
Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: City Council Chambers, City of Urbana, 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL

Members Present: Gary Engelgau, Gary Cziko, Rick Bernotas, Morgan Johnston, Audrey Ishii, Brandon Bowersox, Morgan Johnston, , Susan Jones, Barak Rosenshine
Staff Members Present: Jennifer Selby
Absent: Dana Mancuso, Bryan Lake

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Brandon Bowersox called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Approval of Agenda

Discussion was to add public input to the agenda after new business. Theresa Hoffman will check on this to see if it is allowed and will let the commission know of her findings. Morgan Johnston moved to approve the agenda with that change (if allowed) and Susan Jones seconded motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Gary Engelgau and seconded by Rick Bernotas to approve the minutes from June 15, 2010. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

V. Public Input

Esther Patt, 706 S Coler, Urbana, IL. Her concerns involve pedestrians crossing the road safely with the amount of time that is allowed on the crosswalk timer. She would like to see an increased time allowed for pedestrian to cross the road safely. She thinks the time that is allowed currently does not accommodate all pedestrian. She would also like to get a walk signal when the pedestrian pushes the walk button.

Gary Cziko added that MUTCD regulates the pedestrian timing and signals and someone did propose to make it legal to starting walking during the countdown but this was rejected in order to keep consistent with other standards.

Joe Smith who is the traffic engineer for the City of Urbana was able to discuss this in more detail. Joe Smith was able to change the timing on the particular intersection that Ms. Patt is concerned with (Illinois St and Lincoln Ave) to help with crossing at the intersection. We have to follow MUTCD standards.

Charlie Smyth, 805 S Coler Street, Urbana, IL he showed the USA Today article from June 25, 2010 discussing roundabouts and how it is safer but cost is often a factor in making roundabouts. 35% drop in crashes.

VI. New Business

A. Pedestrian Timings at Signalized Intersections – Joe Smith

Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer for the City of Urbana – He informed the group that there are 45 signals in Urbana and, as previously discussed; we have to follow MUTCD standards. Pedestrian crossing times are determined using the MUTCD required 3.5 feet per second. 85% of the population can walk faster than 3.5 feet per second but it is the 15% of the others that we need to be concerned about. Florida Avenue and Philo Road is an intersection that the City has been working on the timing of the cross walk. Pedestrian push buttons call up the walk phase. If the button does not get pushed, sending a signal to the controller then it does not know there is a pedestrian present. Minimum of 7 seconds of walk time is allowed, sometimes 10 seconds. Discussion ensued about pedestrian timings at signalized intersections. Brandon Bowersox summarized it as such: City of Urbana and the U of I need to have more conversations about intersections on campus having an automatic pedestrian phase. BPAC could check with the City of Chicago to get more information about the intersection that Ms. Patt had mentioned. Try to pursue more information about MUTCD standards and the jaywalking law which states starting to cross a crosswalk at a signalized intersection without waiting for a permissive indication to be displayed is illegal. We would like to see allowance in the countdown to be part of the walk phase.

Jennifer Selby added that she is pro-pedestrian but she does not think it would be a good idea for all signals to have an automatic pedestrian phase when the light is green. Drivers might get aggressive and angry waiting for the signal. She said campus would be a logical location because priority is to pedestrians, bikes and then vehicles but it would never work at a location which has heavy vehicle traffic.

B. Complete Streets/Road Diets/Roundabouts – Gary Cziko

<http://gcziko20100720.notlong.com> Gary Cziko presented complete streets/road diets and roundabouts. He informed the group that road diets and roundabouts are an important part of complete streets. With a road diet from 4 lanes to 3 lanes you free up 11-12 feet of the road that can be used for bicycle lanes. Roundabout benefits include reducing injuries and crashes, lowering traffic speeds, and reducing noise and emissions. He presented several scenarios to include proper use of roundabouts. One issue includes is how to handle visibility impaired pedestrians. Considerations include HAWK signals and beacons to be activated. The notion of the road diet and the roundabouts go well together and make traveling safer. Gary Cziko would like to see a comprehensive complete street policy that includes roundabouts and road diets. Brandon Bowersox said he does know that there was some wording to be added to the Capital Improvement Plan and that the Mayor, Bill Gray and the city council have discussed roundabouts. The council has also discussed the idea to look at intersections where roundabouts would be a good choice. Gary Cziko would like roundabouts to be a consideration in the planning processes and to look at the advantages and disadvantages and also need to look at the pedestrian safety especially with impaired pedestrians. Jennifer Selby would like to watch a roundabout webinar at a future meeting.

C. Bicycle Education Video – Jennifer Selby

Jennifer Selby presented and informed the commission that filming for the bicycle education video began in June. She presented 8 minutes of raw footage of the video. The video is set to be completed August 15, 2010. She would like to have a community and campus premiere of the movie. One possible date is September 2, 2010, which is safety day on the Quad.

VII. Old Business

No old business.

VIII. Announcements

Jennifer Selby informed the commission that Rick Bernotas, Audrey Ishii, Susan Jones and Barak Rosenshine were all re-appointed to the commission. Their terms expire June 30, 2013. She is also going to have a booth at the Sweetcorn Festival which is August 27 – 28, 2010 which Rebecca Bird will head up – she needs some volunteers so please let Rebecca know if you can help. Also the City of Urbana has a new website that discusses Bike Urbana. www.urbanaininois.us

Adjournment

Brandon Bowersox adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.
This meeting was recorded