

# MEETING MINUTES

## City of Columbia Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission Meeting

March 20, 2024

Members Present: Elke Boyd, Frank Schmidt, Tommy Fieser, Janet Godon, Carol Elliott, Jackson Hotaling, and McKenzie Ortiz.

Members Absent: Detlef Ritter, Sam Phillips, Brad Mitchell.

Also present: Mitch Skov, Krista Shouse-Jones, Tim Teddy, Ted Curtis, Lawrence Simonson.

Chair Elke Boyd called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Skov announced that the City Council elected two new members to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission: McKenzie Ortiz and Brad Mitchell. Attendees welcomed Ms. Ortiz and introduced themselves.

Ms. Boyd recommended changing the order of the Old Business portion of the March 20 agenda to first discuss the Forum Boulevard widening project followed by Interstate 70/US 63 Intersection.

Mr. Schmidt moved to change the agenda order as recommended by Ms. Boyd. Ms. Elliott seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Attendees requested the following corrections to the February 2024 minutes:

- From Vision Zero Staff reports: The City is in discussion with MODOT about using \$1 million in FY26-27 funding available to address vulnerable road user needs in Columbia.
- Grammar and spelling changes forwarded to Mr. Skov from Ms. Boyd.

Mr. Hotaling moved to approve the February 2024 minutes as amended. Mr. Fieser seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Staff/Commission Reports:**

#### **A. Vision Zero.**

- a. Ms. Shouse-Jones reported there has been 1 fatality YTD compared to 2 fatalities in 2023 YTD. Attendees mentioned 2 recent fatalities reported in the news which were not included; Ms. Shouse-Jones reminded attendees of the expected lag in reporting in the Missouri State Highway Patrol STARS (Missouri Statewide Traffic Accident Records System) system.
- b. Ms. Shouse-Jones reported on grant statuses. There have been no bids so far for the Complete Streets RFP. The original due date for RFP bids has been revised from 3/8/2024 to 3/29/2024. Additional RFPs for Pedestrian Level of Comfort are in progress. Ms. Shouse-Jones is working through FY23 funding for the SS4A (Safe Streets and Roads for All) grant. The City has hired HDR from Kansas City, an engineering consulting firm, to help with the application for the next cycle of the SS4A grant.

- B. Parks and Recreation.** Mr. Schmidt asked Ms. Godon when the work to replace MKT Bridge 9 and repair MKT Bridge 10 will begin. Ms. Godon reported the work is planned to begin in late fall 2024/early winter 2024-25 with planned opening in spring 2025.
- C. Planning.** No updates.
- D. Public Works.** The City is applying for TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grants due 4/26/2024. The grants would be used for 2 sections of sidewalk on Broadway.
- E. Commission IP Meetings.**
  - a. Ms. Boyd explained Commission’s practice of dividing attendance at Interested Party (IP) meetings among Commission members. Ms. Ortiz volunteered to attend future IP meetings for projects impacting Ward 6. Ms. Boyd also explained the use of the beheard.como.gov website as a source for information on projects and a place for the public to offer feedback.
  - b. No Commissioners attended the St. Charles Road sidewalk project IP meeting at Battle Elementary School on 3/20/2024.
  - c. There will be a public hearing for the Spencer Ave. traffic calming project at the City Council meeting on 4/1/2024. The purpose of the hearing is for the City Council to approve the proposed design.
- F. Board Correspondence.**
  - a. Ms. Boyd submitted a letter to MODOT representatives with copies to Mayor Buffaloe, City Council members, and City staff following the 3/1/2024 meeting concerning the Improve I-70 project attended by Ms. Boyd, Ms. Elliott, and Carrie Gartner, Executive Director of The Loop. The purpose of the 3/1/2024 meeting was for the Bicycle/Pedestrian meeting to review and provide feedback on MODOT’s 30% plan for intersection improvement in Columbia’s portion of the Improve I-70 project. The purpose of the letter was to formally communicate the Commission’s feedback to MODOT. Mr. Skov circulated the letter to Commissioners via email prior to tonight’s Commission meeting.

**New Business.**

- A. None

**Old Business**

- A. Forum Boulevard Widening Project.** The current plan calls for an 8-foot sidepath and 6-foot bike lane on the west side and 6-foot sidewalk on the east side of the section of Forum Blvd. between Chapel Hill Road and Woodrail Avenue. Mr. Curtis explained that Local Motion is advocating for a different alternative: a 10- or 11-foot sidepath on both east and west sides of Forum Blvd., which would extend from Chapel Hill Road to Woodrail Avenue and possibly to the Green Meadows roundabout and removing the bike lanes at grade from the street. The preferred option discussed in the meeting is for raised 10-foot on both sides of the road with a 1-foot buffer next to 2.5-ft. curb and gutter adjoining the 11-foot traffic lanes. Mr. Teddy stated he has discussed the proposal with Richard Stone, Engineering & Operations Manager, and that Mr. Stone thought this proposal would work for this section of Forum and that it could be a pilot for future designs. Mr. Schmidt moved to empower Ms. Boyd and Ms. Elliott to write a letter to Mayor Buffaloe, City Council, and Engineering Surveys & Services, the engineering and design

firm providing planning and design services for the project. Mr. Hotaling seconded the motion. The motion carried. The letter needs to be sent no later than 4/4/2024 in preparation for 4/15/2024 City Council hearing on the project. Ms. Elliott volunteered to draft the letter.

**B. Interstate 70/US 63 Intersection.** See comments under Board Correspondence. Ms. Boyd noted that items 3-6 in the prioritized list of infrastructure improvements in the letter to MODOT are not on the City's Sidewalk Master Plan. Mr. Schmidt moved to add the following 4 items from the letter to the draft Sidewalk Master Plan:

- a. Fill sidewalk gap on north side of Clark Lane, east of the US-63 Connector.
- b. Fill sidewalk gap on the south side of East Business Loop 70.
- c. Fill sidewalk gap on the north side of Clark Lane, west of the Connector.
- d. Add a sidewalk on the east side of the US-63 Connector across I-70.

Ms. Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Skov will add the items to the Sidewalk Master Plan matrix as a draft.

**C. Mills Drive Addition to Sidewalk Master Plan.** Mr. Skov provided a cost estimate on the addition of 235 linear feet of sidewalk on the north side of Mills Drive between Forum Blvd. and Highridge Drive as a follow-up from the February 2024 Commission meeting. The cost would vary from \$53,000 based on an estimated cost of \$225/linear foot to \$65,800 [\$56,800??] if Mills Drive is considered a neighborhood collector. Ms. Elliott moved to approve the cost estimate Mr. Skov provided and support adding this project to the Sidewalk Master Plan, seconded by Mr. Schmidt. Motion carried. Mr. Skov is requested to forward the estimate to the City's Disabilities Commission.

**D. Red Light Cameras.** In the last 15 minutes of the meeting, Mr. Schmidt stated there is a problem with people running red lights in Columbia and the hazard this presents. Mr. Schmidt requested city staff present options for this problem to be addressed. Ms. Shouse-Jones noted the Missouri Supreme Court's decision regarding red light cameras impacts the City's ability to use red light cameras, as well as insufficient staffing for City traffic enforcement. There was a discussion of the [SGF Yields](#) program in Springfield. There was insufficient time in the meeting to fully discuss this agenda item. Ms. Boyd suggested continuation in the next Commission meeting.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Schmidt moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Hotaling. Motion carried. Ms. Boyd adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM.

**Next Meeting:** The next Commission meeting is Wednesday, April 17, 2024.