

Minutes of 12/5 Bike Ped Committee Meeting

In attendance: Rosemarie De Angelis, Chair; Tex Haeuser, Planning Director; Steve Sawyer, Sebago Technics; Fire Chief Wilson; Police Chief Googins; Alan Mills, Jennifer Claster—Bike/Ped; Paul Niehoff, Bike Ped/Pacts; Jim Tasse, Bike Ped/BCM; Erik Weisenburger, Laura Mauldin, Tim Pinette, Matt Faulkner, Richard Colson, Mike Davis, George Corey, Angie Eccles, Stacey Cramp--residents;

Motion to adopt minutes from Nov. 21, 2017 approved by Alan Mills and seconded by Laura Mauldin.

Steve Sawyer, Sebago Technics, reviewed the comprehensive plan for Cottage Road stating the aim was not to be a Band-Aid, but that the larger plan could be scaled back if needed.

- Raised medians with banners possibly saying “Welcome to the Neighborhood” and ornamental lights at both ends of the corridor would reinforce the notion that you’re in a neighborhood and it’s time to slow down.
- The plan limits parking to at least 10 feet from driveways and 20 feet from crosswalks, but still allows some on-street parking since there is speed reduction associated with it.
- Steve indicated reflective tape around existing signal back plates at the Cottage Sawyer intersection could reduce the number of fender benders.
- Steve said there is not enough width to have dedicated bike lanes and parking and the trade-off would be bikes and vehicles sharing the same lane with “sharrows” (bike symbols with arrows painted on roadway) indicating that bikes are allowed to be in the same lane as vehicles.
- Lights or rectangular rapid flashing beacons at crosswalks (slated for Mitchell, Goudy and Pillsbury) would increase pedestrian safety.
- At the Pillsbury intersection there would be fewer parking options and a mast arm to replace the existing flashing beacon. Streamlining entrance and exit options at the Vets office would improve traffic flow there. Only one parking space would be available in front of DiPietro’s and deliveries would have to occur in their lot on the side of the building.
- The total plan is estimated to cost \$1,750,000.

Members of the public Matthew Faulkner, Richard Colson and Mike Davis commented on the difficulty of getting delivery trucks to adhere to the new off-street parking plans for DiPietro's and David's saying that without enforcement delivery drivers will do what they want and that it's not practical when people are hauling heavy loads. Chair De Angelis noted the purpose of the plan is for bike/ped/traffic safety and not to accommodate delivery drivers.

Committee member Laura Mauldin asked if lights could highlight certain areas for maximum safety sighting problems with an unlit bump out at Spring and High Sts. in Portland. She also suggested having a bike rack somewhere if they're trying to encourage more alternate transportation use. Steve said the plan is just a starting point and things such as lights can certainly be adjusted and that the plan includes \$10,000 for "furniture" which could include a bike rack.

Member of public Stacey Cramp raised concerns about further light pollution with several new ornamental lights proposed and also about increased danger for cyclists who would be squeezed much closer to cars in the proposed plan. Responses included that the lights are not that bright and only shine down and that since traffic should be slowed due to the bump outs that cyclists will not be as much at risk. She pointed out she has been hit in the past on her bike by cars going slowly and that riding along the new bump outs means that the required 3 feet between cyclists and vehicles is no longer possible. Jim from the Bike Coalition indicated that this is a compromise plan for everyone's safety and that he believed it was the best solution given the circumstances.

Member of public Matthew Faulkner stated that you can't expect cars to give bikes the right of way and that people don't know what markings in the roadway indicate or they ignore them.

Several people noted the need for public education and outreach about the proposed plan.

Representative of the SP Fire Dept. said he would oppose any change that narrows the roadway including medians since it slows down their response time as cars can not pull over easily. Chair De Angelis asked him to keep an open mind about the proposed plans. Mike Davis of the CE Fire Dept. also cited significant safety concerns saying there would be no place for traffic to go. Angie Eccles said if you're increasing congestion, you will have more safety issues. Bike Coalition said that safety for 99% of users of the corridor (i.e., non-emergency vehicles) is more important.

Member of the committee Jennifer Cluster said she doesn't think the plan will contribute to congestion.

Steve Sawyer said if a by-product of the plan is that more people use Ocean Ave. instead that that would be a good outcome.

Member of public Steve ? who lives on Cottage says the demo seems to be encouraging people to slow down.

Member of public George Corry raised concerns about David's customers not being able to drop off disabled people in front of the restaurant. Chair De Angelis said they could use the David's driveway.

Member of public Matthew Faulkner asked how the plan would impact snow removal and also if the speed limit could be lowered in this stretch. Responses included that Public Works is prepared to deal with snow removal on the bump outs and that yes, a reduction in the speed limit should be considered.

Jim of the Bike Coalition suggested that phasing in the project in a temporary way with bollards, etc., and then as funding becomes available phase it in more permanently.

Stacey Cramp and Angie Eccles said they'd like to see the demo reintroduced in spring or summer when there is much more traffic in this stretch to get a better idea of how it will impact everyone.

Paul Niehoff indicated that there might be some funding currently available for improvements to the roadway in this stretch.

Chair De Angelis and Tex Haeuser suggested another meeting to discuss next steps such as funding, the costs of implementing the plan gradually and considering alternate recommendations. A meeting was scheduled for 12/14 at 7:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 9:15am