

RPC ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE

July 17, 2017

MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Ira Weiss (Chair); Loudan Klein (RPC Executive Director); Geoff Carabin (RPC Staff); Kent Huston (RPC); Peggy Portier (SRTS); Ann Probasco (FACFC)

Review of Proposed Developments:

Loudan Klein presented to the subcommittee the third resubmission of the preliminary plan of the Spring Creek Subdivision located in Violet Township/City of Pickerington. This plan was reviewed by the Technical Review Committee earlier that day. Mr. Klein identified a proposed 8' asphalt trail that passes through the development from Milnor Rd to Pickerington Rd. Mr. Klein believes this is a large scope project that would favorably impact the area, and mentioned other influences on the proposed trail such as the possibility of a sidewalk along Milnor Rd, Wellington Park, and the development's proximity to Refugee Rd.

Peggy Portier commented on the trail connecting to Bridgewater Drive, where there is a crosswalk on the intersection with Milnor Rd. Mr. Klein responded that the creek was the biggest issue preventing the potential connection. He added that the development's location within the two jurisdictions creates planning challenges such as annexation and road maintenance. Despite the challenge of crossing the creek, Ms. Portier believes it is an action worth pursuing.

Ira Weiss openly asked how the trail within the Spring Creek development ties into current corridors and plans, and if any modifications are need for such action. Sidewalks along Milnor Road and a connection to Wellington Park were mentioned among the group as possible enhancements to the trail within the Spring Creek Subdivision.

The Active Transportation Committee recommended the developer look into connectivity and asphalt path along Milnor Rd north to connect to Milnor Rd.

Review of Central Ohio Active Transportation Plans:

Geoff Carabin began by stating that his research was a follow up on a request from Mr. Weiss before he was employed by the Fairfield County RPC, and that he contacted Delaware, Union, and Licking counties to inquire information on active transportation planning in those jurisdictions. Mr. Carabin did not have any information from Union County to share with the committee at the time, but was still awaiting an email response from Eric Phillips. Mr. Carabin then presented an email response from Matt Simpson of the Preservation Parks of Delaware County, which consisted of a bullet point list of what is to be included in their active transportation plan.

Although Mr. Carabin did not want to speak on behalf of his former employer, Licking County, he did describe some of the planning efforts he was involved with as an LCATS (Licking County Area Transportation Study) planner which he believed pertained to active transportation in Fairfield County. The first of these planning efforts was the pavement of the Ohio Canal Greenway Trail, a former canal towpath running from Hebron to SR 79. Mr. Carabin then identified Ohio State Bike Route 65 (BR 65), which includes N Bank Rd and Millersport Rd in Fairfield County. He mentioned that the OCG trail would be integrated into BR 65 if paved, but cyclists must use Canal Rd, which is unsuitable for cyclists.

Mr. Carabin continued his presentation by displaying a GIS planning map of Delaware County, and Mr. Weiss said that the idea of looking into the planning of other counties in the Central Ohio region is to understand what their concepts are for developing a plan. Shortly after this statement, Mr. Carabin showed the committee active transportation planning documents from Delaware and Licking counties. Upon presenting these plans, some of the observations made by the committee were the presence of sponsors, the lack of differentiation between urban and rural areas, and the explicit listing of possible funding sources. The Fairfield County Foundation, CDBG, and Transportation Improvement District were mentioned as potential funding sources for non-motorized transportation projects in Fairfield County.

While reviewing the other counties' plans, Mr. Klein voiced a desire to target smaller projects, since the existing corridors address long-distance travel. The committee expressed an overall consensus that there is a need to put the existing active transportation plans into action. Mr. Carabin then mentioned that LCATS produces "micro-studies" to target specific projects that would particularly benefit the region. The committee expressed interest in undergoing tasks similar to the "micro-study" within the Fairfield County RPC office, as well as getting the urban areas of Fairfield County such as Lancaster and Pickerington more involved with the Active Transportation Committee.

Within the discussion of funding sources, Mr. Klein mentioned that he met with the Lancaster City School District to discuss construction details for two new schools. Ann Probasco added that Lancaster's School Transportation Plan is used for Safe Routes to School funding, but it hasn't been updated recently.

Mr. Weiss requested that the plans of other counties that Mr. Carabin presented are emailed to the committee.

Key Dates:

No key dates were discussed.

Other Business:

Mr. Klein updated the committee of an upcoming CORPO meeting in mid-august to discuss existing conditions and priority projects. He also brought up the Connect Ohio broadband survey from the Fairfield County economic development office, and said he would send the results to committee members.

Mr. Weiss reminded everyone of next month's meeting, August 21, 2017.

Ms. Portier motioned to adjourn the meeting, Kent Huston seconded the motion, motion carried.