



City of Aurora

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday

June 15, 2023

6:00 PM

The Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Board Meeting for Thursday, June 15, 2023 was called to order at 6:07 pm.

ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL

The following members were present:

- Doug Johnson, Chair
- Josh Harris, Vice Chair
- Rene Craig, Secretary
- Mary Jane Cross, member
- Margaret Stokes, member
- Charlie Zine, member

OTHERS PRESENT

- Lara Johnson, citizen of Aurora
- • Jeff Palmquist, Fox Valley Park District
- Ryan Peterson, Planner, Epstein Global
- Dorothy Thompson, citizen of Aurora

STAFF PRESENT

- Roopa Anjanappa, Civil Engineer, City of Aurora
- Alex Minnella, Senior Engineer, City of Aurora

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION 1

Zine motioned and Cross seconded the approval of the May 18, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously. Consideration of the July 19, 2022 minutes was deferred.

The group continued housekeeping discussions of how to manage ideas that do not result in direct action across meetings, as well as how to keep moving work forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thompson, a citizen of Aurora who bicycles daily, addressed the board regarding a dangerous crossing of the Batavia Spur of the Illinois Prairie Path at Butterfield Road, near DuPage Parkway.

She noted how very fast traffic is there and that she has waited as long as 15 minutes to cross the road. The board confirmed the intersection is in Kane County and that the road is an IDOT state route. The group discussed other similar intersections that were made safer with a bridge, as well as aldermanic routes pursued in the past to resolve such issues. The big stumbling block here is the route's designation as under state control. The group agreed to find more options to keep this route safe.

Johnson summarized efforts to build a coalition of allied, city-related bicycle and pedestrian groups in villages neighboring Aurora. Recent local bicyclist fatalities have elevated concerns among safety advocates to a near-crisis level. The board discussed crash data collection options and expressed a desire for "heat maps" for Aurora.

Palmquist suggested a strategy for acquiring tangible infrastructure, noting that having a lead agency would help move ideas into actual projects. The group discussed efforts emerging in Batavia and the general effectiveness of road diets.

AGENDA

- Social Media Advocacy

The board confirmed the desire to update the website and create a social media presence, citing other local groups that are good at these things. The group expressed a desire to develop a communication plan.

- Staff Update

Minnella noted Peterson's presentation is today.

- County Updates

There were no county updates.

- Park District Updates

There were no park district updates.

- Bike Plan Update

Peterson presented to the board Epstein Global's schedule for creating the City of Aurora's new bike plan over the course of the next nine months and indicated that the goal date for a revised plan is March 2024. Peterson pointed specifically to the instances in which the board's feedback will be solicited and emphasized the importance of the group's involvement. Peterson and the board entered into a detailed discussion of points of consideration within the plan, and Peterson gathered the board's feedback. First the group reviewed plan priorities, a summary of the state of the city, plan goals and objectives, and an overview of Epstein's process of public engagement, existing conditions, needs analysis, recommendations, and policies/programs. Next, the group engaged in an interactive discussion responding to various questions about biking and walking in Aurora. One big theme that emerged was connectivity, with a note that railways have come a long way in allowing over/underpasses.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a June 22nd bike ride with Epstein on June 22 starting at 3:30 pm at City Hall and proceeding north on the river trail to Illinois.

ADJOURNMENT

Harris motioned and Cross seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:16 pm. The motion passed unanimously.