

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEBEX MEETING
APRIL 28, 2021

Members Present

Sam Bell, Chair
Charles Mosbrook
Laura Marks
Gayle Lewin
Howard Maier
Eric Zamft
Karen Knittel

Council

Mary Dunbar

Call to Order

Chairperson Sam Bell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes

Sam Bell moved approval of the March 24, 2021 Minutes. Charlie Mosbrook seconded the motion, **the motion to approve the Minutes was approved.**

New Business and Announcements

Sam Bell said that they were trying to recruit a TAC recording secretary. He would check with Kathy Petrey about serving as TAC Secretary.

The committee discussed the opportunity for trees on the traffic island that separates westbound Monticello and northbound Forest Hill Boulevard. They discussed the need to not block site triangles but thought that a tree could be planted on the north side of the island. They discussed the need to water newly planted trees for two years. It was decided to ask City Forester Dan Krizner to plant the tree. Sam Bell volunteered to check with the Forest Hill Homeowners Association to see if they would volunteer to water the tree for the first two years.

Laura Marks reported that Heights Tree People had just done a tree planting in Southerly Park in Shaker Heights. She said its value was over \$17,000 and that 35 volunteers assisted including 22 Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Holden Arboretum trained tree stewards.

Eric Zamft reported that the Sidewalk Resolution passed by TAC was put in City Council's meeting materials. The committee was eager to keep this momentum going. Sam Bell also mentioned snow removal from sidewalks. He asked what the current legal status is for requiring property owners to remove snow from a public sidewalk. Shaker Heights removes snow from

sidewalks when the snowfall is 6 inches or greater. Sam Bell said that it is particularly a problem when a snowplow operator clears a driveway and creates mounds of packed snow across the sidewalks. It was discussed that this may be a community engagement opportunity, neighbors need to be encouraged to assist each other. Snow removal in the business districts and at bus stops and shelters needs to be a priority, in the past snow removal has been spotty. It was agreed that snow removal is an important issue that needs to be addressed.

Sam Bell asked the committee if they were aware of any trails that should be nominated for an award from the regional trails conference. Laura Marks mentioned the paver walkway that was added at the Noble Roanoke Park but noted that it was not useable by a person in a wheelchair. Sam Bell stated that he thought that if they want to honor someone for their contributions, that the persons who canceled events out of concern for public health should be nominated. He reported that the trails conference people did not appreciate this nomination. Mary Dunbar said that she did not think there was any trail work done in Cleveland Heights during this past year. So Sam Bell said that anyone who wants to make a nomination can do so.

Eric Zamft stated that they hoped to move the Compton Greenway project forward this year. Eric Zamft said that a planning study has been completed and we should move towards implementation. Karen Knittel said that perhaps the NOACA street supplies could be used to test some of the traffic calming ideas at the intersections and a way to re-engage the neighbors. Sam Bell added that it seems to be a speeders paradise and something needs to be done to calm traffic,

Laura Marks said she wants to understand why people are choosing to rush up Desota rather than use Euclid Heights Boulevard. Sam Bell responded that he thinks they are avoiding the traffic light at Euclid Heights Boulevard and potential speeding enforcement on Euclid Heights Boulevard.

Laura Marks reported that she was meeting with the Boulevard Neighbors and that they wanted to discuss a park at one of the vacant lots at Desota and Compton. Laura Marks asked if the park should be at the Berkeley vacant lot and said that if this is not feasible at all she should tell them this. Laura Marks asked if another park is needed if the Greenway were made and because Cain Park right there. Eric Zamft said that the dead-end prevents access and connection and that this may be the opportunity to do more than just a path, it could potentially be a passive park. Laura Marks reported that the neighbors wanted a park on the vacant lot at the northwest corner of the Desota Compton intersection. She said she would report back that the city did not want to develop an additional park at this time.

Sam Bell stated that it is important to have a process to engage the public and have comments from the public at the beginning, early stage of a project. The committee members agreed that there needs to be early outreach to engage the public and receive comments. Laura Marks said she was on the Conservation Board in Ithica, New York and that there were three subcommittees one of which was a development review committee. This process had citizens involved in the review during the first contact of development with the planning department. This allowed citizens to

comment early and strengthened projects. Eric Zamft agreed that it is important for projects to have early engagement with the public before a formal application is made.

Sam Bell reminded all that May is Bicycle Month.

Mary Dunbar shared that this is the year that the City needs to update the bicycle-friendly community application. She said it was due in August.

Laura Marks invited the committee to attend the Arbor Day Celebration, this Friday at 10 a.m. at the Noble- Roanoke park. The Heights Tree People will be planting three Kentucky Coffee trees and the City Forestry Department will plant three additional trees and there will be refreshments. The Noble Neighbors gardening crew will also be there doing some gardening and light clean-up.

Howard Maier announced that on May 3 at 6 p.m. NOACA will hold a public hearing to discuss their draft long-range transportation plan. He said that staff review of proposed interchanges will be coming to the NOACA Board in June. He said that on May 17th from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. the Partnership for Autonomous Vehicle Education (PAVE) is having a workshop. He said that this is the future of transportation. Howard Maier said that he is taking his students on a virtual field trip to the Crawford Auto Collection at the Western Reserve Historical Society. He said that it costs \$150 but it might be a terrific field trip for planning staff, the TAC members, and maybe even Council.

New Business

Laura Marks reported that on the Noble Road sidewalk at the Roanoke-Noble park a knocked down utility pole continues to block a portion of the public sidewalk and that despite many efforts has not been successful in having it removed. This utility pole has been down since January. She asked how to get the utility pole removed. It is a utility company pole. Laura said that before it came down the only thing on it was the RTA bus stop sign. Laura Marks said that the transit authority moved the bus stop sign because of this and she has been in communication with RTA about moving it back to where it originally was because the park was designed around where the bus stop was.

The complete and green street implementation checklist discussion will be held at a later meeting. Eric Zamft had shared a checklist used in Suffolk County Long Island. Eric Zamft said that it had been developed to assist with the implementation of their complete street policy. Sam Bell said that the Master Plan and the complete and green street policy contain some specific reporting requirements for different departments. Sam Bell said that the checklist looked like a good starting point.

Sam Bell reported that Gayle Lewin wanted the committee to discuss the crosswalks at Lee and Superior, Lee and Zagara, Lee and Washington which are all still in the pedestrian calling mode. He said that he has reported these and was told that the programming to change all of the crosswalk

signals would occur. Sam Bell said that the crosswalk buttons on these must be broken and that it has been months and nothing has happened.

Sam Bell said that similarly the Euclid Heights Boulevard-Wilton Road crosswalk was originally designed to be a constantly flashing crossing which all know does not work as people stop seeing it. He said he had been told that it could be changed over to a button operation. It stopped flashing the other day and I thought it was fixed, but no, it turned out that the bulbs were burned out. So, the bulbs have been replaced and it is back to flashing. Laura Marks said that for a while the button did not work. Sam Bell said that it still does not work. Mary Dunbar asked what they wanted. Laura Marks replied push the button and it flashes. Mary Dunbar asked so if you don't push the button, it does not flash. Both Sam Bell and Laura Marks responded that this was correct. Sam Bell said that he has been told that the crosswalk signal at Lee and Essex also is a problem.

There was no update on wildlife and deer control. Staff was asked to try to bring an update to the next meeting.

Sam Bell said that next on the agenda is further discussion of mission and scope and he asked how the complete and green street policy impact actual projects like Shannon Road? Laura Marks said this gets back to the checklist. She said she would be happy to work with Eric Zamft and help with some of the green elements of the checklist. Eric Zamft agreed that would be helpful.

Eric Zamft said that the idea of rethinking what this committee is maybe worth further discussion. He asked if the transportation name scares away people who might be more interested in sustainability and green. Would we have more participation if it wasn't named the Transportation committee or maybe there needs to be a separate committee?

Mary Dunbar said that she had concerns about creating new committees because of the additional work for the staff. She said she had been thinking of expanding the role of this committee. She said that additional members for the committee are needed. She asked if this committee's area of responsibility should be expanded to include sustainability. It was discussed that sustainability could encompass a lot of different topics. Sam Bell said that he is happy to help with it in any way he can. He said that he does not care what the committee is called. Laura Marks said there is a citizen group that is focused on sustainability. Howard Maier said that when this committee was created with the original ordinance listing responsibilities, he thought it was really good. He said transportation covers a lot of territories and includes sustainability. He said that the official role of this committee is important to consider. He said some may ask what the value of being on a committee that does not have a bonified responsibilities and an official role in the structure of city government. He asked so the question is should this committee be put into the code in some fashion? He said that meanwhile, he thinks the committee should continue with passing resolutions. Mary Dunbar said this is a discussion she needs to have with the Council President. Laura Marks said that the committee members are willing and able to do some of the work to implement their recommendations.

TAC asked about the outcome from their recommendations on the speed reduction on all city streets so that the maximum speed would be 25 MPH. It was suggested that the city could set a policy that all streets are 25 MPH unless posted otherwise. Sam Bell said that he had to go back to Vision Zero, saying that the time is now and we need to do this. It was reported that at a recent Council meeting the issue of setting a speed limit too low was viewed as a racial equity issue. The committee asked whether speeding tickets could be issued by cameras or if enforcement could happen in other ways. Sam Bell said he wanted to circle back to racial equity and said that he finds having a 35 MPH speed limit in a large portion of northern Taylor Road and a 25 MPH speed limit in the commercial districts and then back to a 35 MPH and he said that the real racial equity is making people cross a 35 MPH road where we know cars go faster than the posted speed. He said that what we are saying is if you live in this part of town, you have to run for it but if you live in this part of town you can saunter through the intersection. Mary Dunbar added that it is also true that parts of Fairmount Boulevard and North Park Boulevard have 35 MPH speed limits and that Coventry is now down to 25 MPH everywhere. Mary Dunbar said she thought these streets should be 25 MPH especially North Park as it is by parklands. Sam Bell added that it has bike lanes and is highly used by joggers.

Sam Bell suggested that traffic calming measures such as narrowing the road visually even with just paint can be used so people feel as though they are going fast.

The next TAC meeting will be on May 26th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Sam Bell, Chairperson

