

BPAB Regular Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2013

Members Present: Duston Morris, Jim Bruce, Peter Mehl, Michael Yoder, Greg Reddin, Todd Ake, Finley Vincent

Ex Officio Members Present: Finley Vincent

Guests: Jack Branscum, Shawn Oliver

Previous Meeting Minutes - The minutes for the May 16 meeting were unanimously approved with the two questions at the end stricken. The motion was made by Todd Ake and seconded by Peter Mehl.

Problems at Carolyn Lewis School - Shawn Oliver spoke to the board about school safety issues at Carolyn Lewis School (a K-5 school in the Conway Public School District). Shawn's son rides his bicycle to school using sidewalks and has encountered the following issues:

- There is no crosswalk or pedestrian assistance crossing the street near the school. The street crossing is required to get to the school.
- There are no sidewalks or bike facilities on school grounds. Once children reach the school they must ride or walk in the grass or on the streets with cars and buses.
- Advice from school officials is not helpful.

Shawn reported that he had spoken to the principal about these issues. The school officials were initially not helpful. At first a bike rack was not provided. The school eventually provided the bike rack. However, the principal advised kids to use the bus loop once they arrive on school grounds. Shawn would like the board's advice on how to improve things at the school.

There was a lot of discussion of possible remedies. Finley advised that it would not be considered safe to put a crosswalk on the busy street mid-block. The FHWA manual actually advises against it because, even though drivers are supposed to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk, most do not realize this and the crosswalk becomes unsafe. Some options are: a) hire a crossing guard, b) build a pedestrian beacon (at a cost of \$50,000 - \$100,000), and c) encourage the school to construct sidewalks and/or bike facilities on school grounds.

It was reported that the city reviewed the plans for the school and requested they construct a sidewalk on school grounds, but that was left out of the final plan.

Todd proposed that we should get the school's recommendation in writing, and perhaps we should make our own recommendation after visiting the site.

After some further discussion Todd raised a motion to form a special committee to look into this issue and report back at the next meeting. Michael Yoder will chair the committee. The board requests that Wes Craiglow and David Barber also be involved on the committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

The board requests Wes Craiglow to look into the plans for the school. What plans were approved by the city and what is the city's role in approving such plans?

New I-40 bridge near Conway Commons - Peter noted that there is reason to believe this project would be in final design by this fall. He reported that Mayor Townsell would like this bridge to be more than a traffic mover, but a welcoming showpiece for the city. Discussion ensued about what type of facility we should recommend. Choices include bike lanes, sharrow lanes, and/or sidepaths with a buffer. Finley noted that the MUTCD calls for a separation wall in cases like this. Todd questioned what would happen on each end of the bridge. How would bikes merge in and out of traffic? Finley suggested that an option would be for a bike lane is ramp up to the sidewalk through a roundabout. The problem would be crossing traffic in the roundabout. Todd suggested the use of alternate pavement and other features to calm traffic. He agreed to produce a concept drawing for the next meeting.

Finley agreed to provide some examples of roundabout designs that accommodate bike paths.

Public Forum Responses - The board postponed discussion of the public forum responses to the next meeting.

Bike master plan - Greg proposed that the Bicycle Master Plan should be updated. He mentioned the model used by North Little Rock. That city requires the master plan to be updated annually and it is part of the master street plan. There was general agreement that the plan needs to be updated, but the board feels it would be better to keep it separate from the street plan. Greg raised a motion to update the bicycle master plan by September. Jim seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Banner and Sign Campaign - The board agreed to leave banners/signs up at least until July.

Bylaws - A motion was unanimously approved to create a committee to review and propose updates for the board's bylaws. The committee will consist of Todd and Peter with assistance from other interested parties. The committee is due to present a recommendation by the August meeting.

Western Arterial loop - After some discussion Michael raised a motion that the board should make the following recommendation to the city: The road should contain marked bike lanes and a 10' separated multi-use path with no more than 4 vehicle crossings per mile. After some discussion the motion was amended to propose different treatments for different sections of the road. Greg agreed to draft the formal recommendation and send it for review by email. The motion was unanimously approved.

Secretary - Greg is willing to return to the position as long as the board does not expect immediate availability of the minutes after meetings. He also requested that members not rely on the minutes for things they've agreed to. Everyone is requested to make notes about what he or she has agreed to do before the next meeting. It was

agreed that minutes of previous meetings are needed to formulate the agenda for upcoming meetings. The motion to appoint Greg to the position was unanimously approved. Greg will begin to maintain a running status file to help keep track of pending actions.

New member: Amanda Potter Cole- There was some discussion of which term Amanda would fill if she becomes a member. Jami is serving Jim Holland's term. That means the new member's term would last through the end of the calendar year, at which point she can be nominated for a new term. Todd made a motion to recommend Amanda Potter Cole to the city council to fill this term. Michael seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Letter to City officials - The board is planning to send a letter to the Mayor requesting legislation that BPAB will have a period of input during the conceptual design phase of street projects. The original letter presented at the meeting requested a 30-day period for BPAB review before a project goes to bid. Finley suggested we change the period of review to the conceptual design phase. This change was made to the letter and the letter was unanimously approved. The chair will initiate contact with the Mayor's office.