

## **May 19, 2022 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Panel Meeting Notes**

**Loop Trail** – Lucie said that the project has started and that the planning and design work is happening, but that construction probably will not start until next year and that this is a long process. She said that it will probably be fully completed in late 2023 or early 2024.

**Heritage Trail** – Lucie said that the much of the work being done is being funded by a DNR grant. She said that there are additional fundraising efforts underway but that there is no news at this point.

In regards to the Loop Trail, Jeff asked if there is a day set for meeting with the local residents yet. Lucie said that no date has been scheduled yet but that she will be in touch.

**Cornerstone Route Signage** – Jim said that he has not done the ride yet. Florence said that she has received an alternative sign design and that she has sent it to the Road Commission and asked them if this design would affect the cost. She said that the final sign design has still not been decided, and that a sign maintenance program still needs to be determined.

Florence did say that the Ralph Wilson and DALMAC grants were fully funded, and mentioned that we have received \$2,000 each so far from Frenchtown and Monroe Charter Townships, and that the bicycle club has also pledged money.

She stated that the Village of Dundee and Berlin Charter Township presentations are scheduled to happen in June. She asked Jim when the Luna Pier presentation could be done. Jim said that he would ask around and would get back in touch with her. Florence discussed approaching La-Z-Boy for funding, and mentioned that if we approach the Community Foundation for funding, we will have to apply for a grant with them.

**Trail Projects** – Florence presented the action plan and then suggested coming up with one or two projects that would be the group's next achievable projects. Jim suggested that the Luna Pier Road and bridge is an easy one and would be done in 2024. Paul mentioned the connection to the Iron Belle trail and stated that there are many funding opportunities and a lot of current inertia for this project.

Jim mentioned the Erie to Luna Pier project on the list. He said that the route is already clear cut and that there are many potential funding opportunities. He said that getting consent from Consumers Energy for a project should be easy. Jim said that he thought the project is a lot closer than 7 to 10 years to complete and that it would be a great project since it would bypass the current truck routes that can be unsafe to bicycle on.

Al explained the Consear Road project and stated that it is a good potential route as it goes by several of the Township's parks.

Lucie explained that the Erie to Luna Pier project is a paved shoulder project. Jim expressed support of taking bicycle traffic off of Luna Pier Road. He asked if the separate trail should be listed as a standalone project in the Plan. Lucie stated that we would need to get support for this project from both Erie Township and the Monroe County Road Commission.

Lucie agreed that the North Dixie Highway project connecting to the Iron Belle Trail would be a good project. The Panel agreed that we should focus on these two projects.

Jim said that he has received some leads from Dick Micka that he would look into. Lucie asked if we know who owns the easement. Jim says that the property maps show the trail like it is a street and not owned by anyone, but that he knows who owns the properties to the side of the easement. Lucie said that it is probably Consumer's Energy that owns it and that she has a contact there. She also suggested contacting the Erie Township assessor for information. Jim said that he would ask his assessor at the City of Luna Pier, as well.

Lucie suggested getting a group of stakeholders together to focus on the North Dixie Highway trail. She mentioned several different organizations that could sit at the table. She said that getting the easements for this trail may be challenging. Florence said that having the Great Lakes Way people sit at the table would be good, too. Lucie also suggested having Dick Micka present.

Dale brought up South Dixie Hwy. and mentioned asking Monroe Charter Township and the marijuana businesses to help find a way that people in wheelchairs would not have to travel in the road. Florence agreed that we should get the marijuana businesses to help contribute, but that it's not currently in the Township's marijuana ordinance.

Lucie mentioned repainting the bicycle markings on M-50 as an easy project that we could get accomplished. Dale brought up that the current marijuana business on S. Dixie is not in compliance with the ordinance as it is too close to an educational facility. Florence agreed that we should add the M-50 project and that we should take a look at the S. Dixie project.

Florence brought up the issue of electric bicycles. Paul mentioned that the laws have not kept up and they still refer to engines in the form of cc. maximum rather than referring to electric motor wattage.

Florence asked if Lucie had a chance to overlay our Plan with the Road Commission's 5-year plan. Lucie said that she has only looked at it so far, but that she will examine it in more detail.

Ryan asked about the possibility of the M-50 road diet that Lucie brought up at the April meeting. Lucie said that it is a great idea but that we need buy-in from Monroe Charter Township and MDOT and that there will have to be public hearings. Florence said that Al at Monroe Charter Township gave her a contact from the township that could potentially serve on our panel. The panel agreed that Lucie should look into pursuing this project.

Marketing/Communication – Florence said that she has seen SEMCOG's current bicycle/pedestrian marketing campaign. Ryan mentioned that SEMCOG gives out free promotional materials to communities.

Dale brought up a contact name that could help with the S. Dixie Hwy. project.

Frenchtown Ch. Twp. – Paul brought up the idea of coming up with language for communities to put into their ordinances.

Luna Pier – Jim mentioned a transportation equity grant that is open at the moment for communities to apply for. He asked about contact names for ITC and the Detroit River refuge and if anyone knows people there. He said that he would ask the marijuana businesses in Luna Pier whether they would help contribute funds, and that the City will have two marijuana businesses.

Roundtable- Florence said that she hasn't heard from Bill but mentioned that Bill did not think that the Lake Erie ride would happen this year.