

DRAFT MINUTES

City of Columbia Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission Meeting

July 17, 2024

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

Members Absent: Sam Phillips, Brad Mitchell.

Also present: City staff members Mitch Skov, Krista Shouse-Jones, Tim Teddy.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Elke Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Ritter introduced themselves to each other since they had not previously met in person.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda made by Mr. Hotaling, seconded by Mr. Fieser. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the May meeting are not yet available for approval. There were no minutes from June since the June meeting was cancelled due to the Juneteenth city holiday. The Commission plans to review May and July minutes at the August meeting.

V. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORTS

A. Vision Zero Report

Ms. Shouse-Jones presented preliminary data on fatalities and serious injuries and compared year-to-date statistics for 2024 to the same period in 2023.

Ms. Shouse-Jones reported on the status of several grants and grant applications.

- FY22 SS4A Projects
 - Engineering firm CMT (Crawford, Murphy & Tilly) has been selected for the update of Columbia's Complete/Livable Streets policy.
 - Comprehensive Transit Study is still ongoing
 - RFQ for Pedestrian Level of Comfort Map Methodology is with the City's Purchasing Department, where it has been since May.
 - RFQs for Vision Zero High-Injury Network (HIN)/Action Plan Updates and Highway Safety Manual Analysis are in progress
 - RFQ for Leading Pedestrian Interval Analysis Project is expected to be completed in Fall 2024
- There was a first read of the FY23 SS4A grant agreement to City Council on July 15
 - Once the FY23 SS4A grant agreement is approved by Council and executed, there will be a new round of RFQs/RFPs for those projects

- The FY24 SS4A (“Safe Streets for All”) grant application has been submitted. It is an implementation grant for the Clark Lane project.

B. Parks and Recreation Report

Ms. Godon reported on the status of work on trails:

- Perche Creek Trail. Work for the Perche Creek Trail is out of the City’s Legal department. Work is planned to begin in August. The bridge for the trail is on order.
- MKT Trail. The contract for replacing MKT bridge #9 and partial replacement/repairs of bridge #10 is still under review by the City's Legal Department.
- Impact of recent storms. Columbia received 9 inches of rain in the last few weeks which caused considerable trail damage. The priority for work is: underpasses and tunnels are cleared first; then a one-inch layer of rock is laid; then “fines” are laid, which require rollers. The MKT Trail is prioritized for repairs. There was significant damage to the Bear Creek Trail, which will be contracted out. FEMA money is not available for trail repairs since these storms did not result in enough damage to roads for FEMA funds to be applied for.
- Hinkson Creek Trail. Construction of the Hinkson Creek Trail extension is delayed waiting for completion of the relevant portion of the Improve I-70 project. There may be a need for a new trail alignment depending on MODOT’s plans. If there are changes to the currently planned trail alignment, additional IP meetings would be required.
- Stephens Lake Park Trailhead. An expansion of the parking lot had been planned before cancellation of the Treeline Music Fest. Since that festival has been cancelled, there is probably no need for parking lot expansion. Another IP meeting is likely to revisit plans for the trailhead.

C. Planning Staff Report

- Mr. Skov reported that Frank Schmidt, Carol Elliott, and Elke Boyd were re-appointed to the Commission for 3-year terms beginning August 1, 2024, and ending July 31, 2027. Bry Mink with expertise in bicycle knowledge was newly appointed for the same term.
- Mr. Skov reported that the City will receive a TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grant to fill in sidewalk gaps on the south side of Broadway between West Blvd. and Manor Drive.

D. Commissioner IP Meeting Reports

1. St. Charles Sidewalk Public Hearing at 5/20 City Council
2. Rollins Road Traffic Calming IP Meeting 7/8

No Commissioners attended these IP meetings.

E. Commission Correspondence

1. MODOT Response to Bike/Ped Improve I-70 Design Meeting Notes

Commissioners and City staff discussed the [response](#) from MODOT dated 6/21/2024 to a [letter](#) dated 3/21/2024 summarizing the results of a meeting with MODOT representatives and Elke Boyd, Carol Elliott, and Carrie Gartner.

Motion by Mr. Hotaling seconded by Ms. Ortiz for Ms. Boyd to send an email to Mayor Buffaloe, City Manager's office, and Public Works with MODOT's letter attached, identifying the connections recommended by the Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission that do not have funding as part of the Improve I-70 Project. Motion carried.

Additional discussion:

- Mr. Teddy stated he is uncertain whether the Municipal Agreement for the Improve I-70 project between the City and MODOT has been approved. The City Manager's office is responsible for the Municipal Agreement.
- Ms. Godon mentioned the [Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program](#) with applications due 9/30/2024 as another potential source of funding for pedestrian and bicycle improvements which have not been funded by MODOT as part of the Improve I-70 project.
- Mr. Hotaling stated that legislation approved by the Missouri legislature to fund the Improve I-70 project did not specifically address pedestrian facilities.
- Ms. Boyd mentioned she was interviewed by KOMU concerning the Improve I-70 project. The [interview](#) was published 5/21/2024.
- With respect to MODOT's plan to exclude construction of a sidewalk in the planned Route 63 underpass, Mr. Schmidt questioned the source of a policy that disallows construction of a sidewalk if it does not connect to an existing sidewalk.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. COLT RR Greenway Proposal

- Ms. Godon clarified that the proposal is to form a planning team, and that construction of COLT RR Trail is not planned to begin until 2027.
- The proposal includes a recommendation to remove the rails for the COLT RR between Rogers Street and Business Loop 70. Ms. Godon stated no decision has been made regarding leaving or removing the rails.
- Mr. Hotaling stated the [MetroBikeLinkSystem](#) in St. Clair County, IL includes segments with a trail along a rail line.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS, AND STAFF

- Ms. Elliott asked whether additions to the Sidewalk Master Plan recommended by the Commission as part of the Improve I-70 project were approved by the City Council. Mr. Skov stated these changes were approved by the City Council in May.
- Mr. Hotaling mentioned that public meetings for I-44 expansion may be scheduled soon in communities along I-44 such as St. Clair, Joplin, Lebanon, and Springfield.
- Ms. Ortiz mentioned Second Ward City Council member Lisa Meyer asked for a report on sidewalk policy, design, and maintenance at the 7/15/2024 Council meeting.
- Mr. Hotaling mentioned problems in his neighborhood with speeding and careless driving. He expressed concern that the City's process for traffic calming improvements takes too long. Members stated that it is possible to request a speed study from the City which can increase the priority of traffic calming improvements. Ms. Shouse-Jones said the Public Works Dept has had a Traffic Engineer position mostly vacant for several years and that the one Traffic Engineer Public Works

does have spends a majority of his time on Neighborhood Traffic Management/Traffic Calming projects.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Commission meeting is Wednesday, August 21, 2024.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Elliott, seconded by Ms. Ortiz. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

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