

# City of Lawrence

## Lawrence – Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee

### August 20, 2013 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Burger, Chad Foster, Lisa Hallberg, David Hamby, Rhonda Houser, Justin Eddings  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Ediger, Jay Bialek, Chris Rogge  
STAFF PRESENT: Jessica Mortinger, Todd Girdler, David Cronin, David Woosley  
PUBLIC PRESENT: Jerry Harper, Linda Smith, Gerald Smith, Michael Almon

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- 1. Call Meeting to Order and Assurance of Quorum:** The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. A quorum was present and introductions were made.
- 2. Approval of the June 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the notes and minutes from the meetings was moved by Mr. Hamby seconded by Mr. Foster and passed unanimously.
- 3. Discussion/Action Item: Bob Billings at deVictor Park:** Ms. Mortinger shared with BAC members the packet of materials provided by Mr. Harper. Mr. Woosley indicated the Traffic Safety Commission has approved a recommendation for an at-grade crosswalk with markings and a hybrid beacon. Since that decision in July, Mr. Harper has inquired with City staff about the possibility of using the existing storm water culverts for a bicycle and pedestrian underpass. Mr. Cronin indicated that transforming existing culverts into AASHTO bicycle and pedestrian facilities are full of challenges and site specific. The culvert currently serves as watershed drainage and transition into bicycle-pedestrian use would require addressing the maintenance issues to keep it clear for passing after a precipitation event. The length of the culvert would also require lighting and the entrance and exit pose challenges with elevation and grade changes to connect ADA infrastructure. The at-grade crossing also poses sight distance challenges. Mr. Girdler added that facilities designed for bicycles and pedestrians are designed differently. This specific culvert is two divided structures, with a center support. This would pose increasing safety concerns for approaching bicyclists. The 9 x10 foot box would feel claustrophobic. BAC members asked if the crossing could be designed for pedestrians only. Mr. Girdler said the facility would attract bicyclists too, and designing a site where all users can cross is important. Mr. Harper said the neighborhood's main goal is finding a safe crossing option. The neighborhood has heard the projections for increased traffic after the interchange is constructed to increase from 5,000 daily trips to 15,000 daily trips in the short term and 28,000 daily trips in the long term. Recognizing that 1,500 feet is what is ideal sight distance for an at-grade crossing, the City staff noted that this length of sight distance is not available at this site. Ms. Houser asked if the at-grade crossing could be closer to a new proposed traffic signal location. Mr. Woosley said the crossing would be placed based on the engineering standards for crossing safety and sight distances. Ms. Hallberg asked if Bob Billings Parkway could be divided with center islands (pedestrian refuge area) to make the crossing distance less. Mr. Cronin said this was not an option without additional right-of-way purchase which was not currently part of the planned expenses, and getting additional ROW would be difficult along the part of this road near the culvert that is elevated on fill. Mr. Foster asked if it was possible to build an underpass even if less than ideal, as part of the planned network, that would be better than nothing. Mr. Girdler noted that any undercrossing along a bikeway on the MPO bikeway system map will need to meet current AASHTO standards used by the KDOT and USDOT. Mr. Almon asked if one side of the culvert could be used for drainage and the other for

bike/ped crossings. Mr. Cronin and Mr. Woosley said the culvert is designed for a 10-year flood and constraining and changing the design of the culvert could make the City liable to possible flooding as a result of the change. The committee members agreed that the possible underpass and crossing options should be investigated further. Mr. Eddings asked if there was consideration to move the entrance to deVictor park to be a more direct route to whatever crossing is built. Mr. Girdler indicated this would be a factor that could be considered in the design. Mr. Mortinger noted that a property owner on the south side of the street in the drainage way was in the process of donating undevelopable property to the City. Mr. Harper indicated his request to have Traffic Safety Commission review the issues again with the underpass in consideration. Mr. Woosley indicated once a formal written request was received TSC could re-review the issue and the new request. Ms. Hallberg noted that they were glad to be part of the discussion and asked staff and Mr. Harper to keep the BAC informed on the discussion as it moves forward. A motion was made by Mr. Burger and seconded by Mr. Foster to support a safe and improved bike-ped access across Bob Billings Parkway in this corridor. That motion was passes unanimously. BAC members asked to have an opportunity to address this issue again later so they could make more specific recommendations.

**4. Discussion/Action Item: 900 block of Delaware:** Mr. Cronin shared with the BAC the proposed site plan in the 900 Block of Delaware. The currently proposed project has a 6 ft sidewalk. Staff would like to know if the BAC would recommend working with the developer to continue the 8 ft sidewalk that was included in the development on the 800 Block of Delaware. Mr. Almon noted that as a Burroughs Creek Trail (BCT) Planning Committee member the committee had investigated a few options for connecting the north end of the BCT with Downtown Lawrence. One of the proposed options included a path through Hobbs Park and down Delaware. As such as part of this development local pedestrian advocates are working with utility companies, property owners and future tenants on the southern end of the 900 Block of Delaware to explore the possibilities to continue the Shared Use Path. Mr. Girdler noted that the Bikeway System Map had not identified any set line for connections to be made and solely having an 8-10 ft sidewalk does not mean that the route has a designated Shared Use Path distinction. The SUP must also have appropriate crossings. Ms. Hallberg asked if there was any plan to pave the roadway surface. Mr. Cronin said public works was currently doing patching work in the area. Mr. Woosley noted that a change in the request to the developer to increase the footprint of the sidewalk might impact the site's green space requirement. A motion was made by Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. Hamby to recommend the City request a 8 ft sidewalk on this site on the 900 Block of Delaware to continue the 8 ft built on the 800 Block of Delaware. That motion was passed unanimously.

**5. Discussion: Multimodal Studies/Bike Plan: (<http://lawrenceks.org/mpo/study>)** Ms. Mortinger shared the updated project status and passed around a few copies of the steering committee memos and the online interactive mapping tool summaries. The second open house is planned for October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 4:30-7:30 at the Tom Wilkerson Room at the Lawrence Aquatic Center. Mr. Eddings shared his concern about the equality in coverage for the smaller cities and county routes. Mr. Girdler indicated that the plan will have countywide connectivity and include detail in Eudora/Baldwin in relation to access to bicycle/pedestrian connections to the schools specifically identified in the study scope. Mr. Eddings specifically thinks that the plan should also include routes in the county that are unpaved but more ideal for bicycle travel as a form of 'county cycling' that isn't planned for paving of shoulder improvements but instead for routing and encouragement. These types of facilities would attract a different type of rider than a higher volume road with paved shoulders. Mr. Hamby indicated that he would like to consult public works about the gravel hazards, visibility and sight distance issues he could see as a safety risk to

encouraging this type of routing. Ms. Mortinger indicated that this type of feedback and comment to the consultant's work was the purpose of having the diverse representation on the steering committees. Mr. Burger expressed that he thought the areas of focus were not the ones the consultant should be looking at. Ms. Mortinger indicated those areas are ones the MPO staff had identified in the request for proposal based on requests to the city commission and known major network impediments in the county. She also indicated that the study while specifically looking at these 4 areas would be reviewing the entire network and making recommendations for different types of infrastructure recommendations. Ms. Mortinger asked members to attend the October open house and take the online survey starting September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

6. **Discussion Item: Bicycle & Pedestrian Documentation Project:** Ms. Mortinger informed the BAC that she was working on setting up the 2013 count times and trainings in Lawrence, Eudora and Baldwin City. Ms, Mortinger asked the BAC members if they had any additional locations to propose. Ms. Mortinger asked BAC members to sign up to count and encouraged them to share the flyer with friends who might also be interested in counting, once the dates/times were set. Ms. Mortinger indicated that like every year, the number of locations would be chosen based on the number of volunteers.
7. **Other Business/Updates:** There was none.
8. **Public Comments:** There was no public comment.
9. **Adjournment of Meeting:** The meeting ended at 6:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2013. Mr. Foster asked BAC members if a discussion and analysis of safety should be put on a future meeting agenda.