



Ozarks Transportation Organization

Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Minutes

January 14, 2020

1:00 pm

Ozarks Transportation Organization
2208 W. Chesterfield Blvd., Suite 101
Springfield, Missouri

Attendance: Jason Knight, David Hutchinson, Joel Keller, Derrick Estell, Frank Miller, Chris Tabor, Debra Hickey, Martha Smartt, Jeremy Parsons, Valerie Carr, Matt Crouse, Matt Crawford

Staff Attendance: Andy Thomason, Sara Fields, Natasha Longpine

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Minutes from 12/05/19 Scoring Meeting

Mr. Thomason represented the minutes from the 12/5/19 scoring meeting. Mr. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Mr. Estell, to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

III. 2020 BPAC Goals

Mr Thomason outlined goals for the BPAC in 2020. Hopefully, the BPAC will find an equitable way to communicate regional trail priorities, create and distribute a public-facing version of the Ozarks Regional Bicycle Destination Plan, create the CY 19 Bike/Ped Implementation Report, and possibly conduct a call for projects. Some questions were asked concerning the call for projects. Mr. Thomason and Ms. Fields clarified the process that would have to happen, including board action, before a call would be issued.

IV. 10 Year Trail Investment Plan

Mr. Thomason began by tracing the recent development of trail plans and studies by the OTO. The OTO has a strong understanding of the system wants to see developed over the next 20 or 30 years and of the trails that will likely see development over say the next 10 years. However, the OTO does not have a good way to communicate those expectations, or those priorities. The intent of the map presented today is to broadly communicate which corridors are expected to see development over the 'middle term'. Mr. Thomason poses a few questions to members of the BPAC. First, does the map capture the region's priorities? Are any missing? Are there too many? He also wanted to know if the map communicated those priorities or if there were any unintended messages. He wanted to take this map out for comment during the public input process of the new LRTP.

Mr. Estell asked about the flexibility of such a map. Springfield must be able to react when funding becomes available and needs to be able to communicate projects as regional priorities. Mr. Thomason said there was flexibility in this concept, but this map intended to show those sustained, regional priorities, rather than an amalgamation of individual priorities. Mr. Parsons supported the regional nature of the map.

Mr. Miller raised a question about the map's name. He was concerned that the defined timeframe implied an end date, rather than open ended priorities. There was also discussion about changing

'investment' to 'funding' to make the connection to regional funding opportunities clearer. Mr. Thomason was open to revising the name.

Mr. Thomason asked if the map had the right corridors identified. Mr. Estell stated the Ward Branch corridor was less likely to develop than say an extension of the Fassnight Trail to the east. He also stated an extension of the Galloway Trail to the north to connect with an extended Fassnight Trail is also a better possibility. Mr. Thomason said those changes could be made.

Ms. Fields raised a question about the difference between 'multi-use sidepaths' and 'trails' that are constructed by Springfield. Mr. Estell said it mainly has to do with who takes care of them. If they are in road right-of-way, they are Public Work's responsibility and are called 'multi-use sidepaths'. If the path is constructed outside of a road right-of-way, then it is called a 'trail' and is maintained by the parks department. Mr. Estell also said the city's complete streets policy will be implemented, including 'multi-use sidepaths', on secondary arterials where possible. Ms. Fields and Mr. Thomason suggested the public wouldn't see a difference between the two types of paths and a common, public-facing name should be developed.

Mr. Thomason asked Ms. Smartt and Mr. Knight how they felt about the fact the map didn't prioritize connections to their communities. Both said they want to see connections made but recognize there isn't momentum.

Mr. Miller also asked about the possible impact of the map not having any priority corridors in the northern half of the MPO. Mr. Hutchinson pointed to the geographic reality that I-44 follows the natural watershed boundaries and there are no natural creek connections traversing the northern portion of the region in north/south direction. There was some discussion of extending the Jordan Creek corridor identification further north since some multi-use sidepath is planned to extend the trail north. Mr. Thomason also pointed to the Pea Ridge Creek concept that goes north from Doling Park, crossing under I-44.

Ms. Fields ultimately decided a different kind of map would be included in the public involvement process. The map used would need to include all trail concepts. Priorities can be taken to the public later.

V. Bike/Ped Implementation Report FY 2019

Mr. Thomason briefly discussed the annual Bike/Ped Implementation reports and discussed the need for data from each community. Mr. Thomason said he would be sending more information about the specific data needs to everyone in the coming days.

VI. BPAC Leadership

Mr. Thomason discussed the need for new BPAC leadership. He said he had briefly spoken with Mr. Parsons about serving since he was the last chair. Mr. Estell thought he had volunteered before the BPAC's schedule was messed up. Mr. Thomason said he would follow up on this issue and report to the BPAC latter.

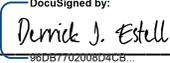
VII. Other

No other discussion was had.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

Minutes Approved on 03/10/2020.

Attested By: 
Derrick Estell, BPAC Chair