

Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes from the August 8, 2023, Meeting – 7:00 a.m.
Woods Park Place – 3131 'O' Street, LPR Conference Room

Members Present: Barb Fraser, Delrae Hirschman, Sarah Knight, Gary Bentrup, Jordan Messerer, Mauricio Lang, Nate Lowry, Susan Larson Rodenburg, Dale Arp, Conor Herbert, Conan Shafer

Members via Zoom: Bulent Paul Tunakan, George Dungan

Guests: Cait Dumas

Guests via Zoom: Parks Coble, Logan Spackman, Joe Dauer

Staff Present: Allison Speicher, JJ Yost, Jamie Granquist, Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Kylie Gokie, Sara Hartzell, Jocelyn Golden

Staff via Zoom: Roberto Partida, Stephanie Rouse, Dan Carpenter

Call to Order: Lowry called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. and noted the meeting follows the Open Meetings Act, posted in the room. Roll call was made.

Approval of Minutes: July minutes will be a considered for approval, along with August, in September. Role was taken.

Staff Reports: Speicher reported on some trail cutting work that has been completed and requested any additional sites be shared. Trail repair in Mahoney Park near the dog park has been completed. Fletcher Landmark trail is in the ROW phase and hope to have this out for bid this fall. Beal Slough Trail has started the ROW process. Waterford Trail program agreement has been approved by the City Council and now will begin getting an engineer on board for Design. Hartzell reported on the 98th and A Street area. There had initially been discussion about re-routing the MoPac Trail with a development in the area. After much discussion, this was mostly dropped, however, the crossing is being adjusted from the midblock crossing at about 95th Street to 98th Street. The developer and the City did a land exchange to give the developer some area for a drainage structure and the City an outlot on the north side of A Street over to 98th Street. This will put the crossing in the ROW of a roundabout to be constructed in the future. Construction of this roundabout will require A Street be lowered to the east of 98th Street. There has been discussion about which legs of the roundabout the trail would cross on. If the trail can move to the east side that would remove the need for another crossing to the south on 98th. There has also been some discussion about whether the land on the south side of A might be swapped with the adjacent landowner for some additional land south of the parking lot so that crossing of 98th could be realigned. It would be best if the trail could cross 98th on the north side of A, and A Street on the east side of 98th at the roundabout, then continue south to meet the current MoPac Trail. Then the existing crossing of 98th Street should be used much less frequently by those who choose to park there. Because the regrading of A Street needs to be done with the roundabout construction, and until that regrading is completed, the site distance prevents the crossing being moved to 98th street, that crossing will not move until the intersection project is completed. There was discussion about how these areas on the edge of the City are planned and how needed trail improvements are considered in those plans. Staff should continue to ensure that accommodations for trails are planned for with new annexations.

Yost reported there is quite a bit of utility work going on at this time and to be aware that there may be utility vehicles in trail areas. Parks sometimes does not get notice from utilities when they are doing this work.

Rouse reported that trail counts have been ongoing in the Van Dorn Park area and the fall mobile trail count rounds are about to begin. Planning is working on a grant application for Improving Community Connections program in the area between Antelope Valley at 28th Street to improve pedestrian and bicycle connections. Bike rack request program is finally completed and 34 racks have been installed in mostly commercial districts. Bike Friendly Community Application is almost complete and will be sent in by the end of the month.

Partida reported that LTU is working on a bike facility design manual. They will be getting a consultant on board for this work, likely FHU, who did the Lincoln Bike Plan and the P and Q Streets bike lane designs. They will be working with Parks to make sure trails and on street facilities mesh well. This document can then be used by contractors in developing plans.

Carpenter reported that there have been several projects over the summer to establish reduced speed zones and safe routes to schools. At Hartley Elementary LTU has been working with Safe Kids to analyze the access to the school. LTU and Safe Kids have been working with faculty, students and parents to develop plans for safer access. The RRFB design is getting close at Tierra-Williamsburg and Old Cheney Rd as well as SW 15th and Van Dorn (Bison). Hoping for bid this fall with construction fall of 2023 or spring of 2024. Messerer asked about the plan for Pershing demolition and the N Street Cycletrack. Partida reported the plan had been to use one of the driving lanes as a temporary cycletrack to divert cyclists around the construction area. LTU will check to make sure these plans are in place.

Spackman commented that the next three months are historically the busiest for BikeLNK. He will have a bigger report in September.

Old Business: Speicher reported that the suggestion of a service award for Dena Noe was very well received at the Mayor's Office. Would like to have a letter or a list of attributes and accomplishments for the award. Bentrup and Arp offered to work on that.

New Business: Cait Dumas, Associate Director of Bike Walk Nebraska (BWN), shared some information on the Bike Walk Summit. BWN has been around for ten years, and this year will be their first in-person since covid. They will have a couple of in-depth workshops this year rather than a traditional conference. Jason Buss will be leading a detailed workshop to work through the difficult points of trail planning and delivery. Julie Harris and Cait will be leading a workshop on "How do we cultivate sustainable change in the bike community" to help communities create inclusive communities, get procedures and processes in place, cultivating collaboration, and working with state partners. She would like to know what kinds of goals and questions the PBAC might have that BWN could address in the future. BWN is working on some educational materials and work shops for individuals that want to know more about cycling and for communities that want to start building their bike networks. People can go to the BWN webpage to sign up for the summit. This year the summit will include a fully support community ride from the Hub Café to Beatrice and back. Speicher reported on the Carbon Reduction Fund program and what Lincoln is thinking of for applications. This is an 80% Federal, 20% local match program. The Old Cheney undercrossing of the Rock Island Trail is one project that has been suggested but is probably in the out years. For the immediate future we are looking at the repave of parts of the Superior Street Trail, conversion of MoPac from gravel to pavement starting at 84th and going east to 105th, and the widening of the Rock Island from 8 feet to 10 feet or possibly even 12 feet. May like to have a letter of support from the PBAC at some point.

Speicher shifted to the 10 Year Facility Plan which will inform the preparation of the CIP which begins in December and will be adopted at some time in August of 2024. The 10- Year plan spans a huge range and includes new and rehab projects. Speicher walked through the layout of the plan and prioritization system and then proceeded to review all of the new items that have been included with this round (red items in the draft plan).

Larson Rodenburg moved and Herbert seconded that the draft 10-year plan be moved forward to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Motion approved unanimously. Yost thanked the committee for their input.

Larson Rodenburg commented that she has heard more and more reports of motorized bikes, gas powered, on trails. Should there be an educational effort. Schafer commented that LPD can do informational stops, without tickets, to let people know this is not legal. Arp noted it would be helpful to know when and where these seem to be most often seen. Speicher suggested a conversation with LPD. Stuckey Ross commented there has been a lot of discussion regarding alternative transportation on trails. Arp also commented that UNL uses the trails for regular access of their landscape services vehicles. This is not legal.

Fraser comment that NDOT has a vulnerable user survey right now. Speicher will send out the link.

Adjourn: Lowry closed the meeting at 8:06 am