proposed and the easement language doesn't allow the bike path to be constructed within the conservation easement. So if they were to construct this bikepath, they would have to plat easements outside of the conservation easement pushing the path even further closer to the houses.

There was a lot of discussion about the purpose of the 1999 bikeway proposal, how it would connect into an overall bikeway system, and the width of the existing conservation easement.

Ms. Mattei said that the Regional Planning Commission had good intentions in 1999 but the fact is that a lot has changed since then. We have a broader vision for this corridor and the path proposed in 1999 doesn't fit into the current vision.

Steve Gayfield made a motion to recommend approval of the request to waive the bike path along the northerly drainage pattern. Mr. Bachman seconded. Motion carried.

4. Review of County's Chip Seal Schedule:

Mr. Weiss said okay now we have the Chip Seal Schedule.

Ms. Mattei deferred to Mr. Upp.

Mr. Upp said he is just trying to get it out there to anyone involved to let people know where the sealing will be so if they want to avoid the areas they can.

Ms. Mattei said she appreciated it.

Mr. Weiss asked if there was a way to get it in word format so that he can send it out in the Bike Path Newsletter he sends out on Thursday.

Mr. Weiss thanked Mr. Upp for the update.

Mr. Weiss asked if there is any other business.

Greg Butcher said that there will be a great influx of riders through Fairfield County during the first of August due to the Pelotonia.

Ms. Mattei asked what the route through Fairfield County Was going to be.

Greg said they come off of Bowman Road to Schoolhouse. To Columbus St. then north on Center Street to the high school and out the back. Then it makes some jogs.

Mr. Weiss asked for further comments.

Mr. Weiss thanked everyone for coming. Motion to adjourn. Greg Bachman motioned. Jeremiah Upp seconded motion. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be August 18th at 2:30 p.m.