

October 17, 2023 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Panel Meeting Notes

Raj Nagisetty of TMACOG was introduced as a new attendee.

Loop Trail – Lucie said that they are still reviewing the design and negotiating the easements. She said that the trail should go to construction next year. She said that planning for the construction for this project is complicated, which is why it is taking time.

Florence summarized the project for the attendees and Lucie explained the route. Mary B. asked if a map could be sent out. Lucie said that she would do that. Rusty asked if the project would include Brant's Landing. Lucie said that it would not and that is a separate project. Rusty asked if the route would cross the Raisinville Road bridge. Lucie said that it would.

Heritage Trail – Lucie said that this is work to upgrade the trail and that it will happen this winter, and that the project is still in the engineering and design phase. Florence mentioned that a possible visitors' center for Sterling State Park was brought up at a recent public meeting.

Cornerstone Route – Florence said that this project was awarded to a contractor on October 10, and that there was a meeting on October 16 about sign placement in Luna Pier. Lucie said that this project will be done by bicycling season next year. Jim said that he is pleased with the progress. Florence thanked the Road Commission for their participation.

Cornerstone Bike Tour – Florence said that the ride was very successful as there were 105 riders. Florence thanked the volunteers for their hard work and listed the sponsors. She asked for volunteers for next year's ride.

Monroe Loop Greenway – Lucie showed the attendees a map of this project. She said that the City of Monroe was awarded a grant for the project, but also had funding allocated through the road and trail millage that passed.

LaPlaisance Road Planning Grant – Florence said that this project was awarded a planning grant from SEMCOG. Lucie described the corridor and some of the challenges. Florence said that hopefully this project will allow walking and bicycling to the new Ford facility.

Cindy asked if the deadline of the grant is the end of June. Florence said that she would confirm this but that she thought so.

M-50 – Mike said that this update is currently on hold, and said that MDOT has had issues with its pavement marking contracts. He also said that they do not have an appropriate regulatory sign for this project, but that the permanent markings would be helpful.

Florence shared an aerial map, saying that it is random where there are visible markings along the corridor. Mike agreed that the marking placement should be more rational. Florence and Mike said that they would work together to come up with a wish list of pavement marking placements.

Brian brought up an MDOT document that showed a shoulder that did have regulatory signs. Mike said that he would bring it up to the decision makers at MDOT. Alex asked when this project would happen. Mike said it would likely be a couple of years. Alex brought up the possibility of doing some counts along M-50 before then. Florence asked why the project would take two years. Mike said that he was

not sure when this project could be added to MDOT's cyclical pavement marking project list, and did not want to give the Panel false hopes about how soon it could be done.

Great Lakes Way – Alex and Brian said that they would check on this with a colleague of theirs at SEMCOG who is working on this and who has been in touch with the coordinators of this project. Mary B. said that she would also like to be involved in the planning meetings regarding this project.

MCRC Five-Year Plan – David said that 2024 is locked into place, but that the rest of the document is a moving document and that future plans could change. He said that the Plan is on their website.

Florence asked if there are specific grants to address paved shoulders. Alex said that it could be included as part of an overall road grant, but that he will investigate whether there are any grants that could specifically fund road shoulders. Brian suggested that it might depend upon the purpose of the shoulders, but that he could not think of a specific one for shoulders. Matt suggested that Florence and Lucie could look at the county's roads and let the Road Commission know of what roads might need shoulder improvements.

Revisit the Monroe County Trail & Bicycle Plan – Florence said that the County is now in the second phase of the Monroe County Link Plan, and that this might involve updating the Trail & Bicycle Plan.

Federal Aid Committee – Matt said that a FAC meeting is not scheduled yet, but one is planned by the end of this year.

City of Monroe Bike/Ped Committee – Florence mentioned the new bike racks in the City and the new bike lanes coming to N. Macomb. She said that there will also be requirements for new developments in the City to have bicycle facilities.

Luna Pier Planning Grant – Jim said that their city council has approved this and that they are now entering the implementation phase. He explained the project to the Panel and how it links Luna Pier to Toledo while bypassing Luna Pier Road, which can be dangerous to bicycle on. He also mentioned that it would be part of the Great Lakes Way. Jim mentioned that Summit Street in Michigan is currently not marked like how it is in Ohio, and he believes that this should be done. Matt said that the microsurfacing of Summit Street was done, but that pavement markings were not done this year but could be looked at next year.

Monroe Charter Township – Cindy said that their Committee is continuing to work with Al Barron regarding LaPlaisance Road. She asked if the paving of the road could be coordinated with the non-motorized component. Florence said that this would not occur at this time, but that the planning grant will determine how the non-motorized component of LaPlaisance Road should be developed.

Cindy said that there will be a Stoneco wildlife trail that will occur in 2025, and that Stoneco will pay for it.

League of Michigan Bicyclists & People for Bikes grants – Florence explained that the LMB have a microgrant with applications due on November 8, while People for Bikes have an equity-oriented grant with an application due date of November 20.

Berlin Charter Twp. – Sue had no comments, but said that she is excited about Jim's work in the south part of the County and that she would welcome guidance on developing N. Dixie Highway in order to

create a connected path throughout the County. Mary B. said that she was not sure that N. Dixie was the safest route and that other options may need to be looked at. Sue agreed with this.

Sue suggested that we partner with the League of Michigan Bicyclists about getting a supply of bicycle lights. Alex said that SEMCOG gives out bicycle lights, but that communities in the region have used up their current supply. He said that they can buy a greater number of them for next year.

Bedford Twp. – Al says that the Township is moving forward on installing sidewalks using ARPA funds that will connect local subdivisions to the downtown area and to schools.

Downriver Linked Greenways – Mary B. said that they are currently looking for a new Trails Coordinator. She said that they are working with Wayne County regarding completing a trail along Jefferson Ave. and that the project will go out to bid soon. She said that this project is fully funded and that the money must be spent by the end of 2026.

Milan – Josh mentioned the work that the City of Milan has done on their week without driving, their work on Wilson Park using Spark Grant money, and the work on the BMX Trail.

E-Bikes – Alex said that he has not heard anything about legislation regarding this. Brian said that Michigan Greenways Alliance might be looking into this. Mary B. said that the DNR was looking at their e-bike policy on their trails.

SEMCOG – Alex discussed the Safe Streets for All agreement and SEMCOG's Road Safety Audit program. He said that SEMCOG has now adopted its Safety Plan. Brian mentioned SEMCOG's tool to look at the prevailing speed along roadways.

Brian brought up an additional informational item about the Gibraltar-Grosse Ile shared use path/trail through the Nature Conservancy properties.

Other Comments - Jim shared pictures of the bicycle lanes from Ohio leading into Michigan along Summit Street and the difference in the pavement markings between the two states.