

La Crescent Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Conference Call

Meeting Minutes, July 19, 2017

Present: Rose Ryan, Alta Planning & Design, Donald Smith, Planning Commission Chair. Committee members Cheryl Jostad, Kirsten Plummer, Dave Ebner, Jason Ludwigson, and Linda Larson

Not present: Deanna Caron, Mike Cunningham, Mani Edpuganti, Joseph and Joan Francois, Jim and Carol Gehrig and Andrew Severn

Meeting began at 7:15 pm after correcting and improving audio visual connection. Introductions were made.

Overview of project scope: Reviewed original document of scope of work. Agreed upon by committee and Alta

- I. Task 1 - Existing Conditions Analysis
- II. Task 2 - Preliminary Recommendations; Review with Public
- III. Task 3 - Prepare the Draft Plan
- IV. Task 4 - Develop Priorities and Prepare Final Plan

Review of existing conditions: (handout) Task 1. La Crescent Bike Ped Existing Conditions

We discussed each area outlined by Alta in the handout. A few questions were presented:

Jason – as outlined under Wagon Wheel Trail, N. 2nd street, will there be recommendations for signs? Don offered a section on wayfinding be included under ‘Connectivity’. Rose agreed this could be done at a high level.

Cheryl asked for clarification whether the scope of work includes only the 4 focus areas presented or if more areas will be addressed. Rose and Don agreed other areas would be included as connectors.

Discuss initial ideas for recommendations related to four areas: Summary of discussion

1. Trail over utility corridor into annexed land on HWY 6.

Recommendations:

- a. Minimize the interim options and focus on the long term. Projects are moving forward.

Recommendations:

- i. Stripe walk/bike shoulders on both sides: 8-10 ft.
- ii. No parking on Hwy 6
- iii. Reduce speed at Wieser Park (city limit)
- iv. Square up intersection of Hwy 25 and 6.
- v. Install a median to calm traffic and help crossing at Hwy 25 & Hwy 6 intersection, being cognizant of the fact that a wide turn radius is needed for trucks/trailers.
- vi. At cemetery, use a portion of the roadway to achieve the desired 10’ width.
- vii. Extend bike lane on S. 7th St. westbound from Larch Ave.
- viii. Shared use path over utility easement.

2. Connections between La Crosse and La Crescent, with a focus on La Crescent's facilities.

Recommendations:

- a. Use crossing at DNR Landing Rd. (sometimes referred to as Monte Carlo Rd.) and Hwy 14/61 as best place to cross traffic to continue east bound to La Crosse from Wagon Wheel Trail. Need for better signage and painted crosswalk was emphasized. Don also suggested: drop speed and install a signal at Twilight as a future plan
- b. Improvements will be made to Hwy 14/61 in the next 3 weeks by MN DOT to the shoulder; relocate mumble strips to inside the fog line and provide pathways to/from sidewalk by redoing the guard rail system.
- c. S. 3rd St., east and west bound need bike and pedestrian recommendations for County and MNDOT to follow. (i.e. possible greenbox for bikes)
- d. RRFB will be going in this fall at S.3rd St. and Oak St.

3. Connections to the Central City via HWY 25 and HWY 6 to their connections to 7th St.

Recommendations:

- a. Remove parking on the north side of S. 7th St. to open up visibility of bike and pedestrians (children) coming and going from Aquatic Center. Add standard bike lanes.

Discussion of how much parking is needed in the city Per Don, neighborhoods drive parking. Jason used Oak St. as an example with 7 homes/driveways, 3 businesses and 1 school all with off street parking. Parking was removed from Elm Street. City Council adopts a resolution to eliminate parking.

- b. Ask community about crossing on S. 7th St. by Aquatic Center at public meeting:
 - o Could shift crossing to Hill Street
 - o Add a median or bump out?
 - o Add an RRFB?
- c. Alta to make recommendations regarding Skunk Hollow Rd – sidewalks and bike lanes

4. Network connectivity in the Central City

- a. A neighborhood network should be outlined (like previously done by Alta in the 2013 Bike Ped plan) that shows neighborhood byways, an update to the 2017 plan

The need to have an updated Bike Ped Plan and Map was discussed. Limitations on scope and budget are accepted. Walkability and 'equal access' are important areas and Linda will follow up with Tim to get a sidewalk plan.

Discuss August 17 community workshop and bike ride

- a. Meeting will begin at 5:30
- b. Allow about 1 hour to view plan and maps (poster boards) and gather public input. While Consultant cannot develop each comment we want to capture all public comments. In some cases the comments may become areas for future study or the work plan for the bike/ped group.
 - a. 15 minutes for group discussion - Small groups with committee members as leaders might be needed
- c. 15 minutes to organize bike tour.
- d. Bike Tour at 7:00 to view existing conditions

Rose will have a draft form of Task 3 in about 2 weeks.

Meeting adjourned promptly at 7:15 pm