



**MINUTES  
BLOOMINGTON TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 4:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
109 EAST OLIVE STREET  
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

*This meeting was conducted under Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-07, Section 6 implemented in response to COVID-19, which suspended in-person attendance under the Open Meeting Act, 5 ILCS 120.*

**THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY. FOR THE FULL COMMENTS MADE AS THIS MEETING, PLEASE VIEW THE LIVE STREAM AVAILABLE AT:**

**[www.cityblm.org/live](http://www.cityblm.org/live)**

**The Transportation Commission Regular meeting convened virtually via Zoom conferencing with City Traffic Engineer Philip Allyn (Staff Liaison); City Engineer Craig Shonkwiler, and Commission Chairperson Maureen Bradley in-person in City Hall's Council Chambers.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Rickielee Benecke, Ms. Maureen (Reenie) Bradley, Mr. Edward Breitweiser, Mr. John Corey (departed @ 5:46 pm), Ms. Elicssha Sanders

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. George Boyle, City Attorney; AC Greg Scott, Police Dept.; Mr. Kevin Kothe, Director of Public Works; Mr. Craig Shonkwiler, City Engineer; and Mr. Philip Allyn, City Traffic Engineer.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Bradley called the meeting to order at 4:12 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL:** Mr. Allyn called the roll. With five members in attendance, a quorum was established.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**4. MINUTES:** Reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 18, 2020 regular meeting of the Bloomington Transportation Commission. Ms. Benecke motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Corey seconded the motion. The Transportation Commission unanimously approved the motion 5-0 via roll call vote.

**5. REGULAR AGENDA:**

**A. TC-2020-01: Election of Vice-Chairperson**

Ms. Bradley nominated Mr. Breitweiser as Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Breitweiser agreed to the nomination. Ms. Bradley moved to elect Mr. Breitweiser as Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Corey. Mr. Breitweiser was elected Vice-Chairperson 4-0 via roll call vote (Breitweiser abstained).

## **B. TC-2020-02: Constitution Trail Southeast Extension Project: Lafayette to Hamilton**

Mr. Allyn gave an overview of the background on this project to extend the Constitution Trail. Staff attempts to move forward with projects in our various City master plans when funding becomes available. In this case IDOT released Illinois Transportation Enhancement Project (ITEP) funding from the federal government. If selected for the grant, the City portion of costs will be either 20%, 10%, or 0% of the total cost depending on how the project scores compared to the other applicants.

Mr. Shonkwiler presented the details of the project including a walkthrough with photos of the area. The overall project will run from Lincoln Avenue to Hamilton Road. The ~1,200' between Lincoln to Lafayette will be constructed as a local project with a 10' wide asphalt path. Portions will be located on property to be acquired along the railroad. There will be a fence constructed along the railroad.

The portion between Lafayette and Hamilton will be included in the grant application. Between Lafayette and Bunn Street, a 10' wide path will run along the railroad down Easy Street, under Veterans Parkway and on to Bunn. It will continue south along Bunn Street to Hamilton. The exact location of the path will be determined during the Phase I study. The portion along Bunn will be upgraded to a path from the paved shoulder recommendation in the Bicycle Master Plan.

The intention is to apply for the grant by November 2, 2020. Staff is looking for an endorsement of the project from the Commission to support the application. This project is an opportunity to provide a connection past the Veterans Parkway barrier for pedestrians and bicyclists. This would be a transportation enhancement project, not a recreational project, so items such as benches and drinking fountains would not be included initially but could be added by the Parks Department at a later date.

Mr. Breitweiser provided positive feedback about the project. This is a key piece to connect the southern part of Bloomington to the central and northern parts of the City. He shared a concern with safety through this industrial area and asked that features such as adequate lighting be included.

As a recommendation separate from the project, Mr. Breitweiser mentioned that the entirety of Bunn Street from Oakland to Woodrig Road is a heavily used cyclist route and suggested looking at adding an on-road accommodation for bicycles such as bike lanes between Lincoln and the new path along Bunn.

Ms. Benecke stressed that there will be more than just cyclists using this path such as people going to a bus stop or people with various disabilities. This will be a good project to help make connections.

Mr. Shonkwiler mentioned that lighting will be applicable because it will help provide around the clock access and to be eligible for the grant, there cannot be time of day restrictions such as from dusk to dawn. He asked for suggestions in addition to lighting to help with safety in this area. Mr. Breitweiser suggested emergency call boxes and bike repair stations. Drinking fountains would help with dehydration and cleaning of potential wounds. Regular trail cleanup would be helpful given the industrial nature of the area and higher risk of debris on the trail. Informational signage relating to what to do in the case of an accident or danger. Ms. Bradley suggested directional signage could be helpful. Mr. Breitweiser suggested that with this path, there is increased likelihood of pedestrians around the railroad crossing on Bunn Street and suggested potentially pursuing upgraded crossing apparatus beyond the current lights such as gates.

Mr. Corey motioned to recommend that staff move forward with constructing the Constitution Trail Southeast Extension, Lafayette to Hamilton, contingent upon funding availability and submitting a 2020 ITEP Grant application for funding. Mr. Breitweiser seconded the motion. The Transportation Commission unanimously approved the motion 5-0 via roll call vote.

**C. Information:** September 2020 Citizen Comments/Complaints Summary

Ms. Bradley commented on the number of traffic calming requests and asked about the evaluation process. Mr. Allyn reviewed the policy, which is available on the City website, and the criteria for implementation.

**6. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. IDOT Route 9 Phase I Study**

Mr. Allyn indicated that IDOT has notified the City that they are moving forward with the next stage on the Route 9 project. They are still finishing the Phase I study and will be moving into preparing construction drawings. They are looking at scheduling the second project open house in the near future.

**B. Downtown Main Street Parking Configuration**

Mr. Allyn indicated that with the addition of the outdoor dining areas as a result of COVID, staff is working to incorporate these areas in the future and determine if adjustments to the marking plans are needed.

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Other items:**

Mr. Breitweiser asked about an article he saw regarding safety measures on Towanda Barnes at Baywood. Mr. Allyn indicated that there was a pedestrian hit by a car traveling at a high rate of speed while he was walking across Towanda Barnes. City staff has met with the County and is gathering data on the number of pedestrians in this area, when they are crossing, and what the vehicle speeds are on Towanda Barnes. Once we have all the data we need, we will work with the County on potential solutions.

Mr. Corey left the meeting at 5:46 pm.

Ms. Bradley provided additional information on the site details as well as feedback from the neighborhood.

Mr. Breitweiser stated that any investment in infrastructure that keeps people safe is worth making. This could be an opportunity to learn what people want to see to help them feel safe and could be helpful as we work with other agencies at locations that are not fully City controlled.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** Ms. Benecke made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sanders seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously 4-0 via roll call vote, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 pm.

Respectfully,

Philip Allyn  
City Traffic Engineer