

Minutes

Italian Village Society Complete Streets Implementing Committee Thursday, June 25, 5:30pm, 7th Son Brewery, 1101 N. Fourth St.

Present: Andy Klein (Chair), Mark Bair, Ben Shoemaker, Rory Krupp, Claire Jennings

Andy called the streets committee to order at 5:36 pm in the front patio at the brewery and passed around minutes from the May 28 Streets Committee meeting, a Business First article on Complete Streets by Claire Jennings of MORPC, a COTA flyer announcing extended service on the Cbus on Pride Weekend to 3am, and a Columbus Landmarks list of endangered buildings. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and say if they had plans for Comfest this weekend. Andy also noted that the Society has new officers, Christopher Vidoni is the new President, Mark Bair the new Secretary, Mike Navarro the new VP.

Complete Streets Treatment for Summit and N. Fourth Streets

Andy introduced Claire Jennings 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. Claire works in the planning and environment department at Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), the planning organization for the Columbus region; they distribute highway dollars to local governments for transportation related projects. Together with our neighbor Amelia Costanzo, Claire encourages cities in the region to adopt Complete Streets policies. She emphasized that one size doesn't fit all, that lanes don't have to be 12 foot wide, and that a complete streets tool kit in non techno-speak is available online. She also brought a 3 ring binder, an impressive document worth investigating for best practices on the subject. MORPC is also updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and an interactive web map is online, as described in the email announcing this meeting. Together with the ConnectColumbus initiative and COTA's NextGen, we have 3 simultaneous plans for the next 30 years underway, so it's important to give as much input as possible.

Turning to US 23, Claire noted that the National Highway System (NHS) allows 11' wide lanes, and will consider exceptions for 10' lanes, through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). As for delisting Summit and N. Fourth as US 23, Claire distributed a 2005 procedural manual for changes to the state highway system. She suggested it's a long process with public input required, and suggested we start with the city. Mark noted this is a federal highway, Claire responded that it's probably a joint process with the state and FHWA. She still suggested starting with the City's Department of Public Service (DPS). The handout gave as an example of abandonment of a state route the case of 0.6 miles through Xenia being delisted as US 35, so there is some precedent, although ours would be a c. 5 mile long segment, not 0.6 miles. Joining US 23 with I-71 at Hudson seems a workable alternative to abandonment. Andy suggested contacting Mike Stinziano or our US Representative, and we decided to invite State Rep. Mike Stinziano, who Rory says has a good relationship with District 6 at ODOT, and who will likely be joining City Council next year, to our next meeting.

As for other possible initiatives to pursue making Summit and Fourth pedestrian friendlier, Claire was very sympathetic, herself an avid walker missing an advocacy group like YAY Bikes or Transit Columbus. She agreed crosswalks would be desirable but that we'd need to see how the planned 2015 repaving changes conditions before asking for further review. She noted that Summit and Fourth are on the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, and that MORPC has

equipment to count pedestrians and bicyclists. Rory noted that the city's counting at 19th and Summit this week as part of the paving project. Other street calming techniques, like signal timing, cycle track, thinner lanes, street trees, and curb extensions, all could be helpful. Claire noted that MORPC's Active Transportation Plan (ATP) for urban corridors (including Summit and Fourth) addresses the interaction of pedestrians with other users. Andy asked if MORPC could recommend best practices be applied to Summit and Fourth as a test case for the ATP, Claire responded that DPS support would be required first.

Proposed Streetscape Improvements between Convention Center and Ninth Avenue

Andy reported that he'd heard no updates, that Short North Alliance July district meetings would address the issue, as well as any parking plan updates. Rory noted he'd identified the Weinland Park participants at the stakeholder's meeting last month.

City Planning Process

Mark indicated that Kevin Wheeler of the planning division was on vacation and he would invite him to our next meeting. Mark noted that we don't have a replacement for Larry on the Short North Foundation, which is spearheading a planning process in which we need to stay involved. Andy suggested the Board make that an item of priority, Ben noted we need to clarify the meeting date (1st Tuesday of Month?)

Future Meeting Schedule

We continue to meet the last Thursday of each month, the next meeting is **Thursday, July 30, 2015 at Seventh Son, SE corner of N. Fourth Street & E. 4th Ave.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Andy Klein, (06/25/15)

Next Meeting: **Thursday, July 30, 2015 at Seventh Son, SW corner of N. 4th Street & E. 4th Ave.**