

MEMORANDUM

**Common Council Sidewalk Committee
02 December 2010, Noon
McCloskey Room (# 135)
Showers City Hall, 401 North Morton Street**

In attendance:

Committee Members: Andy Ruff, Mike Satterfield (Chair) and Chris Sturbaum

Staff: Jane Fleig (CBU), Scott Robinson (Planning), Stacy Jane Rhoads (Council Office), Dan Sherman (Council Office) and Justin Wykoff (Public Works)

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Satterfield welcomed all present.

II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

The group approved memoranda from meetings on January 26th, July 27th and August 6th, 2010.

III. UTILITIES' STORM WATER CONTRIBUTION

- As discussed at the last meeting, due to budgetary constraints, Utilities does not have funds to contribute to the Sidewalk Committee's storm water work this year. Fleig stated that as relayed by Patrick Murphy, Utilities will try to provide in-kind storm water work where it can. However, CBU does have its own storm water project priorities for the coming year as mapped out in its 5-year capital improvement for storm and sanitary sewer. Assistance for Sidewalk Committee projects will be dependent on staff time.
- Sturbaum thanked Utilities for helping where and when it can.
- Fleig relayed that she is currently working on determining how much money is left is the Utilities Council Sidewalk Committee storm water line. CBU is currently in the middle of the Marilyn Street project. Once Marilyn Street is complete, she will have the actual storm water figures. Fleig said she hoped to have the Marilyn Street project completed by next week.

IV. ON-GOING STORM WATER PROJECTS

- Fleig said that right now, she is focusing on getting the Marilyn Street project completed. As per the Sidewalk Committee's last meeting, Fleig communicated that the Jordan-Maxwell storm water improvement project involves ditching and minimal infrastructure work; work will commence in 2011.

V. RANKING METHODOLOGY

Robinson provided a brief review of the criteria used by City planners to evaluate sidewalk proposals. The aim of the system is to provide an objective analysis of the relative need for a sidewalk.

- Planners use analytics to filter four of the Committee's criteria: safety, roadway classification, pedestrian usage and proximity to destination points. In assessing safety and roadway classification, planners use a Pedestrian Level of Service (PLOS) analysis. This score gauges the pedestrian experience based upon traffic volume and speed, lane width, presence and width of sidewalk, and presence, type, and width of the buffer. In discerning pedestrian usage and proximity to destination points, planners use an algorithm called, "Walkscore™." Walkscore measures the walkability of an address and awards points based on proximity of an address to destinations. The higher the score, the more walkable the area – 100 is a "Walkers Paradise" while 0 is "Car Dependent."
- When it comes to the Committee's fifth and sixth criteria, the analysis is more nuanced and can't be reduced to a number as easily. Regarding linkages, planning updates the sidewalk inventory map and examines proposed projects in relation to existing sidewalks. Cost and feasibility analysis are really the purview of the Committee, in cooperation with Engineering and CBU.
- Planners also considered population density in analyzing proposed projects. The more densely populated an area, the greater the likely use of a sidewalk.
- Similarly, planners looked at existing transit networks and proximity to transit routes as transit riders are all pedestrians at some point in time. If the project is within a ¼-mile radius of a transit route, a prospective sidewalk got a higher score.
- Robinson pointed the Committee to his *Memo* in the Sidewalk packet for a more detailed description of methodology. He said that Planning is comfortable with the methodology, but always open to new ideas.
- Robinson pointed to CBU's 5-Year Capital Replacement Plan mentioned by Fleig and suggested that it may be instructive to look at the projects on the 5-year plan and see how those projects dovetail with projects on the Committee's list. Such dovetailing might provide more "bang for the buck" and may be yet another way to prioritize.

VI. NEW PROPOSED SIDEWALK PROJECTS

Seventh Street – From the SR 46 Bypass to Hillsdale Drive.

- Wykoff brought to the Committee’s attention an opportunity to cooperate with INDOT for a connection from the Bypass to Seventh Street. As part of the Bypass improvement, INDOT is installing a pedestrian underpass and has said it will build a stairway from the underpass to Seventh on the condition that the City create a sidewalk linkage on the east side at Hillsdale and Fifth.
- Satterfield reviewed the nature of the Seventh Street project and the need for connectivity and asked if the Committee had any questions.
- Sturbaum asked if the Committee needs to commit money right now in order for INDOT to make good on its promise. Can the Committee just put it on its “to do” list?
 - › Wykoff responded that he needs an agreement with INDOT in writing. However, the project is not scheduled until 2012, so the Committee has some time.
- As this is a dead-end street, there is not much foot traffic. Sturbaum asked if it would be possible to save some money by painting a strip along the road to demarcate walking areas.
- Ruff stated that relative to other projects, this one does not address need as well as others. Ruff asked Robinson for feedback.
 - › Robinson replied that this project ranked low on PLOS and is lightly travelled. The young and the old are the patrons who use sidewalks most; a lane is a good alternative.

Connection to Twin Lakes Recreation Center

- Sturbaum circulated an e-mail from a constituent concerned about the lack of a sidewalk connection from the City out to the Twin Lakes Recreation Center, even to Basswood. He said that he recalled discussion of a multi-use path to connect up the Second Street corridor and asked staff for an update.
- Wykoff explained that about a year ago, the City went to the Redevelopment Commission for TIF funds to construct a sidepath from the north side of Second Street that would run from Walker to Patterson. Currently, the project is in the design phase. Bynum Fanyo is working on a sidepath design leading to Twin Lakes that would allow better traffic flow for patrons entering and leaving the Twin Lakes facility. The City plans to install a traffic light or a round-about at Bloomfield Road and Weimer Road. This will acquire some right-of-way acquisition. The City has already acquired property at 1208 West Bloomfield. Looking further west, they are also exploring how a path might be constructed leading from Twin Lakes to the Basswood area. The City is still working with Bynum to think through this idea – moving further with this stretch would depend on existing easements and the wishes of residents in the Basswood-Bradford Ridge Apartments area.

Morningside – Smith Road to Sheffield

- Satterfield explained that Bloomington Transit dropped its bus stop on Morningside Drive. The closest stop is now on Smith Road and many people walk down Morningside to get to the stop at Smith. The walk is precarious and uncomfortable. This is a neighborhood with many children and a neighborhood that sees many pedestrians. A sidewalk would really help pedestrians get safely to the Smith stop.

South Rogers

- Sturbaum asked about the South Rogers project, south of Hillside as requested by Councilmember Piedmont-Smith. Robinson offered that the MPO project ends at Rockport Road and will go to bid in 2012. The project has been designed and is currently in the right-of-way acquisition phase.

Fleig asked if the Community Kitchen will put in a sidewalk in front of its new facility. Robinson said that Planning is working with the Kitchen; the Kitchen does have plans for site renovation and a part of that renovation might be the installation of a sidewalk.

Other Projects

- Ruff stated that he has not been approached with any citizen requests for sidewalks.
- Satterfield said that if the list is complete, the Committee must now turn to prioritization of projects. Satterfield reflected that to date, the Committee's primary focus has been the completion of the Third Street project. He said that he would like to add Morningside to the priority projects.
- Sturbaum asked how much the Committee has to work with if it approves using the balance of the ATF to fund the East Third Street project.
- Wykoff said that if the Committee constructs all four segments of East Third, it is left with \$80,188.46 to devote to other projects.
- Satterfield asked: considering design, right-of-way estimates, acquisition, etc, how many feet of sidewalk would \$80,000 buy? Wykoff responded that, provided no storm water work was needed, \$80,000 might buy ~200 feet of sidewalk.

VII. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Sherman asked the Committee if anyone had a conflict of interest and disclosed that he owns property on Nancy Drive.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on 07 December 2010 and will focus on prioritizing projects for 2011 funding.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm