

November 9 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Panel Meeting Notes

Monroe County Loop Trail – Lucie said that there is not much new. We are meeting with our partners to tell them about receiving the grant, but there has been no official word about this yet. She said that there was a meeting about the Ralph Wilson grant, but that we are not allowed to talk about the possible funding for that at the moment, but that we are looking at community foundations as a source of funding in general. She said that most of the trail is in Monroe Charter Township, and much of it is on County property, which is why the County is one of the lead agencies on this.

Equity Planning Grant – Florence said that the signage subcommittee met and that Lucie's firm is working with the Road Commission to finalize the details of the signs for the 100-mile route. Lucie said that they are hoping to finalize this in December.

She said that the signage plan will be a 30-page document that will be appended to the trail plan, and that the survey will also be appended. She said that there will be a description of the route showing where the signs are located along with an estimation of the cost for them, and that this can be implemented as soon as we can pay for it. She described the appearance of the signs and said that there will be 464 signs along the 103-mile route. She mentioned that there could be an additional medallion added to the bottom of the signs. Dori said that it was better to add the medallion during the creation of the initial sign if possible. Lucie said that the Road Commission would be the one giving the final approval of the signs. She said that it has not been finalized to add anything additional to the signs yet. She said that the signs will not likely be completed until spring of next year, so there is still time to decide if we want to add anything specific to the signs.

Lucie said that the Ralph Wilson legacy fund could help with \$50,000 of the costs, but that the total costs will be about \$109,000 without the medallion, so we need to look for additional sponsors. She suggested that we could do half of the route at first and then do half of it later if we cannot locate the entire funding. Jim asked how the sponsorship would work. Lucie said that this was Bill's idea and that he did not provide any additional details at the subcommittee meeting.

Al suggested asking the townships that the route runs through to contribute based upon how many signs they will have. He said that, for sponsors, there would need to be some incentive to get them to contribute, so there could be some kind of formal recognition of their contribution. Lucie said that she would try to figure out a way to implement this. Florence said that consistency in each community's signage is important and that she thinks we should keep the signs simple. Dori asked how often we could receive money from the Ralph Wilson foundation. Lucie said they award funding only once a year.

Trail and Bicycle Plan – Florence said that the County Commissioners adopted this on October 19 and that it was well received. She said that the Road Commission adopted it on November 8. Al said that it was great how accepting of the Plan that the Road Commission was. Dori agreed and said that the presentation of the plan was good. She said that there are still some safety concerns, though, and that educating the motoring public will be necessary. Florence said that it will be a lot of work to get the word out and a lot of work to do this. Jim agreed and said that the change in attitude towards bicycling among officials in the County is refreshing. Florence said that she will present the plan on November 10 at the BDC meeting, and after that we will schedule presentations with the municipal councils and township boards.

Trail Projects – Florence said that we can start a subcommittee regarding future trail projects soon. She said that she will talk to Mike Bosanac at the County so that we don't miss any funding opportunities for projects.

5-Year Plan – Mike showed the group the public website and detailed the various projects in the County and in neighboring Lenawee County. Florence said that the N. Summit Street railroad bridge is in bad shape. Lucie brought up the segment of Bay Creek Road under I-75 and pointed out that, after looking at it in Google Maps, there does not seem to be room to widen the road for bicycles. Mike said that the bridge would not normally be worked on unless it is identified in a local plan. Jim said that there is not usually an issue riding on this road as it is lightly traveled.

Florence asked about the LaPlaisance Road bridge and when it will be completed. Mike looked it up and said that it should be completed on November 15. Florence also asked about the Luna Pier Road bridge. Jim said that MDOT does not have a plan to shift the traffic, and that the locals will have to find a way to upgrade the road going out of Luna Pier since there will be a lot of traffic on it while the bridge is being worked on.

Mike said that there will not be new aesthetic features placed on the Ready Road bridge since it will just be a resurfacing of the bridge. Florence asked about monument signs. Mike said that he sent out a couple of examples to the interested communities, and that the communities should reach out to the Brighton TSC and then go through the MDOT permit process if they would like signs. Florence said that she will talk about this process at the upcoming November 22 meeting.

Great Lakes Way – The SEMCOG representatives were not able to attend this meeting to talk about this due to a previous commitment. Florence said that there are two local representatives on this committee. Lucie said that it is exciting that this project will include Monroe County.

Luna Pier – Jim had nothing additional to add.

Berlin Charter Township – Sue said that the township clerk consulted the haul route agreement and that it is all clear to have paved shoulders in the Township, although a trail would be preferable due to safety concerns with large trucks. Lucie said that the segment in Berlin Township is important for the Great Lakes Way. Jim suggested Fish and Wildlife funding might help and this was used in Wayne County. Lucie suggested talking to Mary at Downriver Greenways.

MDOT – Mike said that meetings are being finalized for the Planning Environmental Linkage study for the I-75 Front and Elm exits and that they are looking to have the first meetings in December.