

MEETING MINUTES

City of Columbia Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission Meeting May 18, 2022

Members Present: Elke Boyd, Carly Love, Carol Elliott, Kim Schwarzkopf, Frank Schmidt, Janet Godon.

Members Absent: Sam Phillips, Robert Schmidt, Jackson Hotaling, Hannah Larrick.

Also Present: Mitch Skov (Staff Liaison to Commission), Brad Kelley, Krista Shouse-Jones, Ted Curtis (Public Works Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator).

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

Kim Schwarzkopf made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Carly Love. The motion to approve the agenda passed.

Carly Love made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022 meeting, seconded by Kim Schwarzkopf. The minutes were approved.

Staff/Commission Reports:

- A. Vision Zero: Krista Shouse-Jones reported on Vision Zero statistics. Seven serious injury crashes involving motorized bicycles occurred in the last 5 years (2017-2021). Of the 7 crashes, 5 were correctly categorized. Three of the crashes involved mopeds; 2 of the crashes involved scooters (none of them Bird scooters); and two involved unknown types of bicycles. One of these is believed to have involved an e-bike; and one involved an unknown bicycle type. Ms. Shouse-Jones reported there is a gap in the STARS definitions [used to prepare crash reports] in that e-bikes can't be categorized as motorized bicycles, because the current STARS definition of a motorized bicycle requires the motorized vehicle to have a combustion engine. She is advocating with the Missouri Highway Patrol to have e-bike added to the STARS definitions in the "pedacycle" category. She noted that Missouri statutes have been recently changed to classify e-bikes as pedacycles and that NHTSA has a classification for e-bikes.

Ms. Shouse-Jones also reported on:

- YTD fatality crashes: 2022 (5) vs. 2021 (1). 2 of the 2022 fatalities are from a single crash at Paris Rd and Waco Rd.
- YTD serious injury crashes: 2022 (14) vs. 2021 (19)
- YTD 2022 no fatal bicycle and pedestrian crashes
- YTD serious injuries involving pedestrians: 2022 (3) vs. 2021 (4)
- YTD serious injuries involving bicycles: 2022 (2) vs. 2021 (1)

On June 7 at 1:30 there will be a Vision Zero Safe Systems combined team meeting. Frank Schmidt may attend representing the Commission.

Ms. Shouse-Jones reported there is a "Safe Streets and Roads for All" (SS4A) grant program which is part of the recent federal infrastructure bill. The period for applying for grants has opened and closes in September. This is a 5-year grant program totaling \$5B/5 years, with \$1B allocated per year for all of the 50 states. The program has two tracks: planning, for communities without pedestrian and bicycle safety programs; and implementation, for

communities with these safety programs already in place. Columbia may have Vision Zero projects eligible to apply for grants under the implementation component of the program. Ms. Shouse-Jones reported the Road Safety Audit (RSA) for Paris Road is underway and going well. Traffic observation and counts have mostly been completed. CBB, a St. Louis engineering firm, is coordinating the RSA process. Surveys of state Route B users (drivers, residents, bicyclists, pedestrians, people who work along Route B) are planned. Some Route B businesses have agreed to distribute the surveys. A community group which hosts breakfasts has also agreed to distribute the surveys at their breakfasts.

- B. **Parks and Recreation:** Janet Godon reported interviews are underway with 3 firms for design and build of Perche Creek Bridge (at MKT Trail MM 3.0 northbound toward Gillespie Bridge Road).
- C. **Public Works:** Ted Curtis reported that the definition of sidepath approved by the Commission at the April meeting is still under discussion. The street department is concerned about potential liability with ADA users if the sidepath definition is adopted.
- D. **Planning:** Brad Kelley reported that review of CATSO unfunded needs list of projects is underway in preparation to send to MODOT. Once the review is complete the proposal will be presented for review to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission as well as other city boards and commissions. The list of projects is likely due to MODOT in August. Mr. Kelley plans to discuss the unfunded needs list with the Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission at the June and July meetings. Mr. Kelley reported that at the last Planning and Zoning meeting there was a presentation on Capital Improvement Projects (“CIP”). A question was raised as to the date of the most recent update of the Sidewalk Master Plan. Mr. Kelley informed the attendees at the Planning and Zoning meeting that the Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission has recently completed an update of the Sidewalk Master Plan.
- E. **Commission IP Meetings:** None.

New Business:

- A. Chair Elke Boyd led a discussion of STIP (“State Transportation Improvement Plan”) projects for the MODOT Central District, focusing on projects in Columbia. The discussion focused on the need for sidewalks and safe pedestrian access for three projects: Job Nos. 5P3409, 5P3433, and 5S3594. Frank Schmidt moved that Chair Boyd be authorized to provide comments on the projects to MODOT as representing the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission. Carly Love seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Old Business:

- A. Mitch Skov reported he will take the Sidewalk Master Plan update to a meeting of the City’s Disabilities Commission on June 9 in City Council Chambers.
- B. Carol Elliott moved to table the discussion of the Commission Mission Statement until the next meeting of the Commission. Frank Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Other Business

- A. Elke Boyd mentioned that she would like to talk about neighborhood connectivity at a future meeting.

- B. Frank Schmidt raised the issue of the design of “T” intersections. Two example of “T” intersections are Hitt and Cherry, and Elm and Pacquin. The issue with the design of these intersections is that parking is not restricted and there are no curb cuts. Safety of pedestrian crossings at these intersections is an issue especially for people with disabilities. Frank Schmidt requested a discussion with city staff of getting this rectified in a subsequent Commission meeting.
Mr. Kelley mentioned that Vision Zero engineering is working on crosswalks: determining what the criteria are for a safe crosswalk from a systems standpoint.
- C. Frank Schmidt brought to the attention of the Commission a front-page article on the Columbia Missouri on 5/18/2022 which mentions the issue of deteriorating sidewalks and the hazard this poses for low-sighted individuals.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM by Chair Boyd.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2022. Three commissioners will not be able to attend: Chair Elke Boyd, Frank Schmidt, and Carol Elliott.

May minutes prepared by Carol Elliott.