
Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2008
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: City Council Chambers, City of Urbana, 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL

Members Present: Brandon Bowersox, Gary Biehl, Rick Bernotas, Audrey Ishii, Barak Rosenshine, Dana Mancuso, Susan Jones
Staff Members Present: Jennifer Selby
Absent: Gary Cziko, Gary Englgau

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Brandon Bowersox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by verbal record and a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Upon voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by to approve the January 23, 2008 and February 19, 2008 minutes. Barak Rosenshine moved to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Rick Bernotas. Upon a voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

V. Public Input

There was no public input.

VI. New Business

A. Main Street Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Improvements – Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program funds

Jennifer Selby presented information regarding the Main Street project. IDOT is currently accepting application for financial assistance for projects that enhance the transportation system. Applications are due May 5, 2008. Main Street is the number one most requested corridor from the public input meetings. This project encompassed Main Street from Cedar Street to Scottswood Drive. Jennifer Selby reviewed the project description with the commission. This is about two miles of bike lanes, it will connect to nine other proposed or existing bike facilities within the Cities network. The cost is about 2.3 million dollars and maintenance is not considered eligible for the grant. There are sections of that street that are in bad condition that need to be milled and resurfaced for maintenance and we pulled those numbers out and there is some patching that needs to be done. We also pulled out the section from downtown (Cedar Street to Grove Street) that will be paid for from our own City budget. We are submitting our application for 1.3 million. If we receive 80% of that – we would get 1 million dollars from the grant and the City will have to pay 1.3 million. She has a letter of support from the Park District and some State Representatives. We are looking at a 2010 construction. The downtown location is not a guarantee for the project; we have to wait until the downtown parking study is complete.

Rick Bernotas asked about Main Street westbound where the road forks off just before Cedar Street. If he was westbound how would he merge either direction and do we expect pedestrians to cross at that point? Jennifer Selby said she had hoped people would cross at Race Street at the crosswalk. As a bicyclist, Main Street will be the bike route, so we want them to veer to the right versus having to cross traffic to the left. She suggested dashing the line at the end so bicyclists can cross the road. We expect people to go to the right rather than go down Springfield.

Dana Mancuso asked if we will put in a striped crosswalk at Cedar Street or Race Street. Jennifer Selby said there could be a crossing at the east leg of Cedar Street but the sidewalk on the north side of Springfield ends at Cedar Street. In order to mark a cross walk we want to see a minimum of 20 pedestrians per hour. There are a lot of ideas of what to do with the Main Street split. Discussion ensued about the types of signs that will be used along the route. There will be directional signs along the route.

Gary Biehl asked if we needed to endorse this plan. Jennifer Selby said we were going to get a letter of support from BPAC but we then found out there is only 20 million dollars for the entire enhancement program for the entire State of Illinois so we were strongly encouraged to get political letters of support. The City Council has already approved it. Brandon Bowersox suggested that our BPAC endorses the project. Gary Biehl asked for an endorsement for the project from BPAC and Susan Jones seconded. All ayes have it. No one opposed.

B. Safe Routes to School

Cynthia Hoyle, AICP – Transportation Planning Consultant with the C-U Mass Transit District presented. Safe Routes to School is a growing movement to encourage and enable children and adults to walk and bicycle to school safely. This is funded through the SRTS National Partnership which is a private, non-profit nation-wide organization whose mission is try to promote the institutionalization of safe routes to schools. Illinois is one of ten states that were selected to be included in a grant that was funded by a number of organizations. Each State chose a local school to be a model project. They chose King School in Urbana. They will create a model program and be involved in training. The community is welcomed to come and participate in the training. They will be doing all the E's – to make this a successful project – encouragement, education, engineering, enforcement and evaluation. They will start with parent surveys – they want to find out how many kids are getting to school by walking or biking and if they are not why they are not getting to school this way. There is a concern from the parents about safety in the neighborhood because they had shootings across the street from the school and they still have a problem with that piece of property. The school district might be interested in acquiring that property to turn it into something for the schools. The school task force will be meeting monthly. The direct financial contribution for the city is zero. They were awarded a grant SRTS grant for a total of \$25,500 which they plan on using some of the money to help with this project as well.

The Bike Fest is May 4, 2008. King School would like to participate in the activities, including the bike rodeo. They are hoping to unveil the Safe Roads Campaign – bus wrap and have a bike film festival on the bus at bike fest and the bike maps are being completed. May is National Bike month.

VII. Old Business

No old business

VIII. Announcements

Jennifer Selby said re: Philo Road project. There was an open house before a council meeting, the consultant then presented to council and the next step is for SAA (consultant) to do preliminary design work. There will be a road diet – four lanes to three; bike lanes from Colorado Avenue to Florida Avenue, landscape plan.

Gary Biehl said that last fall the campus area did a lot of markings on the road; they disappeared over winter and he wanted to reassure the group that the crew is back working on re-marking the areas and they started with the bike lanes. The markings provide education and information.

IX. Adjournment

Brandon Bowersox adjourned the meeting at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted.

Theresa Hoffman
Recording Secretary