

February 8, 2022 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Panel Meeting Notes

Loop Trail – Florence said that SEMCOG has now awarded the \$1.4 million. Lucie said that we are now in fundraising mode and that she is now applying for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant and that it will go before the County Board to be approved soon. Florence asked about a timeline for construction. Lucie said that it will be constructed in 2023 and that it will be financially covered once the additional funds are raised. Mayor Clark said that this will be a good project for the City of Monroe.

Cornerstone Route – Florence showed how many signs there will be in each municipality. She asked about Road Commission approval. Matt said that there is no issue with the signs and that they should be okay to construct, but that it is not formally approved until the construction plans are received by the Road Commission. Lucie said that we can't move forward until the funding is decided and that we need to get as much money as we can, and that we need \$120 thousand to \$125 thousand, and that we can get half of that from grants. She said that if we can't get the full amount then we will need to scale back the signs, and that it is up to the signage subcommittee to raise this money.

Al asked if we are asking the townships for money. Florence asked if we have a mechanism in this committee to raise the money and she suggested forming a subcommittee, so that we could present a full picture of what we need to each municipality. Al said that we should ask for the financial support sooner rather than later from the municipalities, and that we should also talk to local companies soon about sponsorship. He said that we should present the signage plan and ask for the financial support at the same time.

Andrea said that it is possible that the Village of Dundee could provide some funding. Bill said that his club will provide a donation. Sue suggested coming up with a nominal amount per sign and agreed with Al about the timing of asking for the funding. Jim asked about using the alternative transportation money that will be available. Lucie said that this money will probably not be available until the summer. Sue said that the window for the Ralph Wilson Foundation money is only from October to December. Mary B. said that we can also apply directly to the foundation, too.

Jim said that it is hard to say when Luna Pier could come up with the money and how much they could come up with. He said that it would be easiest if we could come up with a cost per sign. Andrea agreed and said that Dundee would also like this. Mayor Clark also agreed and said that the goals of the project and its costs should be presented to the municipalities.

Lucie said that the costs will be \$250 per sign not counting the medallion. Mayor Clark asked about whether money would be needed to sustain the signs. Bill thought we should be able to cover the costs if we received \$2,000 per community and that private funds could cover the rest of it.

Lucie said that the Road Commission will need an agreement that the communities can pay for the sign maintenance. Brian suggested that not all communities are likely to prioritize the signs equally. Paul asked if we could phase in the signs and suggested that we should have communities incorporate the signs into their Parks and Recreation Plans. He mentioned that Frenchtown Charter Township was currently working on its Plan.

Florence asked for fundraising volunteers. Sue volunteered. Florence asked if any companies would want their brand on the signs. Andrea suggested that it could be a secondary sign under the first one. Lucie showed a picture of the signs and a map of the route with the construction drawings. Bill

mentioned that this route will link to the Monroe Loop project. Florence showed pictures of possible medallion signs. Lucie said that she liked Sign #8 because it shows how Monroe County is the cornerstone and she liked the shape of the sign. Bill asked if we could make this the actual sign. Matt wasn't sure that it could be an approved sign but would consult the sign manual. Brian said that, in the future, there might be other branded routes that are part of the cornerstone route so it might be best not to make the medallion the actual sign.

Bill said that his club liked Sign #10, but with the picture of the state. Randy said that the M is part of the County's branding logo, so that Sign #7 that had both the logo and the picture of the state might be best. Florence said that she will try to come up with an action plan.

Trail & Bicycle Plan – Florence asked if the plan on the website is the final plan. Lucie said that it is and that the sign plan is an appendix to that plan. Florence said that she will send out a schedule for the municipality meetings.

Trail Project Plan – Florence presented the list of projects in the action plan with an included time frame. Sue presented an excel spreadsheet of funding sources and a prioritized project list with the possible funding sources for those projects. Brian mentioned that it is difficult to be awarded CMAQ money unless one can show an actual air quality benefit to the project. Alex agreed and said that it is difficult to get bicycle projects to compete. He said that other funding sources might be better. Sue asked to talk to Mary B. for further assistance on generating possible funding sources. Sue asked if there was a way to post her list. Florence suggested using Google's services.

MCRC 5-Year Plan/Cornerstone Overlay – Bill said that he has not had a chance to look at this yet.

Monument Signage Meeting – Florence asked Mike to send her a contact list from MDOT so that she could work on setting up this meeting.

LaPlaisance Road Roundabout – Jim said that he likes the new LaPlaisance Road roundabout and said that he hopes to ride his bicycle on it soon. Mike said that he

Mary K. thanked Sue for her work on the Excel spreadsheet. She said that something will need to be submitted by February 16th to get on the agenda for the February 22nd Frenchtown Charter Township board meeting. She also said that Jefferson Schools is waiting to hire a new superintendent before getting involved with Safe Routes to School.

Berlin Township/Swan Creek Roundabout – Mike said that he does not have information on this at the moment but that he will check on it.

City of Monroe – Mayor Clark said that the City's bike/trails committee has met for the third or fourth time now.

Bedford Township – Al said that the sooner the better to get any presentations on the agenda for the Township, because they will be doing their budget in March. He mentioned the Bedford Community Foundation as a potential funding source.

SEMCOG – Brian said that they are moving forward with their Traffic Safety Committee, and that they have launched a web page for SEMCOG's multimodal tool. He said that SEMCOG is continuing to work with Monroe County communities to help them get TAP grants.

Cycling Club – Bill said that the Club has allocated money for bicycle maintenance stations in the County and that there will be two of them.

Other comments – Sue asked about the signage project rideout item on the agenda. Florence said that she had the idea that there might be too many signs, so that it might be good to have someone ride the route, and that it probably would be better to do it when it is warmer. Bill said that the Club already has plans to do this. He said that he already has a copy of the document showing where the signs will be.

Lucie suggested that it would be good to create some kind of GIS app eventually, but for now we'll probably just have to use a paper map. Florence said that it is up to the committee members if we want to do a rideout, and that we can decide once we know how much funding that we will actually have.