

June 8, 2021 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Panel Minutes

2. Update on Projects

Monroe County Loop Trail – Florence said that this is still being evaluated by SEMCOG. Mayor Clark stated that he will let the Panel know if he hears anything from the committee that he sits on. Florence noted that Mike Davis also sits on this committee.

SEMCOG Equity Planning Grant – Florence and Lucie are working on a survey that now has over 500 respondents. Florence stated that the pandemic has made conducting the survey challenging but they may be able to get more done now, as they have been more successful encouraging people to take the survey when they could communicate with them in person. She stated that she has seen many positive responses for people wanting bicycle friendly changes.

Mary suggested using social media too.

Sue suggested approaching the youth volleyball get-togethers and surveying these young people.

MDOT Luna Pier Replacement – Florence said that the meeting for this will be June 9. Mike said that the Luna Pier artwork is good and MDOT just needs a council resolution from them approving it. Florence showed the artwork to the task force members. Mike reviewed the dimensions of the travel lanes and the pathway. He said that the signage will be on the bridge barrier in only the lane going north.

Berlin Charter Township/Swan Creek Bridge – Sue stated that she met with Berlin's Township Board. She said that the board asked why there is not a pedestrian walkway planned for this bridge and what would be needed if the Township wanted to do something like what is being done in Luna Pier. Mike said that this would likely need to be done locally at this point, but the Township could request that construction be delayed. Sue stated that the Township asked why they were left out of the bridge planning. Mike said that there was a public meeting and that there was no input beyond there being approval of the 10 foot shoulders. Sue said that she would propose a temporary barrier to the Township. Mike said that the Township should work with their engineer to do a quick-curb installation and to submit it to the TSC for review after constructing it.

Florence asked if this bridge was one that was just being repaved. Mike said that it is, but that the Luna Pier and LaPlaisance Road bridges are reconstructs.

LaPlaisance Road Bridge – Mike said that this will be completed this construction season. Florence asked about signage. Mike said that he was not at the meetings for this bridge, but he does not recall hearing any talk about signage. He did say that there will be an aesthetic treatment, though, and that many of the bridges on the I-75 corridor will have this. Florence asked if it would be possible to get a sign. Mike said MDOT would likely say no at this point, but that it is possible, especially if the Township offers to contribute.

Later in the meeting Mike mentioned that there would be a roundabout at LaPlaisance Road near this bridge, and that traffic modeling had been done to ensure that this roundabout could accommodate trucks and trailers.

Newport Bridge – Mike clarified that this is the same bridge as the Swan Creek Bridge.

Mortar Creek Road Bridge – Florence stated that a citizen named Dan Thomas was concerned about this bridge and its safety for bicyclists. Mike said that this bridge will have five-foot shoulders and that it is four-foot right now. He said that it is not particularly cyclist friendly, but that there was nothing in the non-motorized plan about the need to upgrade this bridge for cyclists. This bridge is not being reconstructed, either. Florence stated that she has reached out to Mr. Thomas but has not heard back from him yet.

5-year Plan – Mike went over the five-year plan and which portions of I-75 and their bridges would be worked on for each year. He stated that the Nadeau Road bridge would be replaced in 2021. Mary asked about whether there would be bicycle facilities for this bridge. Mike said that there would be 10-foot shoulders for this bridge and an aesthetic treatment.

3. **Other Projects/Updates** – Florence informed the Panel about Mike Bosanac requesting approval from the Board of Commissioners regarding the appointment of Dori Hawkins-Freelain. Florence informed Ryan Simmons and Dale DeSloover that their terms would be expiring on August 31. Both agreed to be reappointed to the Panel.

4. **Community Partners**

City of Monroe – Mayor Clark said that the City is setting up their bike/ped. committee structure and that they have received some applications. He stated that the structure will be in place in July. He mentioned that the road millage that passed in the City can be used for trail connections and for sidewalks in addition to roads.

Frenchtown – Mary said that the Township seems to be in favor of bicycle signage and that she will talk to the Board members. She mentioned that they were looking to try to consolidate quick curbs with other local communities.

Bedford – Al said that he will meet with Bedford Schools about safe-routes to school for bicycle and sidewalk opportunities in the Township on June 9.

5. **Monroe County Trail & Bicycle Plan** – Florence said that an action plan is needed and that the subcommittee will convene soon to address this.

6. **Roundtable Discussion**

Brian said that SEMCOG's TAP program now has multiple deadlines and the next one is on June 23. There will be another deadline in November.

Florence said that the Sterling State Park trail plans are still moving along.

Florence asked about whether the meetings should be continued on Zoom. Mike said that he is in favor of Zoom because it is easier for him to attend due to another meeting that he has the same day. Al mentioned that we may not be able to follow the Open Meetings Act if we stay on Zoom. Mary Bohling asked if we could do a hybrid format. Alex suggested that we could try it as a test. Florence said that it might be a bit difficult to do this and we'd need a good setup for audio-visual equipment. She suggested meeting at the Battlefield conference room might be a good place to do this. Florence said to plan on a Zoom meeting for now but that she would look into the possibility of a hybrid meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.