

## **April 12, 2022 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Panel Meeting Notes**

**Loop Trail** – Lucie said that things are moving along and that the funding request has been completed. She said that they are now entering the engineering phase of the project.

**Heritage Trail** – Lucie said that the permit for the work has been awarded and that she is actively seeking funding for the remainder of the project.

**Cornerstone Route Signage** – Jim said that progress is being made for preparing a rideout but that the weather has not been conducive for it yet but that it will likely be better when May comes around. Lucie said that we are still in waiting mode on the Ralph Wilson and DALMAC grants.

**Municipal Presentations** – Florence said that both Frenchtown Charter and Bedford Townships have contributed \$2,000 apiece. She said that the next presentation will be at Monroe Charter Township, and she asked for volunteers for future municipal meetings.

Paul asked about approaching businesses for donations. Florence said that she will be asking the Community Foundation for funds, and that she needs to speak to Jeff about getting some information needed for the application. She also mentioned approaching the La-Z-Boy Foundation. Jeff said that any grant requests would need to be approved by the County Board, and that he's have to check about how contributions from private entities would work. Jim asked about tax implications, and mentioned that destinations for cyclists might also want to contribute. Florence and Jim discussed how we could recognize contributors. Mary B. suggested that a minimum donation could be required to be featured on a sign, with most donors just being recognized on a website.

**Trail Project List** – Florence suggested that we should start preparing for our next projects. Dori asked about the timeframes listed on the project list. Lucie said that the listed timeframes are not necessarily when they will be completed, and that they are just a guideline for identifying short-, medium-, and long-term projects. She clarified that many of these proposed trails are currently just lines drawn on a map at a moment and that these projects will need a champion. She suggested that federal entities could help with this, and mentioned that we will likely need planning assistance grants from SEMCOG, and help from MDOT for projects adjacent to state highways. Jim mentioned that S. Dixie Highway is not an ideal bicycle route.

Florence began identifying the municipal jurisdictions for each project on the Panel's list. Jim asked specifically about the I-275 Trail. He said that there is a connector already in Wayne County. Lucie said that the I-275 Trail no longer exists in Monroe County. Florence mentioned that this trail came up as a discussion topic at the Bedford Township meeting. Brian said that this project was looked at as a possible connection, as it was mentioned by stakeholders when SEMCOG prepared its bike/ped. plan, but that the cost was estimated to be around \$25 million, and when including the portion in Wayne County that would need to be constructed to make the connection, it would likely be a \$30 million project. Therefore, the project was put on the back burner and other possible connections were explored instead. Mike said that no financial study by MDOT has been done for this connector, but that it would be a significant cost. Florence asked how the I-275 rehabilitation was funded. Mike said that the I-275 work has so far all been done in Wayne County, not Monroe County. He said that they would also need to consider how many people would want to ride next to a freeway, and that other routes may be less expensive to consider. Jim mentioned that crossing busy roads is another minus for having

a trail along I-275, as well as that it goes through submerged wetlands. Mike said that bicycle/pedestrian planning has evolved since the I-275 trail was originally constructed. Lucie said that our plan currently indicates using Grafton Road for the connection.

Florence asked about Telegraph Road and mentioned that the City of Monroe was looking at the idea of a path near the former La-Z-Boy site. Lucie said that a path along Telegraph Road would likely not happen all at once and would probably need to be constructed in pieces. Paul said that Frenchtown Charter Township has added a path along Telegraph Road as part of their Master Plan, and that perhaps we should look at having the municipalities cooperate in this regard so that they would all add it to their Master Plans and develop complete street requirements.

Jim brought up Summit Street and mentioned that it is already going to be marked as bicycle lanes. Matt explained that they only applied for the funding for this and that it hasn't been awarded yet. He said that the portion that they applied for is the portion of Summit Street from the state line to Bay Creek Road. Jim mentioned that the other portion of this project is on Bay Creek Road itself from Summit Street up to Luna Pier Road and said that this is a good bicycle route since it is low traffic.

Al discussed the Consear and Temperance Road project. He said that these would be good roads for paved shoulders in Bedford Township since they have newer surfaces than some of the other roads.

Lucie discussed the study done in the Village of Dundee about pedestrian safety and said that the Village has not requested to move forward on anything from the study yet. Lucie discussed the idea of a possible road diet for the 4-lane portion of M-50 west of Telegraph Road and said that she thought that this would make the road safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. Paul asked if this would include a pedestrian refuge. Lucie said that it could.

Paul discussed the idea of a bridge across the River Raisin connecting the Worrell Trail to Waterloo Park and said that he would be willing to champion this project. Jim asked if the bridge would be an alternative to crossing M-50 at Raisinville Road for the Loop Trail. Lucie said that it is not under consideration at the moment.

Sue said that she would champion any project along North Dixie Highway. Mike said that Monroe Township would probably need to champion an M-50 road diet project.