

July 13 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Panel Meeting Notes

Florence asked if Al Barron would be able to be the Monroe Township representative on the Panel. Danny said that he would reach out to him.

Loop Trail – Lucie said that supplemental information has been submitted already, and that the application is still in discussion and additional information will probably be submitted soon. Brian said that the biggest issue is the Raisinville Road bridge and accommodating bicycles and pedestrians on it. He said that the application will probably be complete in a week or so.

SEMCOG Equity Grant – Florence said that there are 489 replies to the survey. Lucie said that there will be a steering committee meeting at the end of June about the survey and that this meeting will inform the next phase of the project. She said that eventually the committee will seek the full Panel's input.

Florence said that responses were spread throughout the County, but most were in the City of Monroe, and that safety concerns were the main input from the survey. She said that Telegraph Road, Monroe Street and M-50 were all brought up. She said that she will go through a visual summary of the results at the August meeting.

Draft Plan – Lucie said that the draft plan is not complete yet but that the survey will be rolled into the plan. She said that they are currently working on goals and objectives and the action plan, and that the full Panel will eventually be able to comment on the plan. She said that they are basing the plan on the Washtenaw County plan, but they also consulted the Lenawee and Macomb County plans as well.

Luna Pier Bridge – Jim said that the City has not voted on approving the artwork yet. Mike said that if it is approved then it will be incorporated into the bridge's design, and that things are still moving along in a timely manner. Jim said that the feedback from the community has been positive and asked whether Erie Township is going to do anything on the south side of the bridge. Mike said that the railing system that will be implemented on the bridge would not allow this.

MDOT/Berlin Twp. Swan Creek Bridge – Mike said that he does not know about any changes regarding this matter.

Newport Bridge – Mike said that this project is part of the same project as the Nadeau Road bridge. It will be let in August and advertised for bidding in the fall.

LaPlaisance Road Bridge – Mike said that this project has been let already and is on schedule to be constructed in 2021. Danny said that Monroe Township wanted a bike/ped overpass on the bridge and MDOT will be constructing it. However, he said there is a problem in that the path from the bridge goes to nowhere. He said that Al Barron told him that he was in contact with MDOT and that MDOT would take care of it. He asked Mike if he was aware of any news on this.

Mike said he had not heard about this yet. Florence asked if connecting the path to the bridge overpass is the Township's responsibility. Danny said that it is within MDOT's project working area. Mike said that MDOT did not realize that there were sidewalk connectivity issues during the initial discussion and that there was currently no plan for MDOT to construct any sidewalks. He said that he would check with those in charge at MDOT to see if it would be possible to put in sidewalks. Lucie said that she would inquire regarding Mannik & Smith's involvement in this.

Florence wondered if there should be another meeting between the Township and MDOT on this. Mike said that he will try to find the answers to the Township's concerns from MDOT. Bill mentioned that the new company that is locating on the former golf course may want to have input in these discussions. Mary K. mentioned that what was done at the U.S. 23 Brighton interchange would be ideal.

Sue wondered if there would be a similar issue at the Frenchtown Township bridge. Florence asked if Luna Pier would have any issues with their bridge like this. Jim said that Luna Pier is extending the sidewalk and will make the link themselves. Mike checked and said that the Newport, Nadeau and Luna Pier bridges will not have these issues. Jim asked if it would be possible to secure an easement to do the LaPlaisance Road connection. Mike said that it could be done through a permit with either MDOT or the Monroe County Road Commission depending upon who owns the property.

Mortar Creek Bridge – Danny said that this was scheduled to be replaced in 2024 and that it currently has 4 foot wide shoulders. He said that the bridge cannot really be used for bicycles now because of how bad the drainage is. Jim inquired about a possible widening of the bridge. Mike said that this project is just a deck replacement, but that there is a small possibility for widening it slightly due to adjusting the railing system. He said that there was nothing in any current plans showing that the road was a major bicycle route, but that MDOT could perhaps try to do a six-foot shoulder. Danny asked MDOT to make sure to check the drainage on the current deck so that bicyclists would not hit a rut when riding.

5-Year Plan – Mike said that MDOT is starting work on the 2023-26 Transportation Improvement Plan and that it will be complete next fall. He said that he will go over what is on the TIP at future meetings in order to highlight corridors of importance.

Membership Renewal – Florence said that she submitted a request to Mike Bosanac to get the Board of Commissioners to renew the memberships to the Panel of the three members whose terms expire soon.

City of Monroe – Mayor Clark had to leave the meeting, but Florence said there are no additional updates and that the City is still in the process of creating its own bike/ped panel and finding volunteers to serve on it.

Frenchtown Ch. Township – Mary K. said that the Township watched a video regarding Quick Curbs and wondered whether they would work in cooperation with Berlin Township. She said the Township also discussed Nadeau Road signage on the bridge and asked if this would be possible. Mike said that the Township has missed the opportunity to have bridge signage, but that they could still do a monument sign next to the bridge. He said that it would cost more but would be long lasting, and that the Township's engineer could work with MDOT on this.

Luna Pier – Jim had no additional comments.

Bedford Township – Al said that the Bedford School Board will look at the Safe Routes to School program on their July 29 agenda. He said that August 14 will be the bicycle ride for Heart of Hope.

Erie Township – Brian said that he met with Kim and others at Erie Township and they are looking at calming traffic and creating pedestrian space at M-125 and Erie Road. They are also pilot testing the SEMCOG multimodal tool.

Berlin Ch. Township – Sue said that the Township was interested in Quick Curbs, but not at the moment, but that they will look to incorporate it into their Plan. She said that she is planning on taking Safe Routes to School Training and may approach the local school system afterwards.

Dundee Township – Andrea said that there were no updates from the Village.

Roundtable

MCRC – Matt had nothing to report.

SEMCOG – Brian said that SEMCOG is looking for applications for their Planning Assistance Grants.

MDOT – Mike mentioned the RFP for the Planning & Environmental Linkage grant for the I-75 Front/Elm interchange. He said that the work on this interchange will be funded in 2028-29 hopefully. Florence said that she would follow up with Mayor Clark on this. Mike stated that the input on this study will be collaborative with stakeholders. Sue suggested reaching out to the National Park Service.

Monroe Cycle Club – Bill mentioned that they are taking orders for the Cornerstone Jersey and they are taking registration applications for the Lake Erie Fall Ride in September. He mentioned the various routes and the need for promotional outreach. He said that they currently have 20 sponsors at the moment, and that the ride will be in conjunction with the Monroe Beer Festival. He stated that registrations at the moment are low, but that they will pick up and that they are expecting 300 to 400 riders eventually.

Next Meeting – Florence asked how the Panel should conduct the next meeting. Lucie suggested meeting at least 4 times in person per year. Brian mentioned that the Zoom meetings get good participation. Mike said that there may be a conflict with the Open Meetings Act if the Zoom meetings continue. Ryan said that he would look into whether continuing with Zoom meetings would be a conflict with the Open Meetings Act. Florence said that she believed that, if the panel is only advisory, then we may not need to abide by the Act. Lucie said that we should be open to meeting in person in August in order to go over the Draft Plan. Florence said that the format for the next meeting is to be determined at the moment.