

**Bicycle Pedestrian Sub-Committee
Dover City Hall Large Conference Room
Dover, DE
June 19, 2018**

***** DRAFT *****

Members Present:

Jim Hutchison, Chris Asay, Jayce Lesniewski, Dave
Moses, Gerry Pennington, Andy Siegel

Others Present:

Carolyn Courtney, Eddie Diaz, Thomas Dix,
John Fiori, James Galvin, Margie Cyr

CALLED TO ORDER: Meeting opened at 5:03 P.M.

AGENDA

The agenda was presented for review. The agenda was accepted without objection.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented from March, April, and May, 2018. The chair entertained the motion to accept. With discussion Mr. Asay noted a few changes he would like to submit, mainly grammatical. In the interest of time, the chair asked that all edits be sent to Ms. Courtney by Friday, June 22. She will update accordingly and share with the members. With that the minutes were accepted without objection.

NEW ITEMS

Delaware Bicycle Council Innovation Grant

Mrs. Cyr introduced the Delaware Bicycle Council grant application received by the City Manager on May 16, 2018. She noted Mr. Asay had brought the Mallard Pond Pathway link feasibility study as a potential project for this grant application. Per the letter, a total \$20,000 is available from this granting source. She noted the July 2014 meeting public meeting in Mallard Pond that covered the installation of playground equipment and trail concept and she stated the sidewalk/trail connection path is included in the 2015 Pedestrian Plan. The report of that meeting is included in today's packet.

Mr. Asay gave his reasoning for requesting that the City apply for this grant funding of the feasibility study. This short path would create a "short-cut" for pedestrians and bicyclists from north Dover neighborhoods to the area of the new Dover High School. Neighborhoods benefiting would include Fox Hall, Fox Hall West, Westfield and Maple Dale. The project could significantly reduce auto traffic along Kenton Road and Route 8 during peak hours by making bicycling or walking to-and-from Dover High School a timesaving alternative. It is an example of adding connectivity to the Low-Stress Bicycle Network that our community is developing. He noted that Anthony Aglio [of the Delaware Bicycle Council] told him "this is exactly the type of project they are looking for."

Mr. Fiori noted this is the fourth year of the grant. It was anticipated the funding allowance would be raised to \$25,000.00. The application is slightly different than the previous years. He did not anticipate much change in future applications, if we were to consider a project for next year's grant cycle, we could assume the application would be very similar to this years.

Mr. Diaz provided a map of the proposed area. He pointed out the area going over the drainage swale and general area where the potential pathway would need to go. With much discussion, it was agreed the feasibility study could provide us the best option for crossing the swale, and which land owners would need to be approached for encroaching on their property to complete this link. Both of Heatherfield East and Fox Hall West neighborhood associations own land in this area.

Mr. Dix stated that he felt a feasibility study was not needed sharing the example of the Independence Blvd project was completed without a feasibility study. With additional discussion the members of committee did not feel his recommendation was the right approach. Mr. Dix stated there was money in an Inner Connectivity grant offered by the Governor or funding for the project could come from DelDOT and/or DNREC and we should not proceed with the feasibility study, to just build the pathway on his suggested route. Mr. Hutchison noted seeking the feasibility study was the proper way to proceed to provide a comprehensive look at the project for completion. Mr. Galvin noted the Inner Connectivity grant funds were no longer available as that was a grant from our previous Governor.

Discussion on the costs associated with the feasibility study and the fact this project is not included in the current capital improvements budget, nor the availability of funding from the City for the project took place. Mr. Siegel stated asking for the feasibility study when the City does not have funding allocations for the project may not be in our best interest. That we should consider making the proper budget requests in the next fiscal planning and to get the project on the Public Works project listing would be a better option. This is not a project in the current or next City budget. There are no City funds available at this time. Mr. Asay noted the MPO could possibly offer funding for the project. Mr. Galvin was unsure that this would be an option for this year as they had already selected their projects for funding.

Mr. Fiori noted we should be clear in the application of the ability to actually carry out the project. This is something the Delaware Bicycle Council (DBC) will look at when reviewing the grant applications. Those with a likely hood of being completed, are looked upon favorably.

Mr. Asay motioned to have Mrs. Cyr contact Councilmen Lewis with the request to include the Infrastructure Innovation Grant application for the Mallard Pond Pathway Link to the Safety Advisory & Transportation Committee of the Whole meeting agenda on June 26 with the recommendation the city apply for this grant. Mrs. Cyr will also inquire on a quote price of conducting the feasibility study to be included in the presentation to council. This motion passed with two objecting.

City of Dover Pedestrian Plan

City of Dover Bicycle Plan

Mrs. Cyr noted that current Pedestrian Plan is a little older than the Bicycle Plan. That we may want to update that one first. Mr. Asay shared that with the help of the MPO on both plans and they were started simultaneously, but the Bike Plan took a little longer to complete. Both plans were adopted at the same City Council meeting in 2015. Both plans should be updated regularly, and the MPO can assist with both types of plans.

His suggestion is to update the Bicycle Plan first, and then update the Pedestrian Plan immediately afterward. This is for two reasons. Firstly, there have been more changes in current conditions for bicycling than for walking, so the need for an update to the Bike Plan is greater. Secondly, according to its executive director, Reed Macmillan, the MPO is currently short staffed, so is not as well-equipped at the moment to take on two plans at once.

Mr. Galvin added, that the MPO has been shorted staffed and it would be very difficult to even assist with updating one plan. They do not have this in their funding que for this year. He recommended requesting assistance for completing this project for the 2020 year.

Mrs. Cyr asked how we would (if the City Manager approved of the project) submit the request for plan updating assistance. Mr. Galvin responded typically the City Manager / Planning Directors send an email to the MPO director.

Discussion took place on going back to a combined plan as much of the plan overlaps, with segments specific to cycling and walking. Mr. Asay felt the League of American Bicyclist required us to have individual plans, thus we separated the two plans.

Mr. Siegel noted as we move forward with updating the plans that we should include an “expiration date.”

Motion was made to have Mrs. Cyr approach the City Manager to formally request the MPO’s assistance with updating the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans. This motion passed without objection.

OLD ITEMS

The chair noted the time and asked to table the remaining topics until our August meeting. This was acceptable to the members.

Dover Treasure Hunt

Construction Projects

By-Laws Revision

Bike Month Events

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 30, Open Streets Bike Rodeo, Ms. Courtney will be organizing this one with Dover Police and NCALL. Volunteers are requested to come out and assist.

June 22, the West Street Trail opening. Mr. Hutchison noted he had provided a statement for their press release and that he would be sharing a few words during the opening ceremony.

Mr. Asay asked to have the Bike Fix It Station, 2nd Draft of timeline, and more information on Open Streets at the next meeting.

Mr. Lesniewski asked to have Pedestrian related topic on each agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM without objection.