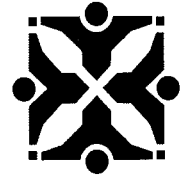


City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201



Agenda Item Number: REP 32-15

Department Source: Community Development - Planning

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: 3/2/2015

Re: Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission Report: Request for Mayors' Challenge Participation

Documents Included With This Agenda Item

Council memo

Supporting documentation includes: Excerpts from Minutes, Request Letter from Commission

Executive Summary

Attached is a report from the Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission which makes a formal request that the Mayor or his representative participate in the Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets, which was put forth by United States Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx. (Case #15-80)

Discussion

At their meeting of February 18, 2015, the Commission passed a motion (7-0) to make this request for participation in the Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets, including sending a letter to the Mayor. This letter from the Commission is attached. The letter includes a request for the Mayor or his representative to attend the Mayors Challenge Summit on March 12, 2015 in Washington, DC.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Unknown. Travel costs would need to be covered for attendance at the Mayors Challenge Summit should the Mayor or his representative attend.

Long-Term Impact: NA.

Vision, Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Vision Impact: Transportation

Strategic Plan Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility

Suggested Council Action

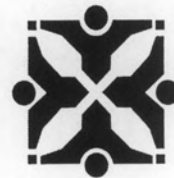
Acceptance of the report, along with consideration of participation in the Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets.

Legislative History

2-18-15: The Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission passed a motion requesting that the Mayor

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participate in the Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets, including attending the Mayors' Challenge Summit on March 12 in Washington, DC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. H. Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Department Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ruth White", is written over a horizontal line.

City Manager Approved



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS INCLUDED WITH THIS AGENDA ITEM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Excerpts from Minutes, Request Letter from Commission

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Minutes of the February 18, 2015 Meeting

Members in Attendance: Mike Burden, Sue Davis, Brant Kassel, Arthur Pollard, Elke Boyd, Rachel Ruhlen, Lawrence Simonson.

Members Absent: Greg Ahrens, Dan Harder

Staff: Mitch Skov, Rachel Bacon.

Visitors: Anna Rugman, Tracy Tibbets, Nancy St. John, Ginger Owen, Barbara Wren, Steven Hanson

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Brant Kassel.
- II. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Elke Boyd, with a second by Sue Davis. Rachel Ruhlen volunteered to take minutes for this meeting in the absence of a secretary.
- III. Review of agenda

IV. Reports by staff:

None

V. Old Business:

A. PedNet Report: Grindstone to Stephens Link. Proposed trail alignment has been on the Master Plan since 2002. Council has approved funding for it. Engineering study examined 4 different alignments to determine which would be the best to move forward with. PedNet asks the Bike/Ped Commission to endorse an alignment with a letter to City Council before March 16.

Great trail system is Columbia's asset. Rolling hills & valleys are beautiful to look at but getting between them, use the flat valleys. Missouri has been named Best Trails State-- thanks to the Katy Trail "crown" and Columbia is the jewel in the crown. 30 mile loop of nearly level trail encircling the city. This loop is not only an attraction but a transportation network-- the loop is the wheel with spokes going into the city. Some of this loops is already built, the complete loop is hoped for in 30 years. Hinkson Valley Greenway Service Area is 1/2 mile on either side of the trail network. There is a gap between MKT system and the Stephen's Lake/ Hominy Trail. Currently there is something of a connection-- but it is not level, it is a steep hill on Old 63. The 110 foot hill is the equivalent of the height of the Tiger Hotel. The hill is prohibitive to children, elderly, parents-- Columbia is ranked as one of the best communities to retire to.

Engineering firm studied 4 options. PedNet supports Options 1 & 3. Provide a nearly level connection between Grindstone & Stephens. Serves greatest number of neighborhoods & community at large. Options 1 & 3 are the most level of the 4 options. Option 2 does the most damage environmentally, would take out trees, several switchbacks, provides good access to one neighborhood but doesn't address the hill and doesn't serve the larger community. Option 3 is the most expensive because of the 2 bridges. Property concerns: MU is willing to cooperate with the Common Alignment to Options 1, 2, & 3. Altis family is willing to work with Options 1 & 3, not inclined toward Option 2. Option 4 does not affect Altis property.

Engineering firm recommended sidewalk on Bluffdale or Southwood which residents oppose. Neither the sidewalks nor the road are ADA compliant but the rest of the trail would be ADA

compliant.

This trail has a positive environmental impact. Land surrounding trails become a buffer nature area, MKT Trail has preserved 700 acres. The property may well be developed without the trail. The area has been disturbed which allows the trail to be built without further disturbing the land. Because of the disturbance, there are a lot of invasive species. There is a sewer line and gas line and a soft surface road on approximately the same area the trail will go. To minimize disturbance, the same strategies will be used that built Scotts Branch Trail. Scotts Branch Trail involved reseeding native grasses & planting trees-- area was improved environmentally.

PedNet's position is to preserve the Altis property, avoid building trail behind homes as requested, build Options 1 & 3, follow sewer trunk line where possible, include riparian restoration project to improve stormwater runoff into Hinkson Creek. Altis property is not zoned for development and has no street access.

Comments from visitors: Barb Wren-- The Old 63 pedway, with the hill, was built in the past 6 years. Mitch Skov clarified that the pedway on Old 63 was in response to opposition to a trail proposal in the 1990's so the existing sidewalk was widened. Option 4 is designed to use that pedway to connect from Stephens Lake to Ashland Rd which also has a pedway. MoDOT is redoing the intersection which would tie into Option 4. Federal funds are not supposed to be used on recreation trails or neighborhood streets and Option 4 is the only one that fits that.

Ginger Owen mentioned that bush honeysuckle was planted 35 years ago intentionally when it wasn't known that it was invasive and it would be destructive to try to remove that and replace it. Coming up the hill is an urban climax forest, so designated in the engineering report. It was pasture land and couldn't be farmed.

Motion that Commission support Options 1 & 3 made by Rachel Ruhlen. Elke Boyd seconded. 6 votes in favor, one abstain (Lawrence for conflict of interest).

VI. New Business

- A. Election of Secretary. Elke Boyd made a motion to nominate Rachel Ruhlen for secretary. The motion was seconded by Sue Davis. There were no further nominations. The motion passed.
- B. Ranking of new bus shelters. CDBG funding will fund 5 new bus shelters. Each commissioner was asked to please vote for 3 preferred choices-- there will also be an online survey. Elke pointed out a missing important spot is on Conley Road at the stoplight.
- C. Update on sidewalk funding, policy and needs: tabled due to time.
- D. USDOT Mayor's Challenge for Safer Streets, Safer People: Rachel Ruhlen drafted a letter encouraging the mayor to deliver a press conference and attend the Mayor's Challenge Summit. Mike added that the Commission would like the mayor to attend our April commission meeting and report. For our part we'll make recommendations for the Challenge Team and Challenge Activities. Motion to send letter with amendment by Arthur Pollard, seconded by Mike Burden. Motion passed.
- E. Request from Public Transit Advisory Commission (PTAC) by Steven Hanson. Pedestrian fatality at a place near our bus stops-- we don't know if she (the victim) was a bus user but this highlights the danger of our midblock bus stops. Efficient, low-overhead city government means we don't always have the resources to examine every project from pedestrian, accessibility, safety perspective. Steven requests that Bike/Ped Commission formally request 1) review of South Providence pedestrian safety including speed limits, 2) adoption of standards for crosswalk lighting, 3) appointment of a staff person dedicated to evaluating pedestrian safety

and accessibility, and 4) implementation of a review process for pedestrian accidents. This 3rd point in particular is a response to recent issues where a project was completed without this considered, and the 4th point to a lack of review of pedestrian accidents. Multi-modal manager has no expectation of getting information about pedestrian accidents even if it was a bus rider. Rachel Bacon pointed out that we should also request a budget to implement safety measures, not just a staff person who won't have any power to respond.

Will further consider this in March.

VII. Public Comments. Ginger Owen noted that the commission voted to construct a recreational trail with GetAbout funds and that funding could have been used to improve pedestrian safety.

VIII. Announcement/Commissioner Comments. Elke Boyd noted that a Missouri Heartbeat article was to get bike/ped off the road to separate facilities, and that is what Options 1 & 3 would do.

Motion to adjourn made by Sue Davis, seconded by Mike Burden. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 P.M.

February 20, 2015

Dear Mayor McDavid,

Thank you and congratulations for participating in the Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets put forth by United States Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx. The three pedestrian-car collisions in a single day recently have shaken the reputation of Columbia as the best place in Missouri for walking and bicycling. Your participation in the Mayors' Challenge will help restore the City's good name, and make Columbia an even safer place to walk.

The Bicycling & Pedestrian Commission has two immediate recommendations.

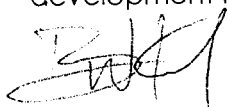
1) **Hold a press conference** to make a public statement of your support of pedestrian safety. Invite members of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission and City Council to attend the press conference. This fulfills the first Call to Action outlined in the Mayors' Challenge: Issue a public statement about the importance of bicycle and pedestrian safety.

2) **Attend the Mayors' Challenge Summit** on March 12 in Washington, DC. The Summit is an opportunity to interact with mayors from other cities, share resources and experience, and bring back tools to achieve the goals of the Mayors' Challenge throughout the year.

We encourage the City Council to release council contingency funds for your travel to the Summit. We strongly encourage you to personally attend the Summit. However, if you are unable to, we encourage you to send a representative in your place.

These are the Commission's immediate recommendations. For our part, we will consider the **Mayors' Challenge Local Action Team** to advance safety and accessibility goals suggested as part of the call to action by Secretary Foxx. The Commission will provide you a list of suggestions for possible members for this team. We will review the **7 Challenge Activities** suggested and identify which Challenge Activities are redundant for Columbia (we already have them in place) and which are areas where we could improve.

Again, thank you for participating in the Mayors' Challenge. We are excited about this development in Columbia.



Brant Kassel, Chair

Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission