

Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, July 8, 2024 – 7:00 PM
Council Chambers - Village Hall

1. Call to Order

Staff Liaison Jill Juliano called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Jack Eskin, Jason Jenkins, Julie Johnston Ahlen, Jason Nudelman, Chair Ron Burke, and Mike Sturino, Plan Commission Chair

Absent: Jenna Holzberg

Staff: Staff Liaison Jill Juliano, Village Engineer Bill McKenna, Parking & Mobility Services Manager Sean Keane, and Sam Schwartz Consultant Mark Bennett

2. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Jenkins made a motion to approve tonight's agenda and it was seconded by Commissioner Eskin. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

3. Approval of the Draft May 13, 2024 Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Eskin made a motion to approve the draft May 13, 2024 Transportation Commission meeting minutes. It was seconded by Commissioner Jenkins. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Non-Agenda Public Comment

None.

5. New Business

5a) Kickoff Meeting for the update to the Oak Park Bike Plan and Neighborhood Greenways System study documents (2024 Transportation Commission Work Plan Item)

Village Engineer Bill McKenna and Sam Schwartz Consultant Mark Bennett gave a review of the original bike plan, along with the addendum, and discussed how the Village will be updating the plan.

Mark Bennett presented, reviewing past plans and community engagement. Their goal is to have an initial recommendation for a budget in September, with the project scheduled

to be completed by late fall. He reported that, according to the data from the Vision Zero survey, cyclists do not feel safe biking in Oak park.

The project team plans to have conversations with schools and host open houses to assist in further outreach to the community.

Bike facilities on Ridgeland Avenue are possible and the Village will be working with IDOT to assess the feasibility of any plans. Bike parking will be looked at as part of the bike plan update.

Cul-de-sacs and traffic diverters will be a part of future recommendations.

Commissioner Nudelman stated that once we get the residents feel safer it would create a network effect.

Chair Burke questioned if this project will focus solely on infrastructure or if it would also include bike and pedestrian behavioral changes along with traffic considerations. Mark Bennet explained that the project scope does not include demand management, although education is an important aspect of enhancing the bicycle culture in the Village.

Commissioner Jenkins would like Sam Schwartz to consider how we are going to integrate future projects with the Bike Plan update. One of the biggest sources of conflict is safety between pedestrians, cyclists, and motor vehicles.

Project outcomes:

Mike Sereno questioned if the plan will have a requirement for the infrastructure for plan development. He suggested the improvements of the Eisenhower would reduce the cut-through into Oak Park, which is a plus.

Village Engineer Bill McKenna said the Village is working with IDOT to change the roadway at Ridgeland Ave to make it 3 lanes as well as add bike lanes.

Chair Burke went into the next question - What streets are the best and worst to bike on, with neighborhood side streets being the best and the arterial streets being the worst. The bike plan shows where the two can coincide.

Commissioner Jenkins commented that East and Augusta have a bike plan yet there is a high traffic volume.

Jenkins stated that Ridgeland, North Ave and Harlem are the intersections of the most concern and also intersections near schools are not consistent and cause chaos and need to be improved. Chair Burke mentions East and Home for a possible area to be looked at on how can we find a way to make it safer for cyclists.

Key Network Gaps:

Chair Burke stated that we should be working with the high school on how to figure out and give a safer route for their pick-up and drop-off.

What would be important to know to evaluate bike share feasibility?

Chair Burke commented he thinks there are enough bike share trips in Oak Park.

Commissioner Nudelman suggested we link up with Chicago to link two different adjoining systems. He stated we could possibly add stations with similar density like Cicero and Berwyn who use the same bicycle system.

6. Old Business

None

7. Adjourn

With no further business, Commissioner Jenkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Commissioner Johnston-Ahlen. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Submitted by,
Anita Bahena
Administrative Assistant.