

MEMO

TO: Task Force Commissioners

FROM: Andrew Beyer, P.E., Interim Chairperson

DATE: May 13, 2025 (DRAFT)

RE: May 13, 2025, Bicycle & Pedestrian Path Plan Task Force Meeting in Room 2044 @ 4:00 p.m. and Go to Meeting Minutes

Bicycle, Pedestrian Path Task Force Room 2044

May 13, 2025, 4:00 – 5:30 PM (America/Chicago)

PRESENT: Maureen McBroom, Andrew Beyer, Carol Quest, Kristine Butteris, Joe Kallas, Rod Laudenslager, Jeff Hensley, Kevin Weisman, Jody Rader

Agenda Items:

- 1) Call to Order by Andrew Beyer at 4:02 p.m.
- 2) Review and take possible action: Approve minutes of August 13, 2024 meeting and forward to the Public Works Commission for review and acknowledgement. Motion to approve: Joe Kallas, Second: Carol Quest. Approved unanimously.
- 3) Update, no action required: Tivoli Island Historic Bridge Study (WisDOT TAP Grant). Maureen presented update. Request for Proposals (RFP) due 5/13/25. Plan will be conducted this fall. Grant is an 80/20 with State sponsoring the 80%.
- 4) Update, no action required: S. Church Street Shared-use Path (WisDOT TAP Grant). Maureen presented update. Request for Proposals (RFP) due 5/13/25. City received grant for design and construction of a shared-use path along S. Church Street, between Jefferson Road and Air Park Drive. Grant is an 80/20 with State sponsoring the 80%. Task Force members' observations indicate more people are walking/biking now than a few years ago. The path is planned to be 10 feet wide, for year-round use. The nearby snowmobile route is not anticipated to be a conflict.
- 5) Update, for Discussion: City-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Network Plan (WisDOT TAP Grant). Jody Rader from HKGi presented slides and information on the City-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan that is under development.

(Jody's presentation:)

City-wide bike and ped plan:

- (Slides accompanied discussion.)
- Why paths?
- Variety of users
 - Walkers, bikers, going to work, people with disabilities, public transportation, those who choose not to drive, children, older adults, etc.
- Make connections- better connect to (variety of different places; see slides)
- Encourage/educate – (see slide)
 - Promote active living – don't need a gym membership, etc.
- Easy to prioritize and implement plan
 - Vision
 - Strategies for implementation
 - Not only city staff; champions/stewards of plan
 - Fundraising/grants
 - Catalyst projects to show progress right away
- Question: re: future project estimates?
 - HKGI will work with this group to determine the best level of cost estimates toward the end of the project;
 - Per mile cost?
 - Probably not enough detail to formal estimate, but enough for CIP/budgeting
- Project schedule: kick off in March
 - Staff
 - Community Advisory Group (Task Force Plus)
 - Collected info, now analyzing existing facilities, comments on what's working and what's not; this will run through summer
 - Community Engagement will continue through most of project
 - Mid-summer = priority engagement timeframe.
 - Pop-up events
 - Maybe 3 or 4 more meetings with this (task force plus) group
 - Task 4 – fall – develop draft recommendations; work with this group and staff to finalize over winter, then present to council and commissions early 2026.
- Community Engagement so far:
 - Review different possible events/ways to collect info
 - CE Plan has been drafted; engaging with people at different/right levels
 - Technical Advisory staff – city staff
 - Community Advisory Group – task force plus
 - Provide recommendations, review draft materials, recommend plan to PWC, share engagement opportunities
 - Trying to align project meetings with the quarterly meetings this group normally does.
 - Listening Sessions

- Developing stakeholder list to invite
 - Looking for suggestions from task force plus group on who to invite
- Project website – general public outreach
 - Social media
 - City connection newsletter article (fall)
 - Print media/flyers
- General in-person events
 - Community workshop/walkability assessment
 - A walk audit – assess experiences in real life
 - Open house – toward end of project
 - Pop-up events – set up a booth at other events to engage people.
- Survey and pin-point map – live on website right now.
 - Will be open through July.
 - Pin-point: interactive mapping tool; put a “pin” on a map and tell people what they think
 - Carol: is the bike plan prominently displayed on the City website?
 - Can it be highlighted in a “bubble”?
- Meet back with this group in late August (?)
- Then return to community with draft ideas
 - Series of community events later in the fall
- CE so far:
 - 152 responses as of last week
 - *Please take the survey!*
 - ~ 10% experience disabilities
 - Most bike/walk for exercise/recreational purposes
 - (see slide)
 - 43% interested and concerned
 - 32% enthusiastic and confident
 - Reasons not to bike or walk more:
 - Lack of facilities, unsafe near motorized traffic, unsafe at intersections, destinations are too far apart
 - Wayfinding or other things may help with destinations being too far apart.
 - E-bikes are used a lot
 - Parks, trails, shopping, dining and entertainment are top destinations for biking and walking.
 - Ideas: (see slide)
 - Joe K’s questions: what exactly is a bike facility?
 - Answer: any infrastructure built for biking/walking: sidewalk, bike lane, trail, restrooms, trailhead,
 - Is biking on a sidewalk ok?
 - No; City has children under 13 can ride on sidewalk
 - Not downtown – no wheeled devices allowed downtown
 - state statute determine wheel size, details?
 - Jody – sidewalks = pedestrians; other paths are bikes or bikes and peds

- KB: Map on Endeavour Drive: fully paved path off road across the street from school
- Kayak launches:
 - not at Heiden Pond currently;
 - Second Street: below the dam – take-out right by the bridge
 - Used it for the RockMan in the past
 - Senior Center site is now at the Town Square, and there is a new one at Riverside Park
- Interactive Map: 130 visitors, 48 comments
 - (see slide) suggestions, concerns
 - Places they like (see slide)
- Homework for this group: take the survey, check out the map, share links with networks/co-workers
- Existing conditions: mapping, regional connections – how to get to state and other connections to the City routes
 - Kevin: IUT connects to Lake Country Trail
 - Dodge County trail connects to Wild Goose, Gold Star Trail
 - Other existing conditions =wetlands/waterways, slope analysis, land use and development areas, roadway functional classes, bike & ped crash data, traffic volumes
 - Other maps in progress: intersections, barriers, planned roadway projects, community destinations
- HKGI is completing plan reviews
 - Biking and walking touch a lot of things/plans
 - This plan will be different/separate from previous plans
- Carol described previous planning approach for this task force-
 - Review maps, where is there a lot of traffic/use of bike/ped trails, then look at feasibility (\$\$) to do a project.
 - Carol: Ex.: some work near the hospital was easier, so it happened sooner, momentum behind path near school was done sooner.
 - Andrew: Low-hanging fruit, cost-effective items – sharrows, etc.
 - Identified projects, tried to knock projects off the list.
 - Helmsley: Engineering has ID'd street projects and overlaid bike/ped paths onto those projects.
 - Carol: no sidewalks in many areas;
 - Concord, for example
 - Important to build a story to help elected officials with budgeting; they need to hear from community that they want these features.
 - Jody: has task force brought projects to elected officials, or other way around? How does the list of projects get done?
 - AB: if budget is there, it gets formalized at task force level, take it to PWC, then modify contract.
 - Or bigger project goes through this task force, to PWC, then get it into a budget year.
 - Get approval to ok grant app, then it's easier to get that project into the budget.

- Helmsley – projects come out of task force, or other study or Engineering; projects are not assigned to this group from elected officials.
- Jody – the plan will be used by staff and this group to prioritize work in the future. Need to have this group on board with implementing the plan.
- Jody: re: inter-urban trail: 2016 grading and shaping of IUT;
 - Streets used excess millings to provide access to IUT until paving was completed a few years later.
- Jody: how has list of potential projects used in the past?
 - Carol: list was reviewed annually in the past; a previous alderperson was a previous champion of this group
 - List has been used for grant applications in the past
 - Task force has been around since 2016.
- What are some big issues/wishlist items for the plan? Hot topic issues?
 - AB: Connectivity – southwest neighborhood – no sidewalk on Dayton Street, or to Main Street.
 - Lots of breaks in the network
 - KB: proposed neighborhoods should have shared-use paths along/in it. – Hoffmann Drive/Rock River Ridge example
 - Would be nice to have a shared-use path near Mary rose subdivision, or near Milford Street – southwest side of City where subdivisions are being proposed.
 - AB: city requires sidewalks on both sides of street in subdivision code. Shared-use paths can be required if it is in a previous plan.
 - KB: maintenance should be discussed at the design/construction stage, too.
 - Jody: winter use of trails?
 - Not much snow, so yes.
 - People use IUT year-round
 - Waukesha County's CMAQ grant will require year-round maintenance
 - We may get pressure to do year-round maintenance
 - J County may want to put restrooms/trailhead (?) between Watertown and Oconomowoc (?)
 - How to get to IUT from downtown?
 - Clearly defined bike lanes; making connections; making recommendations (?) for what is on the south end from the IUT.
 - Helmsley: third grade ed., bike rodeo:
 - Families are too nervous to take kids on trails. Safety.
 - Bike lanes are also on truck routes

- Sidewalk prohibition - majority follow the rules (city is pretty lenient)
- Bike racks – folks don't know the bike racks are what they are. (Loop with W logo)
 - Need media out there to say what the bike racks are.
 - Need special locks on those racks.
- Bike thefts – near library, coffee shops
- No helmet ordinances in City
 - Old program with Mullens – no longer around
- City still has a license program.
 - Free license at third grade program and bicycle rodeo.
 - Helps with recovering bikes that were stolen.
- (add link to survey, website, from meeting agenda.)
- Please send ideas, thoughts, etc., to Jody. Please email call

6) Adjourn. Motion by Helmsley, Seconded by Carol. Motion approved.