

Minutes

Italian Village Society Complete Streets Implementing Committee

Thursday, July 30, 5:30pm, Seventh Son Brewery, 1101 N. Fourth St.

Present: Andy Klein (Chair), Christopher Vidoni, Ben Shoemaker, Rory Krupp, Laura Bidwa, Sherrill Massey, Betsy Pandora, Michael Stinziano, Ben Goodman

Andy called the streets committee to order at 5:36 pm in the back room at the brewery. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and identify their most favorite and least favorite thing about the State Fair. Andy distributed a draft one-paragraph mission statement for comment and discussion at next month's meeting (see below). He also passed around copies of 3 items on the Short North Parking Study (an article, editorial, and letter to the editor) published in the Dispatch in recent weeks. Andy commented on the particularly strident tone of the editorial and was informed that Barbara Carman, of the Dispatch editorial board, lives on Highland in an affected area.

Pedestrian Safety

Andy introduced Betsy Pandora, executive director of the Short North Alliance, noting that at the June IVS board meeting, the board raised concerns about pedestrian safety on N. Fourth and High Streets, and requested updates from (respectively) Wagenbrenner Development and the Short North Alliance. We got a vacation auto-reply from an email to Mark Wagenbrenner, and Betsy agreed to attend today's meeting. Andy will follow up with Mark before the next meeting.

Betsy noted that High Street has more pedestrians but fewer midblock marked crosswalks, including at several unmarked legal midblock ADA compliant curb cuts. She noted the most dangerous locations for pedestrians as High Street at Poplar, 5th Ave, 2nd Ave/Starr, and 1st Ave/Price. The injured have been homeless, inebriated, unfamiliar, and/or in the wrong place at the wrong time, typically during busy times of the day and night. Part of the problem is the wider road between Hubbard and 5th Ave, encouraging accelerating cars. That will be addressed by the comprehensive beautification improvements project which will widen sidewalks and make uniform the vehicular flow to one lane each direction with a shared turn lane. Preliminary engineering studies were completed in December, the project has been budgeted and the city's committed to a 2016-19 construction schedule beginning from the Convention Center to the Cap which will be in final design by the end of the year. Sherrill noted the problem for pedestrians where alleys intersect High, Betsy agreed and noted that Transit Columbus is working to create a temporary closure of the alley at Prescott and High in Spring 2016, and property owners in that area support pedestrian use only going forward, given the intense new residential developments occurring there. Ben G. noted residents of Punta requested permission from the Commission to remove their sidewalks due to crumbling curbs, and that the Commission turned them down. Ben thought UIRF funds might be available, Andy explained the 5 year list of items didn't include curbs on Punta, but did include sidewalks where none exist. Betsy noted that German Village Society is leading an effort to revive the Council of Historic Neighborhoods

around preservation of streets, and suggested we contact Shiloh Todorov to network with her on this.

Un-designating N. Fourth and Summit Streets as US 23

Andy noted that at our June meeting, Claire Jennings of MORPC encouraged our efforts to re-locate US 23 from Summit and Fourth, noting that it would require dealing with the city, state (ODOT) and federal highway administration (FHWA). Following that meeting, State Rep. Michael Stinziano accepted our invitation to advise us on how best to proceed with the next steps. He noted that both US 23 and US 40 on E. Main are nightmares for their neighborhoods, that he does have a good relationship with ODOT Region 6, and they're willing to work with us, but first we must convince the city's engineers at Public Service to move this forward. Since US 23 is a federal designation, there may be a reluctance on the city's part to such a proposal since designation is tied to federal money which the city relies on in its budget. Ben G. asked whether speed standards and lane requirements for federal routes might prevent re-locating US 23 to High Street, Michael noted that he was unable to get FHWA to approve lane reductions on West Broad Street/US 40 but he would continue to push for road diets where appropriate. Ben G. asked if having US 23 on two roads means twice the federal money allocated to the city, and speculated that if not, that would be an argument for changing the one-way designations. Laura noted that 3 streetlights (at Fourth St. and 15th Ave and Wyandotte, and Summit and Maynard) are all subject to a citizen petition objecting to their removal. (See the Dispatch article at <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/07/20/residents-oppose-removing-signals.html>). Andy noted the outreach effort from Doreen Uhas-Sauer on this subject, and promised to reach out to her on the subject of un-designating US 23. Michael suggested that a fast track solution would be to get a member of the federal congressional delegation to champion the project, and promised to contact the legislative aide to Rep. Joyce Beatty to raise the issue. Michael also agreed to contact Tracy Davies to start the ball rolling at the city.

Future Meeting Schedule

We continue to meet the last Thursday of each month, the next meeting is **5:30pm, Thursday, August 27, 2015 at Seventh Son, SE corner of N. Fourth Street & E. 4th Ave.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Andy Klein, (07/31/15)

Next Meeting: **5:30 pm, Thursday, August 27, 2015 at Seventh Son, 1101 N. Fourth St.**