

**The COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE held a Meeting on MONDAY, OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 beginning at 6:00 P.M.**

**CD PRESENT:** Chair Callahan, Cerra, Oswald, Jessie, Mitchell

**FINANCE PRESENT:** Chair Stewart, Tollett, Baird, Jessie, Davis

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Law Dir Deery, Safety Service Dir Brubaker, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Asst Dir Calvert, Engineer Schneider, Parks Dir Reardon, CD Manager Almobayyed, Sanitation Supt Eye, CMG Supt Strohsack, Asst Law Dir Breunig, Councilperson Keys and Simmons

**1. Approval of the Regular CD Meeting Minutes ~ SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

**Motion made by Mrs. Mitchell, second by Mr. Cerra to approve the said meeting minutes.**

**2. The matter of the Introduction of an Elyria Active Transportation Plan [ATP] as presented by Lorain County Public Health.**

Referred By: Sara Tillie of Lorain County Public Health District

Ms. Tillie of Lorain County Health District, 9880 Murray Ridge Rd., Elyria.

Ms. Tillie said that she is here to introduce the Elyria Active Transportation Plan (ATP). This plan was put together between Lorain County Public Health and The City of Elyria, done in partnership with the Ohio Dept. of Public Health. She wants to give the committee a brief introduction to what the plan is and what's been done over the past 18 months and getting the approval of Elyria City Council. Ms. Tillie will present the plan at this time and will be back at another committee meeting to answer questions and discuss more in depth.

Ms. Tillie began by explaining what this plan is. An Active Transportation Plan (ATP for short) is a plan for walking and biking projects within the City. It's based on a data driven process. There are infrastructure and non-infrastructure activities that are recommended based on public feedback, analyzing crash data and analyzing current travel patterns of residents. This document is good for 5 years but it will be updated as the City's needs and the Community's needs change, the plan will be updated.

This ATP is important in our region and it's the key to unlocking State and Federal funding. Our metropolitan planning organization, NOACA and ODOT will require this element of pedestrian or bicycle safety in order to make a project go. This is a good way to make those decisions based on data.

The Health Dept is a part of this because they like people to be physically active and to be healthy, and make it safe and easy.

This project began in spring of 2020 and it went through steps and we are currently in the final stages of finalizing the plan. The plan will need to be officially adopted by City Council and then that will allow them to apply for additional funding.

The plan itself has many pages. Ms. Tillie brought up a map of the city which shows where the projects and routes will be. The projects are noted as to what type of projects they are and prioritized based on a matrix of data; crashes with bicycles and pedestrians, how many bicyclists are using a specific route, public feedback and input.

Ms. Tillie said that it was a challenge to engage the community during covid. They conducted 8 community stakeholder interviews, 3 public meetings via zoom and Face book live with about 10 to 30 residents. They released a public survey with 94 responses, and they surveyed every Elyria school principal. They held a community walk with 20 residents near Eastern Heights to discuss the challenges and concerns.

The plan will identify sidewalks and safe crossings to make sure that sidewalks are connected and in good shape and improving the safety of crossings to make sure there is appropriate signage and crosswalks marked. Ms. Tillie showed a picture of the intersection of Hilltop Park of what it looks like now and then she showed a picture of what it will look like with recommendations of sidewalks and improved crossings. The top sidewalk projects that were selected based on the feedback that was gathered were; Abbe Rd. at LCCC, S Abbe. Middle Ave (Colonial Oaks), Burns (Hilltop), Griswold, Murray Ridge & Adelbert (Crestwood School).

Another thing in the plan are neighborhood greenways which are nice comfortable neighborhood roads where people aren't speeding and not many cars travel on the road. There are trees and you would feel comfortable biking in the road.

She showed an existing street and an example of what it would look like with a neighborhood greenway. The roads selected as neighborhood greenways are; Washington Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> St/Eastern Hts/ Garford/Colgate/Prospect/Baldwin, Furnace St., East River/Calann/Prospect, and Georgetown.

Another thing in the plan is separated bike lanes, like what we have on Middle Ave. They usually go on roads that have high volume and high speeds and there is a physical separation between you and the car. The selected separated bike lane roads are; Leo Bullock Parkway, Lake Ave., Poplar St., Oberlin Rd., W. 2nd/3rd Street.

Another project identified in the plan are paved walking and biking paths, also referred to as a shared use paths, which are separated from the road. They are usually paved asphalt. They are out of the way of any vehicles. Here is the list of shared use paths/walking & biking paths; Abbe Rd. (LCCC), Broad St., Gulf (S. of Hilliard), E. Bridge/ Cleveland/ Center Ridge and Ford Rd./Black River Reservation Park.

Ms. Tillie completed her presentation.

Mrs. Davis asked about bike paths on residential streets. She has one on her street which runs into West River and goes onto Bell. She said that her street is a speedway, motorists pay no attention to the bike paths. They have been trying to lower the speed on her street for years. Mrs. Davis asked if this sort of bike path is put on a residential street, can they help to get the speed limit lowered?

Ms. Tillie said that is a concern that comes up from a lot of residents. Speeding is a number one issue when these are discussed. Going thru ODOT to get speed limits changed is a hard task. The plan doesn't identify a lot of roads that need speed limit changes because you might get stuck for a long time working on that. They can identify different ways to alter the design of the road that forces people to slow down.

Chair Callahan thanked Ms. Tillie for this presentation.

*Chair Stewart called Finance to order at 6:20 P.M. so that the JOINT Meeting of Community Development and Finance Committees could begin.*

*Mr. Cerra moved and Mrs. Mitchell seconded to adjourn the Community Development portion the this evening's meetings at 6:22 P.M.*

*MOTION CARRIED*

*And the evening's meetings continued with Finance which began at 6:25 P.M.*

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Colleen Rosado, Council Clerk Secretary*

*(Meeting was attended by Secretary Rosado and Meeting Minutes transcribed by Secretary Rosado)*