

Meeting Summary
Northwest Plan
Advisory Committee
July 13, 2005
Northwest Library

Attendees

John Best, Far NW Civic Association
Michael Bratka, HER Commercial
Lou Briggs, Worthington City Council
Mike Brown, Summerwood Civic Assoc.
Bill Lewis, Columbus Transportation Division
Rosemarie Lisko, NW Civic Association
John Macomber, Brookside Woods
Greg Marietti, Augustine Development
Judy Perry, Smoky Ridge Civic Association
Laura Shinn, OSU

Bob Tedrick, Shaker Square Civic
Suzanne Vais, Columbus Planning Division
Katy Waters, Suburban News Publication
Jane Weislogel, Shaker Square Civic Assoc.

Suzanne Vais, Senior Planner with the Columbus Planning Division, opened the meeting at approximately 7:05 p.m. Ms. Vais indicated that the main topic of the meeting was to discuss traffic issues impacting the area. Bill Lewis with the Columbus Transportation Division was also in attendance to help facilitate the discussion.

First, the group reviewed copies of the traffic/transportation recommendations contained in the 1991 Northwest Plan. Ms. Vais indicated that the goal with the updated plan is to provide strategic and realistic recommendations. Funding issues need to be taken into consideration.

The following are the comments from the review of the 1991 recommendations:

- The 1991 plan recommended several changes to the city's thoroughfare plan. The thoroughfare plan was updated in 1993 to reflect those recommendations. Bill Lewis stated that the city's position currently is to modify the thoroughfare plan based on regional traffic studies conducted for an area. This was mostly recently done for the Hayden Run corridor area.
- The 1991 plan called for several new interchanges off of SR 315 and I-270. Those recommendations would not meet the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) spacing requirements. However, Mr. Lewis indicated that the 1991 plan did call for an improved intersection at SR 315 and Hard Road. This will occur during the next phase of the Hard

Road widening project. Additionally, Mr. Lewis noted that ODOT would be improving I-270 at the SR 23 interchange.

- It was suggested that Franklin County be approached for possible funding of roadway improvements in the area. The county funded the improvements to Sawmill Road north of Saltergate Road several years back.
- There was a question as to when a traffic impact study is required with new development. Mr. Lewis indicated that a traffic impact study is triggered when there would be more than 200 peak hour trips generated from a new residential development or 400 peak hour trips generated from a new commercial development. The group agreed that a more comprehensive approach should be taken instead of looking at just one project at a time. Mr. Lewis indicated that the city is looking into modifying the Traffic Standards Code to create a more comprehensive examination of traffic impacts along a road.
- The 1991 plan contains several recommendations for grade separations at the CSX Railroad. The Hard Road grade separation is currently being constructed. The group agreed that the next priority is SR 161 and the updated plan should reflect this priority. It was also mentioned that there is some state money for railroad crossings but it is a very competitive application process.
- The 1991 plan recommended potential bikeway and pedestrian path locations. The group had the following comments:
 - The priority should be to provide links in the existing bikepath and sidewalk system to create a comprehensive network. For example, SR 161 has the potential to connect to existing pedestrian and bike facilities in both Worthington and Dublin.
 - Connection people to parks, libraries, schools, shopping, and senior housing is a major priority.
 - Provide recommendations as to type of facility – sidewalk, multi-purpose path, etc. – based on the type of road.
 - Display a map at the public open house where people can mark where sidewalks and paths are needed.
 - Require sidewalks and the appropriate bike facilities to be constructed with all future roadway improvements.

Next, the group participated in an exercise to identify the major traffic issues impacting the area. Each group member was asked to identify the top five issues. These issues are in addition to traffic issues impacting SR 161. It is assumed that SR 161 will be a major priority of the plan.

The following is a list of the traffic issues identified (these are in no specific order). These will be shared at the public open house for comment/reaction.

- Pedestrian facilities and bike accommodations along Sawmill Road, especially at the I-270 crossing.
- Pedestrian and bike connections under I-270 near Smoky Row.
- Connections to the Olentangy bike trail.
- Hard Road -- gaps in connectivity of sidewalks, width of road.
- Grade crossing at CSX tracks at Hard Road, SR 161 and Snouffer Road.
- Sawmill Road from SR 161 to Saltergate Road – traffic congestion.
- Billingsley Road, especially near Sawmill Road – traffic congestion.

- Summitview Road – traffic congestion.
- Speed limits on Snouffer and West Case roads – need to be lower.
- West Case Road at Riverside Drive – road needs to be widened and sidewalks constructed.
- Godown Road – link to bikepath at Antrim Park.
- West Case Road between Sawmill and Godown roads – add sidewalk or multi-purpose path.
- Olentangy River Road – widen and add sidewalks.
- Henderson Road – add sidewalks.
- Traffic congestion at the Snouffer and Sawmill road intersection
- Westbound SR 161 at Olentangy River Road – merge to one lane causes congestion.
- Review and complete all existing bike/pedestrian paths. Link to surrounding communities' path systems.
- Try to link schools and parks together.
- When possible develop multi-purpose paths separated from road for bikes and pedestrians.
- Westbound I-270 exit north onto Sawmill Road – heavy congestion.
- Need traffic light at SR 161 and Federated Boulevard.
- Need to resurface Hard Road between Sawmill Road and Smoky Row.
- Congestion at SR 315 northbound to I-270 eastbound.
- Grade separation at railroad crossing on SR 161.
- Extend Godown Road north to SR 161.
- Add some time to the green light southbound on Olentangy River Road at Bethel Road.
- Need stop sign at Linworth and Olentangy River roads.
- Grade separation at railroad tracks on Godown Road.
- Repair Godown Road between West Case and Linworth roads.
- Heavy traffic at Summitview Road and Smoky Row due to two daycare centers at the corner.
- Bikepath along Hard Road – to help connect library and Kilbourne High School.
- Need sidewalks along Sawmill Road to connect to Chapman Elementary and the park that is adjacent to the school.
- Need better access to shopping areas.
- Sidewalks are needed along Smoky Road. This will help connect people to nearby schools and the library.
- Widen Linworth Road and SR 161 intersection to allow more space for left turn stacking.
- Bike/walking paths on Olentangy River Road south of existing Worthington path.
- Widen Snouffer Road and Smoky Row intersection to allow for turn lanes.

Note: The Transportation Division has reviewed the list of issues and the following items can be studied/reviewed now for possible modification. A few items fall outside of Columbus' jurisdiction. The appropriate jurisdiction will be contacted. Updates will be provided as the reviews are completed.

- Reduce speed limits on Snouffer Road and West Case Road - Conduct speed studies.
- Westbound SR 161 at Olentangy River Road one lane merge causes congestion - Conduct intersection study. (Franklin County and Worthington)

- Need traffic light on SR 161 at Federated Boulevard - Conduct engineering study, including signal warrant analysis.
- Add green time southbound on Olentangy River Road at Bethel Road - Conduct operations study.
- Need stop sign to replace yield sign at Linworth Road and Olentangy River Road - Conduct stop sign analysis. (Franklin County)
- Heavy traffic at Summitview Road and Smoky Row Road - Conduct capacity analysis.
- Widen Snouffer Road intersection with Smoky Row Road - Conduct capacity analysis. (Franklin County)

The meeting concluded at approximately 9:00 pm. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be Thursday, August 18 at 7 pm at the Northwest Library. The main topic will be parks and recreation.