

Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Commission

June 14, 2021 5:30pm

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/96285100688?pwd=V1VBSXdBT21OTVdqYk1keXM3VGRtQT09>

Meeting Agenda:

1. Attendance
2. Meeting Minutes- May 2021
3. Reports from Commission Members
4. Reports from Staff
 - a. Lower Cascades Trail Pilot/ Road Closure- Tim Street, Operations and Development Division Director
 - b. Sidewalk Equity Matrix- Mallory Rickbeil, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
5. New Business
6. Public Comment
7. Adjourn

Public Comment:

The BPSC welcomes public comment at meetings for both items being discussed as part of the topic and new items that are not on the meeting's agenda. Members of the public wishing to comment on specific agenda items may have the opportunity to do so once the presentation has concluded and the BPSC Members have had an opportunity to ask initial questions. At that time, the BPSC Chair may ask if there are members of the public who wish to comment, or commenters may ask to be recognized. Members of the public wishing to comment on items not on listed on the agenda, but related to BPSC business will have the opportunity to do so during the meeting's designated public comment period. To ensure equal access to comment, BPSC chair may establish a time limit for all public comment.

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Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Commission

Minutes, Monday, May 10 2021

1. Welcome/ Introductions

Attendees:

Staff: Mallory Rickbeil, Beth Rosenbarger

Commissioners: Jaclyn Ray, Zak Huneck, Sarah Waters, Ann Edmonds, Jim Rosenbarger, Casey Green

Public: Carole Canfield, Paul Ash, Ron Brown, Craig Medlin

2. New Business:

a. Filling Vacancies: President, Vice-President

Mallory: Expectations for President include leading the meeting communication with Mallory on what to put on agenda. President calls for a vote when necessary. This hasn't happened often but may happen more in the future as the new rubric for traffic calming requires it. Meetings can be run in a casual manner. Could we do this on a rotational basis? Maybe this is an option to consider.

Jim agreed that we should consider rotation.

Beth said that they could provide a script.

Casey said she would consider serving as president.

Jaclyn moved that Casey be president; Jim seconded. Mallory called for a vote. All 6 voted yes.

Casey asked for nominations for Vice President. Sarah expressed a willingness even when it was explained that the VP runs meetings when the president is not there.

Ann moved that Casey be VP. Jim seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Zac mentioned that Councilman Volan called for a training for commissioners.

b. Confirm Secretary Appointment: Jaclyn moved to nominate Ann as secretary, Jim seconded. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

c. 2021 Meeting Schedule

i. Monday, June 14 2021

ii. Monday, August 9 2021- TCGP Project Hearing

iii. Monday, September 13 2021 - Local Motion Grant

iv. Monday, October 11 2021 – Casey noted that this is indigenous people's day. Beth said that is a city holiday every 4 years if there is a local primary election.

v. Monday, November 8, 2021 - TCGP 2022 Guidelines/ Evaluation Methodology

vi. Monday, December 13, 2021 – Continuation of November meeting

Casey asked whether there were concerns about the dates. Zac said that if we switch the time to 4 that he would want another day of the week. Jaclyn

said she cannot make it at 4. Casey said it seems the meeting should stay at 5:30.

- d. Bloomington Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission ([2.12.080](#)) in Code of Ordinances

Mallory wanted to bring up the code for the BPSC. She wanted to share the mission statement from the municipal code. She wanted to see whether we agree or whether we want to change or update it. That may not be necessary. Mallory shared her screen showing the code.

The code says what the duties are using the word shall, so that is just a recommendation. Casey looked up and found that the FAA says that legally the word “shall” does not indicate a requirement, but the word “must” has to be used for that.

- e. Conditions to Facilitate Meaningful Work Agreements

Mallory says there will be more meetings on traffic calming and greenways. Mallory wants to know whether there should be an agreement on what the expectations are for these working meetings. Mallory wants to propose a group training that would not be a public meeting to have a candid discussion. That would require an additional meeting to discuss requirements and expectations. She feels this would have the benefit of having a more solid foundation for working together.

Casey feels that clear communication is beneficial. She feels that it would be more beneficial to have the group training after another meeting so that she would have a better understanding of what is being discussed. She would like an efficient use of time. Sarah, Jaclyn and Zac agree. Casey asked for objections. Jim and Ann have no objections.

3. Reports from Staff

- a. Beth gave an overview of the Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Plan
Comprehensive Plan is required by the state; it’s a guiding document and is a framework for land use decisions and defines vision and goals. Streets and land use inform each other.

Chapter 6 of the Comprehensive Plan is about transportation.

Mallory asked about the scope of the plan. Beth says legally it influences land use more than other things. There is the biggest connection for zoning.

The plan must include a Master Thoroughfare Plan by state law. For us that’s the Transportation Plan. Sometimes following the plan is required and sometimes it is a guide. She recommends that we read it.

The plan applies a typology for every street which may differ at different parts of the street depending on the area it’s moving through. Mostly we deal with existing streets when assigning a typology. We don’t have sidewalk inventory in the plan or sidewalk requirements.

There is a bicycle facilities map. There is also a map of a priority bicycle network. You need minimum east-west as well as north-south corridors to have a network. We want to design a bicycle network that will be comfortable for people who are generally less comfortable biking. College and Walnut use a lot of real estate in the

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middle of the city, and they don't meet our current goals. They were converted to one-way in the 1960s. Redesigning a street space can change development near a street.

We have a traffic calming policy, but don't have a complete streets policy or a vision zero policy.

Transportation project decision making involves funding, prioritization and design. We have set funding for street repaving managed through public works. There is also a council sidewalk fund and an alternative transportation fund. There are also MPO-funded projects with federal money about \$3million per year. Bonds such as the bicentennial bond fund other capital projects.

Project prioritization uses the Transportation Plan. Sometimes we may raise priority based on collaboration with projects from other departments.

There are detailed recommendations on project design in the transportation plan. Community Commission on Accessibility, BPSC, Parking and Transportation Commissions all have input.

You can sign up to get an email alert every time there is a traffic calming project being considered.

Sarah asked about the bicycle priority network. Beth said it is one network, but the means of providing bicycle comfort varies depending on the streets. Allen is a neighborhood greenway. The 7-line will be a protected bike lane. Beth prefers protected bike lanes to keep people from parking there. She recommends looking at both maps.

Craig asked about the 7th St project. When will it be done? Beth says it will be awarded hopefully tomorrow. The part from Indiana to Woodlawn must be done before fall. The rest can be later.

Jim notes that this is the first Transportation Plan that includes walking and biking and that is an improvement. The Transportation Plan was approved in 2019. Beth says they want people to be able to walk safely. All these plans are available online. Beth wants the goals in the Transportation Plan included in the decision making process.

4. Reports from Commission Members

Jaclyn wanted to know whether anyone will be going to the meeting about redoing the hospital area. Zac will be going and is willing to raise Jaclyn's concerns.

5. Public Comment

- a. Carole is concerned about the Cascades road closure. She is sympathetic to bicyclists and pedestrians. She says that the closure cuts off accessibility to the south end of the park. She lives in Blue Ridge. She says they can't get out of the addition when there is game traffic. The only way out is turning north on Walnut and then going south through the park. She feels that there has not been enough publicity, that people don't understand that the closure may be permanent. She feels that this ignores the people with disability issues and the people in Blue Ridge. She feels that it's not inclusive. She is also concerned about access from emergency vehicles. Mallory said that we will specifically be talking about this project during the next meeting. Carole said that the decision will be made next month.

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Zac asked how she thought publicity could be improved.

Carole thought it should be mentioned on AM radio. She thought there should be some way to do this so that it works for cars as well as bikes. She thinks there is enough money to do this.

Mallory says that the topography of the park doesn't allow a separate path, without considerable expense.

Carole asked whether a path could be put in the park.

Sarah asked about project designs and street closures, whether it would be possible to allow some vehicles and not others.

Ann remembered that in the discussion of the Short St project, that there was some discussion of having it closed but possible for emergency vehicles to get through

- b. Paul brought up the 1st Street project and putting it through to Patterson. That would involve a bridge over the creek and 1st would connect to Patterson close to 2nd. Paul thought it only was needed if the hospital stayed.

Beth said the additional path would not be for cars, just a trail for bikes and pedestrians.

Jaclyn said there is needed improvement for the path on the west side of Patterson.

- c. Ron brought up Monroe Street near Tri-North. He says there is a cave in for which he has submitted a ureport. He thinks that this is really dangerous and that a cone should be placed. Ron noted that the cave-in has been covered with plywood and a cone. Craig thought there needs to be coordination to fix the problem permanently. Ron thinks it will be fixed.
- d. Casey noted that there was a suggestion in the chat to change the October 11 meeting to October 4. Ann moved that we move the October 11 meeting to October 4; Jaclyn seconded. All but Jim who already left voted in favor.
- e. Carole noted that Cascades Park is coming up for its 100th anniversary and it would be a shame if not everyone could enjoy it.

6. Adjourn

Announcements/ Actionable Items:

1. 1st Street Reconstruction Project- Thursday, May 13 from 6-7pm details can be found here: <https://bloomington.in.gov/engineering/projects/1st>
2. Monroe County residents are invited to take a [short survey](#) on transportation needs for the Bloomington MPO Coordinated Public Transit/ Human Service Transportation Plan. The survey is open through May 15.