

# April 6, 2022 MINUTES

## Purpose Statement

Bike/Walk Leawood was established to make recommendations to the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) concerning issues related to active transportation systems and programs including but not limited to: trails, crosswalks, bridges, main routes to school, and bike lanes within the community. Responsibilities include:

- Providing recommendations to the SAB and the City Council regarding the development and maintenance of active transportation systems.
- Providing support for efforts that improve the awareness and use of active transportation systems.
- Providing support and encouragement for efforts that improve the safety of active transportation systems.

## Meet and Greet

- Welcome Steve Durr, newest member of BWL.
- Members introduced themselves with a brief, unique story.

## Approve Agenda

- Bill Blessing makes a motion to approve the agenda.
- Todd Dicus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Approve Amended February 7th, 2022 Minutes

- Jaclyn Penn made a motion to approve the February 7th, 2022 minutes. Alicia Jennings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Discuss Term Activities and Ideas

- Improve participation for bike to school day – May 4<sup>th</sup>  
Alicia Jennings
  - Walk to School is ok.
  - No representatives for Leawood Elementary, Leawood Middle School, and Brookwood.
  - St. Michael's has no representative but they do things on their own.
  - She would like to have a name of someone who would like to represent that day.
  - She is considering calling MARC to provide a small participation gift. In the past, kids were given stickers and blinkers. There's over a thousand kids that walk or bike during the event.
  - Lot of kids walk to school but they do so on different days. Corinth walks a lot.
  - She has not heard if Cure will walk.
  - The corner at McDonald's and 95<sup>th</sup>, the developer finally got the sidewalk in. There's a lot of activity and no stop signs. She mentions other locations where kids cross. Corinth pick up is backed up and very slow due to Covid protocols. Jaclyn Penn does not see a solution for it. She does see that pushing the awareness is helping kids walk more to school. The congestion is so great that even mothers don't want to sit there and wait.
  - They have not designated any new safe routes. Chair Corbett briefly told the committee about Safe Routes to School. It has to be school driven to succeed.

## Plan a Loops Bike Ride Event

- Chair Corbett briefly spoke of the North and South Loops and the trail system. They are not doing new trails but rather connecting them. Bill Blessing likes the planned loops bike ride events but he feels the broader way to promote active transportation in Leawood and use the great amenities that Leawood provides the

## ATTENDEES

5:30 pm • Leawood City Hall  
4800 Town Center Drive  
Council Chambers

### Members

- Kevin Corbett, Chair**
- Alicia Jennings, Vice-Chair (Zoom)**
- Bill Blessing**
- Todd Dicus**
- Steve Durr**
- Jaclyn Penn**
- Ray Pitman**

### City Staff

- Brian Anderson**  
Parks Superintendent
- Chris Claxton**  
Director of Parks & Recreation
- Phil Goff**  
Police Officer, D.A.R.E.
- David Ley**  
Director of Public Works
- Mark Klein**  
Director of Planning
- Marica Putman**  
Graphic Design Specialist
- Karry Rood**  
Police Admin Services Coordinator

### Guests

- Chuck Sipple, Council Member, W3**

community. He feels that recreational riding is wider spread than commuter biking which is different than commuting which is the focus of BikeWalkKC. He suggested improving signage including online to include the Metro Green plan that MARC has on their website. He mentions a western and eastern loop being possible and how they connect to State Line and Overland Park. Chair Corbett shares his thoughts on Leawood being a bit of a hub being in the area. He speaks about signage on the North and what a difference it has made for riders. He reiterates that this committee is based off the self-propelled master plan. Brian Anderson plans to meet with Overland Park to discuss signage for a West Loop and make the wayfinding markers in the style of the MARC wayfinding master plan. He mentions wayfinding options, and coming up with a better loop name. He shows some of the concept wayfinding signs from the MARC sponsored plan. He shows some examples of what the signs might look like from Overland Park and Riverside that are following the plans design. He got these sign details from the sign company these cities are working with to manufacture them. Members discuss the Overland Park and Riverside signs and how it could be used for Leawood.

- There is a Walk Friendly Community program but Brian Anderson is not familiar with it. Leawood has received Honorable Mention as a Bike Friendly Community.
- Events coming up these weekend: the Mobile Workshop and Climate Action Summit.
- Chair Corbett mentions it's been 10 years since they have reviewed the self-propelled master plan as a team. He suggests that they go through the master plan as so much has happened in the Leawood and surrounding communities. It may be time for a potential update. The self-proposed master plan is on the Leawood website. Bill Blessing expressed his opinion that rather than doing a city specific plan like the previous one but one that focuses on interconnections with our neighboring cities like the subset of the metro green plan that MARC created 25 years ago. Think of trail connections, signage, bike lanes, etc.
- Brian Anderson and David Ley had been discussing an updated bike ped master plan. Chair Corbett is a man who has a lot experience with master plans. His take on master plans is that it brings community knowledge, energy back to the moment when there is a new plan, and helps elevate the community's attention. At the next meeting, he would like to focus on a few things rather 15 on a board. Bring it down to a few that they feel would be effective.
- Chuck Sipple shares that next year the City of Leawood will be celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and he suggested a contribution for the narrative that has to do with promotion of the biking, walking and outside healthy activities. We have the trails, North and South Loops, Bike Walk to School, promoting ADA compliances, sidewalks for new developments, bike racks at major stores, and more. Need to toot our own horns for what has been done for Leawood. See the impact that has happened trail wise. It's a beehive of activity along the Parkway. All kinds of commuting going on. An example are the new roads being put in. David Ley's people are promoting sidewalks on one side and bike trail on the other. Some of this is from the initiation of this group.
- Chair Corbett suggests for the next meeting to filter through some of this and say here's where we want to start as a group, focusing on the future and bring the focus together. He talks a bit more but the message here is that it's all about the kids.
- Bill Blessing asked if there were any metrics to track the trails to see how Leawood is doing. He would like a better sense of how Leawood is doing and inquired an easy to way to this. Then the goal is to better promote more awareness and use of the trails. Brian Anderson said he knows there are things like bike and pedestrian counters but he does not have any funds currently to purchase and install them. The number and location of sites would need to be determined before a cost estimate could be obtained. The 2023 budget will begin to be planned soon so a decision package request could be considered. Chuck Sipple contacting other municipalities to ask how they get their metrics. MARC has a lot of information too.
- Steve Dicus noticed the widening Mission from 135<sup>th</sup> -143<sup>rd</sup>. It is heavily used by bikers, he asked for signage to deflect people around that for safety measure. Brian Anderson answered the road will be closed to cyclists once construction begins. It will be down to 1 lane for the duration. David Ley stated that the detour route would be 143<sup>rd</sup> Street over to Mission and then back along 133<sup>rd</sup> to get back to Mission. Members discussed alternative routes for rider safety. This project has been delayed due to Evergy. Public Works is trying to underground the power lines. Evergy is struggling to get the equipment and are backlogged. Public Works can't get started until Evergy is out of the way. They are anticipating a late bid this year.

- **City Department Reports**
  - Parks – Brian Anderson

- Bike hub is under construction
    - Pouring concrete, stone is brought over for the masons to work on the walls
    - Water lines installed for the misting pole and water fountain
    - Shelter has not been arrived yet, no updates
    - Deadline is May 2 but the pool doesn't officially open until Memorial weekend, so there's additional time
    - They like to fill the pool on May 2 to give the pool a chance to warm up and adjust chemistry
    - Delays for roll-down doors for the complex, temporary doors because of backlog
    - Multi-purpose room coming along with dry wall, meetings for coordinating AV equipment, exteriors restroom being finished up
    - Final signage details with Planning, illuminating signs for Bike and Walk
  - Broke ground for the trail from city hall to Tomahawk Creek trail. They tore out the sidewalk to be replaced with a 10 foot wide trail. They have an entry point so they can move the bridge in when they are ready to set it. They will pour the base abutments for the bridge. Chair Corbett gave the committee a bit of history of the Cost Share Grant and how Brian Anderson brought it to the attention of the committee to write letters of support. It was a big deal and the project was expensive. Seventy-five percent of the cost is being reimbursed by the state.
  - Bill Blessing asked about another trail issue that connects to Ward Parkway. He asked if they have a firm plan that will eventually be built out to connect the trail to the edge of the parking lot. There was a debate about a hill and he wondered if it had been resolved. Mark Klein mentioned that they have started with grading. They were looking for a way to get it to come up on the west side of it over to the east to connect to use the underpass to go over to Ward Parkway but it was too steep. They spoke about a possible connection on 89<sup>th</sup> Street on State Line using the existing sidewalk and adding a sidewalk on the north side of 89<sup>th</sup> street from the pedestrian bridge to State Line Road.
  - In 2024, Public Works is proposing a project on 89<sup>th</sup> Street, west of State Line Road. They will narrow the roadway up. It's wider than necessary and add a sidewalk from the bridge to State Line Road for a pedestrian connection. There is a 5 foot wide sidewalk on State Line Road that will go from 89<sup>th</sup> Street to 86<sup>th</sup> Terr. There are 2 crossings, 89<sup>th</sup> Street and 88<sup>th</sup> Street. The bridge is at 89<sup>th</sup> Street. They discuss the ease of getting to State Line. To get from 89<sup>th</sup> Street north to 86<sup>th</sup> Street, there currently is a sidewalk along the existing office building. The mixed use development is required to build a retaining wall and a 5 foot wide sidewalk from the end of the sidewalk all the way to 86<sup>th</sup> Street. Members discuss it further. The underpass will be a 10 foot trail dedicated to pedestrian and cyclists, no cars.
- Public Works – David Ley
    - Created the Proposed Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements document. He went through the CIP and the budget and categorized the projects with bicycle and pedestrian improvements by year.
    - He highlights the 2022 projects. He did leave one project off which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase for Lee Blvd. It has already been bid and hope to start the project in July. They will finish bike lanes close to Somerset and there sidewalk improvements on the west side of Lee, repairing damaged sidewalks.
    - Mission Road, 133<sup>rd</sup>-143<sup>rd</sup> Streets. The bidding for that project is delayed. They are waiting for the utilities to get relocated.
    - Mission Road, 127<sup>th</sup>-133<sup>rd</sup> Streets. Adding 5 foot bike lanes and 8 foot wide sidewalks on both sides from 132<sup>rd</sup>-133<sup>rd</sup>. A new pedestrian crossing signal will be installed. It's the hawk signal which is off until a pedestrian activates it and then it goes to yellow then red. This the standard that the city has gone to for pedestrian crossings. Project is held up because of the Evergy power lines. Will bid in November.
    - Pedestrian Signal 143<sup>rd</sup> Street west of Granada. It will have the hawk signal. They will remove the sidewalk and install a 10 foot wide trail on the south side of 143<sup>rd</sup> Street from the signal to Granada. Granada is part of the bike loop and lots of children use it with safe access.
    - He shows the proposed improvements from 2023 to 2028. For instance, 123<sup>rd</sup> Street, Mission to State Line, install sidewalks but if the residents oppose it, it may go to Council and request it to be removed from the project. These are more proposed plans and not written in stone. Usually takes approximately 2 months from bid to start of a project.
  - Planning – Mark Klein
    - 86<sup>th</sup> & State Line Development has started as far as grading. The parking is being removed.

- 1<sup>st</sup> phase, 4 and 5 story apartments, town homes located on the north and the west side (total of 206 units, parking structure, retail/office too).
- They really like the unique opportunity to have the underpass under State Line to try and connect things up to.
- Wastewater treatment facility will wrap up soon and the bike trails will re-open.
- Cameron's Court got approved and they are waiting for a final to come back. Bill Blessing asked how close is Cameron's Court to any part of the South Loop or other major routes that we put bike lanes or wide sidewalks in. He wanted to know if there will be a disruption and plans to restore that when construction is completed. Mark Klein answers that Cameron's Court goes from Pawnee to State Line Road and then 133<sup>rd</sup> Street to 135<sup>th</sup> Street. There's been talk in regards to 133<sup>rd</sup> Street. It will maintain the same configuration what they have until the City comes in does the widening and extends the bike lanes all the way across. David Ley answers there's almost a half mile from State Line Road. There are no bike lanes a quarter mile because of all the driveways that interact there. They were not able to stripe that left turn lane. The bike lanes impacted are just right around High Drive. They eliminated a lot of streets that tied into 133<sup>rd</sup>. He and Brian Anderson discussed the bike loop down to 133<sup>rd</sup> Street over to High Drive and changing that by going up to Chadwick further west than High Drive to reduce that and be driving more into a residential subdivision than actually being out on 133<sup>rd</sup> Street. He would bring it back to the committee to discuss and maybe support. Members discuss minimizing the disruption. They talk about the construction further and don't have a final plan for. The widening may happened when they do a mill and overlay approximately in 8 years. He mentioned concerns with the bike lanes and the trail.

- **Misc**

- Alicia Jennings and Karry Rood have been working to get officers for the bike P.E. at the schools. This is still in the beginning stages of the program. There's a shortage of officers right now.
- Bill Blessing asked if there were any bike event for Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> and whether to promote them. Brian Anderson replied that there are no bike special events planned. Bill Blessing suggested a secondary bike hub event and promoting cyclists to ride their bikes to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Alicia Jennings shared that if cyclists do ride to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, they need a headlight as it will be dark. Either designate a way home or close off a street because it will be dangerous. She was very serious, "you're asking for trouble."
- Ray Pitman stated at the next meeting, they would be speaking about the goals and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He wasn't sure if they could wait two months before starting on these goals. He is interested in the Bicycle Friendly Community status. He's not worried about the medals. Bill Blessing shares that anyone can get that information from the League of American Bicyclists online.
- Chuck Sipple asked Brian Anderson for the timetable for the pictures for the new Portrait in Time book. The contact is Holly York and she has requested pics. Marica Putman to send Holly York biking and walking pics. There are some pics from the North Loop event.
- Jaclyn Penn wants to work on a safe routes plan for Corinth. She will use Alicia Jennings' book and plan.

- **Next Meeting Date**

- Tentative meeting set for Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned.