



~~~~~

## **Biking & Walking News**

**Ira S. Weiss, Editor**

**March 21, 2010**

~~~~~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What should Downtown Columbus look like in 10 years?

Jeff Stephens: Voice your opinion on the need for bicycle infrastructure in downtown Columbus - Please check out www.downtowncolumbus.com/plan and read up on the downtown plan and TAKE SURVEYS if you haven't done so already. [2010 Downtown Columbus Strategic Plan - DowntownColumbus.com](http://www.downtowncolumbus.com)
www.downtowncolumbus.com

Volunteers Needed! MORPC Pedestrian and Bicycle Traffic Counts – Wednesday, May 12, 2010

To better understand pedestrian and bicycle traffic trends in the region, and to address the lack of consistent data about these modes of travel, MORPC has partnered with the Institute of Transportation Engineers in conducting ongoing pedestrian and bicycle counts in the region. With the help of volunteers like you, we are continuing our participation in the pedestrian and bicycle traffic count program. This is part of a national effort. Similar counts have been performed in about 93 different communities nationwide. (Full information is available at <http://bikepeddocumentation.org/>.)

Wednesday May 12 is the next count date. As usual, we will be conducting two 2-hour counts:

Morning Count: 7 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Midday Count: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

You may volunteer to help with either or both counts. No special skills are required for participation.

Count locations are available across Franklin County and we will try to match you to the location of your convenience. Please e-mail or call with your location preference (contact info below).

Here is a map of the count locations:

http://www.morpc.org/trans/BikePedCount_location_map.pdf

Here is the overview of the project on the MORPC website:

http://www.morpc.org/transportation/bicycle_pedestrian/project.asp

Please feel free to forward this message to anyone you know who might be interested in volunteering.

Ariel Godwin
Active Transportation & Safety Programs
Assistant Planner
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty St., Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43215
agodwin@morpc.org
Tel. (614) 233-4123
Fax (614) 228-1904

The Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals announces: Writing Women Back into Bicycling: Changing Transportation Culture to Encourage More Women to Cycle More Places More Often

Free webinar and cycling survey

While it is an exciting time in the U.S. as many new bicycling projects are being installed, women continue to participate in bicycling at lower rates than men. We are conducting a survey of women and girls to hear from them about the many possible factors influencing their cycling decisions. We are opening a dialog on why women and girls are cycling less and what would encourage them to cycle more. The public is invited to attend the free webinar on women and cycling on March 31, 2010 (3:00 p.m. Eastern time) or view it as an archived presentation later. Learn about the barriers, successes, international examples and ideas about what you can do. Register today for free webinar: http://www.apbp.org/events/event_details.asp?id=100124. Space is limited. Take the survey (open until May 15, 2010 – women and girls only please) <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/womencycling>. We would like to hear from non-cyclists as well as current and past cyclists. Survey results will be shared during the webinar. Final results available after May 15th (National Bike Month)

Please share this news with others! Thank you.

Kit Keller, JD, Executive Director
262-375-6180 (phone)

Alliance Hiring a Communications Fellow

Alliance for Biking & Walking, a coalition of over 160 grassroots bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organizations across North America, is seeking a Communications Fellow to help with our work to create, strengthen and unite state and local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organizations. To find out more, please visit

www.PeoplePoweredMovement.org.

[Position Overview](#)

The Alliance for Biking & Walking is seeking a Communications Fellow to raise the profile of our work and the work of our member organizations. Specifically we are looking for a go-getter to help get the word out about important progress being made by local and state bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organizations across North America. Based out of the Alliance's office in downtown DC, the job will involve working closely with our coalition of over 160 grassroots organizations and several national partners. Under the supervision of the Alliance President, the fellow will coordinate multiple components of the Alliance's communications.

This is a tremendous opportunity for someone with a lot of initiative to take on significant responsibility while learning about transportation reform issues and working directly with a variety of well-known leaders and organizations both nationally and in communities across the North America.

Responsibilities will include:

- Promote Alliance programs, events, and accomplishments to members, partners, and funders
- Write, edit, layout, and manage Alliance communications including e-news Streetside, press releases, blog, annual report, brochures, and other materials
- Manage various aspects of the website and develop content
- Monitor listserv and blog, and contribute feedback as appropriate
- Manage media contacts, follow up with media inquiries, and track Alliance press
- Manage and maintain the Alliance's social media and Internet presence including our Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr accounts
- Manage and maintain the Alliance's Online Resource Library and Online Photo Library

- Assist in development of materials for trainings, coaching, and presentations
- Assist with sponsorship and development work
- Coordinate outreach with key national and local partners

In addition, the Communications Fellow will get great exposure to and the ability to participate in an Alliance national training, Leadership Retreat, and conferences. The fellow will assist member advocacy organization leaders as possible, and will work closely with other staff on the Alliance's programs and outreach. As a team member, the fellow will also help perform other administrative duties as needed including mailing, event planning, database entry, etc.

Requirements: To be qualified for this position, applicants must have excellent writing, communications, organizational, and interpersonal skills. Applicants must demonstrate strong verbal and writing skills, superb listening and assessment skills, and be both self-motivated and a good team player. The applicant should be highly computer literate with specific experience using the Microsoft Office suite of programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint). Knowledge of Adobe CS (particularly InDesign and Photoshop), html, css, SalesForce, and open source web interfaces are a definite plus. Further qualifications include:

- Strong writing and editing skills
- Passion for bicycle and pedestrian advocacy and organizational development
- Bachelor's degree and experience in communications
- Experience with health, transportation, or land use policy a plus
- Good communication, facilitation, and motivational skills
- Detail-oriented with excellent organization skills
- Ability to balance multiple priorities and deadlines with a positive attitude
- Database experience or expertise a plus

Compensation: The fellowship comes with a stipend of \$2,500 per month, six days of paid sick leave/vacation, and paid leave on all federal holidays that occur within their tenure at the Alliance. An additional allowance for health benefits will be offered.

Timeframe: Full-time, forty hours a week, for nine months (through December 2010).

How to Apply: Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, professional writing sample (letter, press release, or article - no college papers please), design/layout sample, and three references to applications@PeoplePoweredMovement.org with "Communications Fellow Application" in the subject line.

Interviews will be held on a rolling basis so it's best to get your application in early. The anticipated start date is early April 2010.

Equal Opportunity Employment: The Alliance for Biking & Walking is an equal opportunity employer. Women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

Kristen Steele

Communications Director

Alliance for Biking & Walking

San Francisco, CA Office

415.513.5281

kristen@peoplepoweredmovement.org

www.PeoplePoweredMovement.org

SAFETY

Council holds on texting legislation

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 1:16 PM

By ROBERT PASCHEN

ThisWeek Contributor

Village council opted Monday to take a wait-and-see stance on whether to prohibit texting while driving in Canal Winchester. Law director Gene Hollins suggested at council's March 15 meeting that members wait to see what state lawmakers do before moving forward with their own ban. If council enacted anti-texting legislation, Hollins said after the meeting, current state law would not require the village to post signs alerting drivers of ban within Canal Winchester's borders. Development director Chris Strayer said after the meeting that Bexley has already passed a law banning texting and driving. "Columbus and Pickerington are considering it," he said. However, he said, "everybody is waiting around" to see if Ohio lawmakers pass a statewide texting and driving ban... "Does it include bicycles?" council member Leah Turner asked. "I've seen teenagers ride their bikes with no hands while texting." http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/canalwinchester/stories/2010/03/17/0318cwtexting-law_in.html?sid=104

Columbus may join anti-texting bandwagon

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 12:53 PM

By GARY SEMAN JR.

ThisWeek Staff Writer

Columbus could join the growing list of communities to ban texting while driving. Andy Ginther, chair of Columbus City Council's public safety committee, held a public hearing on the subject March 9, at which anti-texting advocates implored city officials to adopt such legislation. "In this day and age of instant communications, many people feel the need to be connected with friends, family, co-workers and social-networking sites no matter where they are," Ginther said. "Unfortunately, some enjoy this ability to transmit and receive information while they should be focused a more important task -- driving." The offense would be a minor misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum \$150 fine. Distracted drivers have become a major problem across the U.S., Ginther said. A National Highway Transportation Safety Administration study conducted by Virginia Tech found that 80 percent of all crashes and 65 percent of near crashes involved some type of distraction. In 2008, nearly 6,000 people died in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver, and more than half a million people were injured, he said. http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/gahanna/stories/2010/03/17/0318rfanti-texting_in.html?sid=104

Texting-while-driving ban could become city law in May

By GARTH BISHOP

Published: Friday, March 19, 2010 10:28 AM EDT

Sending text messages while driving could be illegal within Columbus city limits by the end of the first week of May. Columbus City Councilman Andrew Ginther has proposed a law making texting while driving a primary offense. A public hearing on the matter took place March 9. The proposed ordinance is expected to get its first reading at council's March 29 meeting. A second public hearing on the issue is slated to begin at 5 p.m. March 30 at City Hall, and council could vote to adopt the ordinance as soon as its April 5 meeting. The law would take effect 30 days after the vote. The law would make reading, writing or sending a text message while driving a minor misdemeanor and a primary offense, meaning a police officer can pull over a driver believed to be texting. A ticket would carry a maximum \$150 fine. Cellular phone calls would still be legal while driving, and drivers would be allowed to send text messages in case of emergency or while stopped and out of the flow of traffic. The ordinance will make Columbus roads safer, Ginther said, as distracted driving causes accidents -- and texting is one of the most distracting things a driver can do.

http://www.snponline.com/articles/2010/03/20/german_village_gazette/news/gvcoltextd_20100319_0904am_2.txt

Village seeks ban on driver texting

New Albany council to take up issue on Tuesday

Saturday, March 20, 2010 2:52 AM

By Gail Martineau

ThisWeek Newspapers

New Albany wants to be the next Ohio municipality to ban texting while driving. Village Council members are slated to hear the first reading of an ordinance Tuesday that would ban texting or surfing the Internet while driving. It would be a secondary offense, meaning police could ticket drivers only if they were stopped for another offense. According to the legislation, the ordinance would ban drivers from "sending, reading or writing a text message or accessing the Internet." The provision would not apply to emergency vehicles, to people reporting emergencies or to drivers who are parked or removed from the traffic flow. "If you look around, we are certainly not the first municipality in central Ohio to try to deal with the issue," village spokesman Scott McAfee said. "I think a lot of it is trying to proactively deal with the legitimate safety issue just like a lot of other municipalities in central Ohio are doing." Columbus and several area suburbs are also working on bans.

http://www.dispatchpolitics.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/03/20/copy/village-seeks-ban-on-driver-texting.html?adsec=politics&sid=101

New Albany eyes texting ban

Friday, March 19, 2010 3:31 PM

By GAIL MARTINEAU

ThisWeek Staff Writer

New Albany wants to be the next Ohio municipality to ban texting while driving. Council members are slated to hear the first reading of an ordinance Tuesday, March 23, to ban texting or surfing the Internet while driving. According to the legislation, the ordinance would ban drivers from "sending, reading or writing a text message or accessing the Internet." It would be considered a secondary offense and the offender would be charged with a minor misdemeanor. The provision would not apply to emergency vehicles, to people reporting emergencies or to drivers who are parked or removed from the traffic flow. "If you look around, we are certainly not the first municipality in central Ohio to try to deal with the issue," village spokesman Scott McAfee said. "I think a lot of it is trying to proactively deal with the legitimate safety issue just like a lot of other municipalities in central Ohio are doing." <http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/newalbany/stories/2010/03/17/new-albany-texting-ban.html?sid=104>

No action on texting ban in Pickerington

Hammond: Safety committee needs more time to study issue

Thursday, March 18, 2010 1:09 PM

By NATE ELLIS

ThisWeek Staff Writer

A committee that could send a proposed ban on text-messaging while driving to Pickerington City Council has chosen to stand pat on the issue for now. City council's safety committee heard testimony on Wednesday, March 17, from two people who said their loved ones were killed by motorists using cellular telephones, but did not take action to send a proposed ban on texting while driving to the full council. Conversely, the committee also didn't quash the proposal, which has been pushed since last November by Councilman Jeff Fix. Chairwoman Cristie Hammond said the committee needs more time to study the issue, as well as how - if at all - the city should legislate all uses of cell phones by motorists. "I don't think we're ready to take any action at this point," she said. "There's more discussion that needs to be had." Fellow safety committee members Tony Barletta and Gavin Blair maintained action should be taken to prohibit drivers from sending and receiving text messages while behind the wheel, but they prefer to let Ohio legislators pass a uniform, statewide ban.

<http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/pickerington/stories/2010/03/17/No-action-on-texting-ban-in-Pickerington.html?sid=104>

'Textdriving' law is necessary, worthwhile

By GARTH BISHOP, COMMENTARY EDITOR

Published: Thursday, March 18, 2010 10:06 AM EDT

What measure is a potentially unenforceable law?

That's a question I've heard raised as both the city of Columbus and the state of Ohio move toward the potential adoption of a law that would make it illegal to write, send or read text messages while driving. Of course, the state and its capital aren't having all the fun. Locally, Bexley already has such a law, and Hilliard and Pickerington are considering laws of their own. In general, not only do the laws make texting while driving -- or "textdriving," as I call it -- verboten, they also make it a primary offense. That means, at least in theory, if a police officer spots you sending your usual jumble of abbreviations, sideways smiley faces and atrocious grammar while you're sitting in traffic, he doesn't have to wait until you cluelessly bumble into the back bumper of the car ahead of you mid-LOL to stop you. Now, I think we can all agree that textdriving -- and the writing of text messages while driving, in particular -- is bad. Yes, I know that in this modern age -- with our fancy-schmancy, space-age cars that still can't fly for some ridiculous reason -- we're faced with a million distractions while behind the wheel. I suppose I can't claim that talking on the phone or fiddling with the radio or programming coordinates into your GPS is any less dangerous than texting. Wait, yes I can. It's way more dangerous. It takes both your mind and your eyes off the road for an extended period of time. Even the most distracting of phone conversations -- "Little Billy said what to the superintendent?" -- won't pull your eyes off the road. But guilt and mockery alone haven't stopped textdriving. Laws against it use the fear of being pulled over and potentially fined to fight the urge to do it.

http://www.snponline.com/articles/2010/03/20/multiple_papers/opinion/columnists/allbishopc_20100315_0103pm_6.txt

THE WATCH

Lack of money stalls plan to add curb cuts at North Side corner

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 3:22 AM

By [Holly Zachariah](#)

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

WHO CAN FIX IT? Rick Tilton, assistant director of the Columbus Public Service Department, at 614-645-7263. Tilton also suggests that people who have concerns call the city's 311 hot line at 614-645-3111. Charles Truex lives on White Pine Court on the North Side, and he gets around his neighborhood just fine. It is some of the people who live in a group home for the developmentally disabled that he worries about, though, and one woman in particular. One of the home's residents uses a motorized wheelchair, and the curbs at the intersection of White Pine Court and Sandalwood Place aren't accessible by the handicapped. So the woman must find other ways through the neighborhood, including when she makes her way to nearby Karl Road Christian Church, where Truex's wife is minister. http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/03/16/lack-of-money-stalls-plan-to-add-curb-cuts-at-north-side-corner.html

HEALTH

Ohio county gets \$6.7 million to fight obesity

Sunday, March 21, 2010 4:54 AM

By Peggy O'Farrell

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

WOODLAWN, Ohio -- Hamilton County won \$6.7 million in federal money Friday to prevent obesity. The money will be used to make it easier for residents to eat healthier and get more exercise, officials said. The money from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is the latest the county has received to improve community health. About 26 percent of adults in Hamilton County are obese, and about 22 percent of third-graders are overweight. Fewer than one in 10 adults eat at least five fruits and vegetables a day.

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/03/21/copy/6-7-million-to-aid-obesity-fight.html

Survey: Too few exercise, too many smoke

BY NANCI HELLMICH • USA TODAY • March 17, 2010

This is not a nation of teetotalers or regular exercisers, new government data show. The National Health Interview Survey, based on telephone interviews with 79,000 adults over three years, found: □ 61 percent of people in this country currently drink alcohol. These are adults who have had at least 12 drinks in their lifetime and at least one drink in the past year. □ 31 percent of people do enough regular leisure-time physical activity to get the health benefits -- that is, moderate exercise for 30 minutes five times a week or vigorous activity for 20 minutes three times a week. □ 40 percent do no regular leisure-time physical activity.

<http://www.newarkadvocate.com/article/20100317/NEWS01/3170315/1002/Survey-Too-few-exercise-too-many-smoke>

LOCAL NEWS

NBC 4 Checks In On City's Bike Path Project

By NBC 4 Staff

Published: March 15, 2010

Updated: March 15, 2010

COLUMBUS, Ohio—After being forced to lay off employees, close recreation centers and cancel yard waste pick-up, the City of Columbus has a 2010 budget that is up 6.7 percent. With income tax increasing .5 percent, projects that were cut or put on hold are coming back. One project that was on hold is the creation of miles of bike paths. Two years ago, Mayor Michael Coleman announced that Columbus was going to become a bike-friendly city. A study suggested adding more bike trails, better signage and more bike racks. But much of the project has been halted. "I wouldn't say I am disappointed so much as—just sort of business as usual," said Michael Patrick O'Shaughnessy. Jeff Stephens with Consider Biking, a bike-advocacy group, said the pieces are in place. They just need the funding. "Frankly, world-class cities have world-class ways to move people about and cycling is going to be a critical one in the coming years," Stephens said. Columbus assistant director of public service Rick Tilton said that since the city is not making money, many of the major bike projects have not materialized. But, the city, with the help from The Ohio Department of Transportation, has been able to put up 'Share the Road' signs and hopes to be in share rows on High Street in the spring. Until more income comes into the city many of the projects like adding connecting bike trails will be racked.

http://www2.nbc4i.com/cmh/news/local/article/nbc_4_checks_in_on_citys_bike_path_project/33466/

Columbus plan

Recession put brakes on miles of new bike trails

Monday, March 15, 2010 2:51 AM

By Bill Bush

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

After a ceremonious kickoff almost two years ago, the city of Columbus has made little progress on its plan to add 50 miles of bicycle projects, including new trails. Plans to spend tens of millions of dollars by 2012 building bike bridges, trails, lanes along roads, and other improvements largely have gone nowhere, even though voters approved a bond issue in November 2008 that city officials said would help finance the projects. The recession caused the city to scale back the plans, said Public Service spokesman Rick Tilton. "We haven't had any money to do it," Tilton said. Of the \$18.4 million in bonding authority voters authorized in 2008, only \$210,000 in bonds has been issued, said Rob Newman, with the city Finance Department. No money has been spent. The city did not take on new debt last year given its budget problems, said Dan Williamson, spokesman for the mayor's office. The 2009 capital-spending plan included no new road work, equipment purchases, park improvements or building projects. What the voters approved was the sale of bonds if and when the city determines it can afford to borrow, Williamson said. Millions of dollars in proposed "demonstration projects" are stalled, said Jeff Stephens, executive director of Consider Biking, a Columbus bike-advocacy group.

http://www.dispatchpolitics.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/03/15/copy/recession-put-brakes-on-miles-of-new-trails.html?adsec=politics&sid=101

Ideas for downtown Columbus pour in, but more sought

By GARTH BISHOP

Published: Friday, March 19, 2010 10:28 AM EDT

Those who have not yet weighed in on the future of downtown Columbus are running out of time to do so. The Columbus Downtown Development Corp. and MSI Design are working with city leaders to create a strategic plan for the next 10 years of Downtown development. Suggestions still are welcome. Officials have emphasized that what happens Downtown affects the rest of Central Ohio, as many suburbanites work Downtown and the tax revenue generated there benefits all corners of the city. A town hall meeting was held March 2 to inform residents on the key areas on which the city expects to focus and to get direction on what else should be considered.

http://www.snponline.com/articles/2010/03/20/german_village_gazette/news/gvalldownt_20100319_0906am_2.txt

\$90 million request

No stimulus money for I-70/71 revisions

Thursday, March 18, 2010 3:57 AM

By Bill Bush

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Reconstruction of the I-70/71 interchange Downtown won't start quickly because the state failed to get federal stimulus money to begin the project, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation. "It doesn't mean that it doesn't go forward," said Scott Varner, ODOT spokesman. "It will move on as normally programmed." Had the state received the stimulus cash, it could have started construction on future phases sooner, he said. The state had asked for \$90million in stimulus money to begin a portion of the project, the reconstruction of the I-71/670 interchange northeast of Downtown. The request was turned down last month. "The competition for those funds was incredible," Varner said, noting that the entire nation was vying for a piece of \$1.5 billion in the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program.

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/03/18/copy/no-stimulus-money-for-i-7071-revisions.html

Gahanna's Collins in running for Westerville position

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 12:52 PM

By JENNIFER NESBITT

ThisWeek Staff Writer

Gahanna parks and recreation director Tony Collins is among 11 candidates who will move forward in Westerville's search for a new parks director. Sixty-five people from across the country submitted their applications to be the next director of the Westerville Parks and Recreation Department. Of that number, 11 will be invited to the first round of face-to-face interviews, according to city spokeswoman Christa Dickey. Two -- Douglas J. Vineyard and Michael A. Phillips -- currently work for Westerville's parks and recreation department. Collins has been Gahanna's parks director since 2004, having previously served as deputy director for three-and-a-half years.

http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/gahanna/stories/2010/03/17/0318rfcollins_in.html?sid=104

Funding backed for I-71 interchange

State Representative Cheryl Grossman announced the release of a Logistics and Distribution Stimulus Loan to be issued to the city of Grove City for costs associated with construction of an improved interchange at Interstate 71 and State Route 665. Through this loan, Grove City has committed to create more than 175,000 construction person hours, which is equivalent to about 84 full-time jobs for Grove City. "I am very glad to see that the Ohio Department of Transportation and the State Controlling Board has recognized the Interstate 71 and State Route 665 interchange project as one of the much-needed transportation infrastructure projects to accelerate," Grossman said. "This project will make the interchange a much safer and efficient one." The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the city of Grove City are partnering to address congestion of this interchange. The project is expected to cost around \$35 million. The highly congested interchange has had increased business traffic due to its connection with FedEx and the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio. This project will not divert any dollars from ODOT's new construction budget. The interchange project will have gone through three phases at the time of completion and will update State Route 665 from a two-lane highway with deficiencies to a modern thoroughfare with freeway access that will meet anticipated future traffic demands in this rapidly growing area.

"The replacement of the interchange at State Route 665 and I-71 is something that I have fought for more than a decade," Grossman added. "Monthly meetings have taken place for years as we continued to make this project a priority for the Ohio Department of Transportation. Through the efforts of many, I look forward to the replacement of this important interchange for the people of Grove City." <http://www.columbusmessenger.com/NC/0/7951.html>

Diley Road

Speed limit increase gets second OK

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 2:50 PM

By NATE ELLIS

ThisWeek Staff Writer

Pickerington City Council on Tuesday, March 16, approved the second reading of proposed legislation to increase the speed limit on Diley Road from 35 mph to 45 mph. The measure now needs one more reading and a final vote, plus the required 30-day waiting period, in order to become law. The third reading could come as soon as April 6 at council's next regularly scheduled meeting. "The speeds that are being driven on that road already are consistently 45 mph," Councilman Brian Sauer said. "If you drive 35, you're getting passed." Earlier this month, city engineer Greg Bachman proposed raising the speed limit on the portion of Diley Road that stretches from Hill Road North to the city's water treatment plant just south of Fox Glen Drive. He said the roadway was geometrically designed for 45 mph speeds, and many residents have complained it is a speed trap at 35 mph. Bachman also said a February speed study supported increasing the speed limit on Diley Road, and pointed to an Ohio Department of Transportation document that says drivers tend to drive at speeds at which they are comfortable, regardless of posted limits.

<http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/pickerington/stories/2010/03/17/Speed-limit-increase-gets-second-OK.html?sid=104>

Residents unsure of how Fishinger should be remade

* UA city leaders plan to renovate this busy road from Five-Points intersection to Kenny Road in 2011-2012.

By DONAVON CAMPBELL

Published: Friday, March 19, 2010 10:28 AM EDT

Local residents had mixed views on possible improvements to Fishinger Road during a public input meeting Thursday, March 11, regarding the project. Upper Arlington city officials hosted the informational meeting at Northwest Christian Church, 1340 Fishinger Road. "The roadway is showing signs of deterioration," City Engineer Tom Komlanc said. "We're seeing this as an opportunity to replace the existing infrastructure and some of the underground utilities." Komlanc said the project is focused on Fishinger primarily from the Five Points Intersection east to Kenny Road. He explained that the road is up for reconstructive and underground work beginning as early 2011, depending on where the project fits in the budget. The project likely will take two years, with the underground work -- including replacement of waterlines and the installation of telecommunication lines -- taking one season and then any surface improvements happening the following year, Komlanc said. City staff is considering a number of options, including reducing the roadway to three lanes with a left-hand turn lane in the center. Many of the options also include possible parking on one side or both sides of the roadway and bicycle lanes on one or both sides as well. A sidewalk or multi-use path is also a possibility for both directions, Komlanc said.

http://www.snponline.com/articles/2010/03/20/upper_arlington_news/news/uafishinge_20100318_0327pm_13.txt

City seeking volunteers for Path Watch program

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 1:00 PM

By JENNIFER NESBITT

ThisWeek Staff Writer

Westerville is asking its residents to volunteer to help make the city's 30 miles of leisure paths safer. The Westerville Division of Police and the Department of Parks and Recreation have teamed up to create a Path Watch program. Working much like a traditional neighborhood Block Watch, the program would train volunteers who use the paths to identify crime and safety issues and notify city officials when intervention is needed. There will be an informational meeting for those interested in volunteering at 6:30 p.m. March 24 at the Westerville Community Center, 350 N. Cleveland Ave. Those who decide to sign on as Path Watch volunteers will be required to complete 10 hours of training, learning CPR, first-aid and police procedures, as well as how to identify suspicious behavior, report crime, approach people courteously and how to educate people about safety issues, such as pet laws and wearing a helmet, in city parks, said Carrie Ryan, crime prevention specialist with the police department. "We don't expect that everyone who comes to that meeting will commit to the program because there is going to be some commitment on their part," Ryan said. Because the program is a partnership between the police department and the parks and recreation department, Ryan said volunteers will be trained to identify maintenance problems along the paths and on bicycle maintenance to help path users, as well as on identifying crime and safety concerns. http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/westerville/stories/2010/03/17/0318wvpath-watch_In.html?sid=104

Meeting set on city's planned 'Path Watch Program'

Published: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 12:06 PM EDT

As bike paths continue to be added in Westerville, police are asking for assistance in monitoring them. An informational meeting for the Westerville Path Watch Program will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 24 in the Community Center, 350 N. Cleveland Ave. "The goal of a path watch is to have citizens assist in making our paths as safe and enjoyable as possible," stated a press release from the city. Once the program is implemented police believe crime can be reduced, through citizens providing extra sets of eyes and ears. Volunteers will eventually receive training from police and park staff that will teach them to recognize and report suspicious activity as well as implement of crime prevention techniques.

http://www.snponline.com/articles/2010/03/20/westerville_news_and_public_opinion/news/wepathwatc_20100317_1027am_4.txt

OTHER NEWS

United States Department of Transportation Policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Regulations and Recommendations

The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) is providing this Policy Statement to reflect the Department's support for the development of fully integrated active transportation networks. The establishment of well-connected walking and bicycling networks is an important component for livable communities, and their design should be a part of Federal-aid project developments. Walking and bicycling foster safer, more livable, family-friendly communities; promote physical activity and health; and reduce vehicle emissions and fuel use. Legislation and regulations exist that require inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian policies and projects into transportation plans and project development. Accordingly, transportation agencies should plan, fund, and implement improvements to their walking and bicycling networks, including linkages to transit. In addition, DOT encourages transportation agencies to go beyond the minimum requirements, and proactively provide convenient, safe, and context-sensitive facilities that foster increased use by bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities, and utilize universal design characteristics when appropriate. Transportation programs and facilities should accommodate people of all ages and abilities, including people too young to drive, people who cannot drive, and people who choose not to drive. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/policy_accom.htm

March 15, 2010 - My view from atop the table at the National Bike Summit – Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood

We are integrating the needs of bicyclists in federally-funded road projects. We are discouraging transportation investments that negatively affect cyclists and pedestrians. And we are encouraging investments that go beyond the minimum requirements and provide facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities. To set this approach in motion, we have formulated key recommendations for state DOTs and communities:

- Treat walking and bicycling as equals with other transportation modes.
- Ensure convenient access for people of all ages and abilities.
- Go beyond minimum design standards.
- Collect data on walking and biking trips.
- Set a mode share target for walking and bicycling.
- Protect sidewalks and shared-use paths the same way roadways are protected (for example, snow removal)
- Improve nonmotorized facilities during maintenance projects.

Now, this is a start, but it's an important start. These initial steps forward will help us move forward even further.

<http://fastlane.dot.gov/2010/03/my-view-from-atop-the-table-at-the-national-bike-summit.html>

Feds Deem Pedestrians, Cyclists and Motorists Equals

At long last, the feds have said the needs of pedestrians and cyclists must be placed alongside, not behind, those of motorists. In what amounts to a sea change for the Department of Transportation, the automobile will no longer be the prime consideration in federal transportation planning. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood says the needs of pedestrians and cyclists will be considered along with those of motorists, and he makes it clear that walking and riding are "an important component for livable communities." "People across America who value bicycling should have a voice when it comes to transportation planning," LaHood wrote on his blog. "This is the end of favoring motorized transportation at the expense of non-motorized."

<http://www.wired.com/autopia/2010/03/lahood-policy-statement/> Thanks to Bob Williams for the link.

American Bicyclist Update

March 15, 2010

National News:

LaHood Ushers in a DOT Era of the Bicycle

League News:

Top 10 Reasons the Summit Rocked

<http://tinyurl.com/League-of-American-Bicyclists>

Republicans Ridicule Bike Lanes

By NICK WILSON

WASHINGTON (CN) - Republicans heaped ridicule on Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood at a Wednesday hearing after LaHood suggested that bicycling and walking are just as good ways to get around as cars. To laughter, Republican House members suggested LaHood was taking drugs, dismissed the very idea of bike lanes and derided any change to a car-dependent society. "What job is going to be created by having a bike lane?" asked Ohio Republican Steven LaTourette. He suggested that environmental sustainability projects have "stolen" \$300 million from other programs and to attacked LaHood's encouragement of bicycling, on a personal level. "If it's not a typo, is there still mandatory drug-testing at the department?" said the wit, to chuckles from the back of the room. The brouhaha over LaHood's statements on his Web site came up in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/03/17/25656.htm>

Contact Information

~~~~~

Web site - [www.considerbiking.org](http://www.considerbiking.org)

Facebook - [Facebook Page](#)

Twitter - [Considerbikeoh](#)

Executive Director, Jeff Stephens - [jeff@considerbiking.org](mailto:jeff@considerbiking.org) 614-579-1127

Communications, Ira S. Weiss - [iweiss@insight.rr.com](mailto:iweiss@insight.rr.com)

~~~~~