

**EAU CLAIRE
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting of February 16, 2021

Members Present: Bill Berg, Kyle Brouillard, Doug Dobson, Ann Francis, JJ Henricksen, Scott Kmetz, Scott Larson, Aaron Salmon, Ellen Sorenson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Trevor Wittwer, Ned Noel

Visitors Present: Daniel Norstedt 211 Garfield Avenue

1. Call to Order. Chair Mr. Salmon called the virtual meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Approval of January 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Francis moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Berg and the motion carried.

3. Open Public Comment Period. No one spoke during the comment period.

4. Public Discussions Item 1: 2021 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

Mr. Wittwer presented several CIP projects. BPAC's recommendations will be given to City Council for their consideration.

Eddy Lane

Eddy Lane is a neighborhood bicycle route. The plan is to keep the bike lanes and east of Mercury Avenue add sharrows. Crosswalk painting will be added at intersections. There is a bump out at Sam Davey Elementary and their input has been given on the project.

Motion: Ms. Henricksen moved to approve the design as presented. Ms. Francis second and the motion carried.

Lake Street

Lake Street from 5th Avenue to West Grand Avenue is the project scope. Sidewalks will remain on both sides and new bike lanes will be added. North side parking will stay but not south side. This section is also a neighborhood bicycle route. A portion of the West Grand Avenue trail at the crossing will be resurfaced. This last bike lane section will connect downtown to Carson Park.

Motion: Ms. Francis moved to approve the design as presented. Mr. Kmetz seconded and the motion carried.

Omaha Street

Omaha Street from Starr Avenue to McDonough Street is the scope. This section is a neighborhood bicycle route. BPAC in 2019 discussed not including bike lanes since the traffic is low. More bicycle signage was recommended every few blocks and a crosswalk at Starr Avenue on the south side of Omaha Street. There was discussion about keeping the Yellowstone Trail signs.

Motion: A motion was made to include wayfinding signage on Starr Avenue, and Birch Street near Putnam Street to help people know that Omaha Street is a bicycle route. Bicycle route signage was also recommended to be included on Omaha Street. Ms. Henricksen moved to approved. Seconded by Mr. Dobson and the motion carried.

Garfield Avenue

This is a one block project of Garfield Avenue from State Street to Park Avenue. Parking is proposed to remain on the north side. Third Ward Neighborhood and UWEC input have been given. The City is recommending no access on Garfield Avenue to the UWEC Hibbard parking lot and a right in/out only access on State Street. Members did not agree with right turns only on State Street entrance; with more traffic using Park Avenue and increasing pedestrian conflicts at the corner of Park Avenue and Garfield Avenue. The Third Ward is not in favor of removing parking on the north side of Garfield Avenue. Members wanted a bike lane instead of parking to connect bicyclists from the neighborhood to UWEC. It was considered an important connection to the bike trail. Crosswalk painting will be added with stop bars at the intersections.

Dan Norstedt, 211 Garfield Avenue was not in favor of the access on Garfield Avenue to the UWEC parking lot and wanted to retain a full access on State Street. He stated he can live with the parking or a bike lane on Garfield Avenue. He suggested UWEC should install a tire pump nearby.

Motion: Ms. Francis motioned to change the design to have the parking removed on the north side, add bike lanes, wayfinding signage, and crosswalks with stop bars. Seconded by Mr. Dobson and the motion carried.

BPAC was also concerned about the pedestrian conflicts at the intersection of Park Avenue and Garfield Avenue, with the right in and right out change on State Street that staff will recommend with the Hibbard parking lot. BPAC was in favor of restricting left turns out of the parking lot onto State Street northbound, but wanted to keep the left turn movement of northbound vehicles on State Street looking to enter the parking lot. Consideration to implement "No Left Turn" signage out of the parking lot exit to State Street was discussed. The minutes will be forwarded to the Plan Commission for the UWEC site plan item for their new parking lot.

Keith Street

The Keith Street project was presented as a primary bicycle route. Bike lanes on both sides will be added from Clairemont Avenue to Rist Avenue. Sharrows will be added on the southbound lane due to the smaller right of way and parking lane. Bump outs will be added to reduce pedestrian crossing distances. The school district wanted on-street parking to be saved for events. The bike box will be saved but the lane will be moved to the east side along the curb.

Motion: Ms. Henricksen moved to approve as presented with recommendations to eliminate parking on the west side from Rist Avenue to Goff Avenue so that bike lanes could be added for both sides. Ms. Sorenson seconded and the motion carried.

Mitscher Avenue

Mitscher Avenue is proposed as a small rural cross-section to extend utilities along the stretch based on a petition to serve a vacant lot. The road will be urbanized when more lots come into the city at a future date.

Wildwood Court

Wildwood Court is a reconstruction project since the pavement is in rough shape and some drainage issues will be addressed with the project.

Riverview Drive

Riverview Drive improvements were presented. The neighborhood was not entirely in favor of sidewalks per a survey. Riverview Drive is a primary bicycle route. Proposed are bike lanes in both directions with an urbanized section, as was done last year. A trail will be added on the east side and reduced down to sidewalk width before Hickory Lane. Bike lanes will stop at Hickory Lane due to utility conflicts limiting street width. Sharrows will be painted thereafter. Crosswalk paintings will be provided.

Motion: Ms. Henricksen motioned to approve, with the route being critical for bicyclists along the river and airport, along with a sidewalk for safe pedestrian travel. Seconded by Mr. Dobson and the motion carried.

5. Other Business Item 1: Scooter Share Program Update

Mr. Wittwer presented updates on two vendors looking at 20 to 700 scooters for the city. Agreements will be provided for parking locations with the City or private properties. A draft ordinance will be provided in March for more input. A safety concern is allowing scooters on trails going too fast or with children using them. UWEC is supportive of using trails to move around the city to connect to campus sites. Members were encouraged to do their homework on the issue and to consider safety education.

5. Other Business Item 2: 2021 Work Plan Discussion

The parklet ordinance will need to be delayed due to scooter share companies wanting to start business in the city soon. State Street data results need to be completed before considering the Complete Streets policy. COVID-19 is not a reliable time to be conducting research. No questionnaire on bicycle and pedestrian has been developed and members would like to see a survey.

6. Discussion and Direction:

A. Future Agenda Items

- Members wanted to develop draft bicycle and pedestrian questionnaire for the March meeting and speak on pedestrian safety during the winter months.
- Scooter Share draft ordinance review

B. Announcements

- None.

6. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m by Ms. Francis and seconded by Mr. Dobson.

Submitted by:



JJ Henricksen, Secretary