

## VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

### BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**MAY 21, 2015**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Committee meeting was called to order by Jessica Wolff at 7:03 p.m.

Committee members present: Town of Grafton/School District representative Julia McNally, Parks and Recreation Board representative Mark Slaminski, Board of Public Works representative Les Blum, Resident Advocate Tracy Chrobak, Resident Advocate Clark Evan, Erik's Bikes manager Nick Kochelek

Committee members absent: Trustee Lisa Harbeck, Trustee Sue Meinecke, Missy Lacy

Consultant/Staff/Officials present: Adam Wood of Toole Design Group, Spencer Gardner of Toole Design Group, Director of Planning and Development Jessica Wolff, Director of Parks and Recreation John Safstrom, and Grafton Police Officer Scott Brinkman

#### **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Ms. McNally recommended that Trustee Meinecke be nominated as Chair of Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Committee.

Motion by Ms. McNally, seconded by Mr. Blum to approve the appointment of Trustee Meinecke as Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Committee.  
Motion carried.

#### **HEAR PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD**

None

#### **INTRODUCTION, AGENDA REVIEW, and ROLES**

Committee members introduced themselves and Director Wolff reviewed the agenda. She also noted that the role of the committee was to guide the consultants and give direction of issues, policies, and recommendations. The committee will ultimately recommend the Plan to the Plan Commission which will recommend adoption to the Village Board. The Village staff on the committee will act as a resource to committee members and the consultant; staff will not vote on action items.

#### **PROJECT OVERVIEW (GENERALIZED SCOPE AND PROJECT TIMELINE)**

Mr. Wood noted there are seven main tasks in the scope of work for the project: project management, background information, biking and walking suitability analysis, steering committee meetings, public outreach, draft plan document, and final plan.

Mr. Wood described the focus of each of the three planned Committee meetings. The first is focused on opportunities and issues, meeting two will review the public input and discuss the recommendation prioritization method, and the third will present the draft Plan. The public outreach opportunities include a public workshop on barriers and opportunities, a WikiMap (an online interactive map), and a final meeting to receive input on the draft Plan.

Mr. Wood described the content of the Plan. It will include bicycle recommendations such as bike lanes, shoulders, sharrows, and the method such as road diet, restriping, and parking adjustments. Pedestrian facility recommendations will include connectivity improvements and safety countermeasures. Finally, the Plan will identify key early projects and a map and table of projects. The Plan will be completed by the end of 2015.

## **PLANNING CONTEXT**

Mr. Wood noted that it is important to consider the needs of different types of users from families and children to casual bikers and high level cyclists. All of these users are present in Grafton. A significant portion of the population (60 percent) are “interested but concerned” in biking and walking. These are the potential users for bike and pedestrian facilities. There is also a spectrum of facility types from shared roads to separate off street bike paths.

Mr. Wood briefly reviewed the background information for the Village. In general, Grafton has grown faster than most of our neighboring communities. Grafton has a higher percentage of young children than the County and the State. The largest segment of the population is 55 and older; as this segment ages, it is important to think about their mobility. The consultant reviewed State, regional, and Village plans related to biking and walking.

Mr. Wood explained their approach to bicycle and pedestrian demand analysis. The factors under consideration included intersection density, proximity to Ozaukee Interurban Trail, and proximity to schools. The high demand areas in Grafton were located in the center of the Village, north of WIS 60 and north of Falls Road, west of First Avenue.

Opportunities identified to date included: well-connected street grid, regional connections, relatively low traffic, generous pavement width, complete street culture, and downtown destination. Issues included limited river crossings, disconnected newer development pattern, vital links without accommodations and links, and funding limitations. The Committee agreed with these opportunities and issues. Ms. McNally suggested that there are very scenic views for biking. Mr. Blum noted that The Committee need to direct bikers through downtown. Mr. Evans noted that the improvements to Falls Roads currently underway will be greatly beneficial as an east-west connection in the Village.

## **GOALS**

Mr. Wood asked the Committee about the characteristics of a bike-friendly and walkable community. Mr. Kochelek noted that the Village needed to improve awareness about existing facilities through signage and maps. Mr. Slaminski noted that there is a disconnect and lack of awareness about regional trails. Mr. Evans noted that general wayfinding within the community is a challenge. Mr. Blum noted that it would be good to have loop routes for short trips as an alternative to the Ozaukee Interurban Trail. Ms. McNally would like there to be more kids to bike and walk to school; there should be an annual educational event. Mr. Evans noted that drivers do not always stop at the pedestrian actuated signal on WIS 60 at 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Officer Brinkman noted that the Village should have done some education with residents on this pedestrian facility. Officer Brinkman suggested that the Village should prepare an outreach plan about this project to make residents and visitors aware. Mr. Blum noted that crossing the Milwaukee River is a main challenge. Mr. Slaminski noted that County Highway V is also a challenge.

## **PEDESTRIAN STUDY AREAS**

Priority pedestrian improvement locations and corridors included Wisconsin Avenue at Beech Street, North Green Bay Road, County Highway V, River Bend Road east of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Washington Street from Ninth Avenue to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. These segments will be reviewed in greater detail for potential improvements. The Committee agreed with these locations.

## **BICYCLE STUDY NETWORK**

The plan will not make recommendations for every segment of street, particularly ones that are functioning effectively. Priority bicycle improvement locations and corridors included most of the arterial streets in the Village. This network will be analyzed in further depth in this process.

Mr. Evans noted that as alternative to WIS 60, he takes the path in Centennial Park, Ottawa Lane, and Dakota Drive to get east to west. Mr. Blum noted that Spring Street is a good quiet alternative to WIS 60. Ms. McNally noted that utility corridors could be an opportunity for a bike trail.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Mr. Wood noted that the Public Workshop will be held on June 10, 2015. The Committee suggested it be held 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The WikiMap will also be launched in June. The next Committee meeting will be in July.

## **ADJOURN**

Motion by Mr. Blum, seconded by Ms. McNally to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.  
Motion carried.