

Minutes

Italian Village Society Complete Streets Implementing Committee Thursday, May 28, 5:30pm, 7th Son Brewery, 1101 N. Fourth St.

Present: Andy Klein (Chair), Mark Bair, Stephanie Harris

Andy called the streets committee to order at 5:36 pm in the backroom at the brewery and passed around minutes from the April 23 Streets Committee meeting, a summary of the April 30 Stakeholders' meeting on High Street Improvements, the current Short North Gazette with an article by Tracy Zollinger Turner profiling Matt Adair's Go Both Ways initiative, and a Business First article on Complete Streets by Claire Jennings of MORPC.

Complete Streets Treatment for Summit and N. Fourth Streets

Andy noted that last month's discussion of Summit and N. Fourth resulted in one item of consensus: removing US 23 designation from these streets would be a start to untangling the knot of issues preventing these streets from being pedestrian friendly. Andy reported that he had invited MORPC's Claire Jennings to the June meeting to discuss with us how to apply Complete Streets philosophy to Summit and 4th, and what steps would be necessary to un-designate these streets as US 23.

Proposed Streetscape Improvements between Convention Center and Ninth Avenue

Andy attended an April 30 stakeholders meeting to present the city's proposals for using special improvement district funds on the High Street corridor. He noted that he disagrees with the concept of "stakeholders meetings" to the exclusion of the general public, considering it undemocratic, and that the city expressed its desire that the proposed designs not be disseminated. The designs arose from a 2012 stakeholders meeting which defined the goals of the re-design as (Andy's words) improving the pedestrian experience. Vehicular traffic flow will be reduced to one lane in each direction, utilities go underground and new streetscape (sidewalks, plantings, crosswalks, curb extensions) will be implemented in 4 phases over a 4 year period at a cost of \$21.3 million. Sidewalks will expand, up to 8 feet on each side between Hubbard and Fifth, and in smaller increments between the Convention Center and Ninth Avenue, the southern and northern termini. Stephanie asked how success will be measured, will improving pedestrian experience result in measurable outcomes. She asked who these improvements are designed to benefit: COTA riders? OSU students? Commuters? Andy suggested that the businesses on High Streets will be the primary beneficiaries, and that the Short North Alliance will be out front helping fine tune the process. Stephanie noted that \$420,00 is allocated to public art, and will be amplified by the Borrer Company's prior commitment to place public art at the White Castle redevelopment. Andy noted this is the city's largest commitment to public art to date. He noted that the downtown streetscape is also the subject of a planning process now underway, and that a seamless transition at the Convention Center requires coordination between the two efforts.

City Planning Process

Andy emphasized the need to replace Larry on the SNF with someone who can help shepherd the planning process now underway. At the May general meeting, Larry clarified that Columbus Foundation funds given to SNF will only cover getting the plan in a position to be taken over by the city. Andy noted that at the May meeting, IVS approved sending a letter to the city asking to revive the Italian Village East Redevelopment Plan from 2000, and Mark indicated the planning division would consider that request, but it could take some time given other

priorities. Andy expressed his hope that the N. Fourth Street corridor could jumpstart the SNF initiative, and that Summit and Fourth could be lab rats for Complete Streets experimentation.

Andy also noted that both COTA and Connect Columbus have long range planning underway and we should try to participate and otherwise stay updated. It was decided to ask Mark to invite Kevin Wheeler to attend our June committee meeting along with MORPC to give us a better overview of how these initiatives might fit together. An invitation to COTA for a future general or committee meeting was also discussed but not acted upon.

Future Meeting Schedule

We continue to meet the last Thursday of each month, the next meeting is **Thursday, June 25, 2015 at Seventh Son, SE corner of N. Fourth Street & E. 4th Ave.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Andy Klein, (05/29/15)

Next Meeting: **Thursday, June 25, 2015 at Seventh Son, SW corner of N. 4th Street & E. 4th Ave.**