

Twinsburg First and Last Mile (#17072)

June 13, 2018

Board of Education Presentation MEETING MINUTES

Location: Twinsburg City Hall

Time: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Summary of Meeting

The focus of this meeting was to present the Twinsburg First and Last Mile trail proposals to the Twinsburg Board of Education and Planning Commission for review and feedback. The presentation outlined the overall approach to project development, objectives of the study and details of each proposed new trail and trailhead to encourage questions, comments, and concerns from BOE and PC members and community attendees. The ultimate goal was to receive feedback and approval from the board in order to move forward with the proposal toward the finalized plans.

Introductions

1. AMATS introduction
 - a. Overview of the organization and what they do
 - i. Connecting people within the Akron metropolitan area through all forms of transportation
 - ii. Initiatives to improve these connections
 - iii. The Connecting Communities grant is helping to fund and launch the Twinsburg First and Last Mile project
2. City Architecture introduced the consultant team, and both City Architecture and WSP provided an overview of the project:
 - a. Holistic project goals
 - i. Increased alternative transportation options to connect people and places
 - ii. Complete streets that create vibrant and safe places for all users
 - iii. Accessible employment and education centers and increased economic development activity
 - iv. Solutions that support greater equity
 - b. Geographical areas of focus
 - i. East Side Neighborhood Connection
 - ii. Northern Commercial and Neighborhood Node
 - iii. Town Square
 - iv. Ravenna Road Corridor
 - v. Civic Campus
 - c. Community engagement
 - i. Brief overview of process that included engagement station at key community points, like the Rec Center
 - ii. Results overall very positive and supportive, shows a community desire for a more connected city
 - d. Missing links
 - i. Prime focus of the developing the trail proposals on how to connect key nodes and points of interest within the city as well as connecting to existing trails

Trail Proposals

1. Trail types
 - a. Various kinds and materials for trails based on site conditions, route, and cost
 - i. Intersection with crosswalks
 - ii. Sidewalk trail
 - iii. Multi-purpose path
 - iv. Boardwalk
 - v. Bridge/ramp
2. Link #1: Center Valley Trail
 - a. .23 miles
 - b. 10' wide sidewalk/multi-purpose path
 - c. Provides a safe, off-road path that connects the Center Valley Trail to the Ravenna Rd corridor
 - d. Proposed new trailhead at Ravenna Rd access point with signage, pavilions, and head-in parking
 - e. Safer, more visible intersection and crosswalks
 - f. Challenge is a potential pinch point near the entry to the parking lot
3. Ravenna High School – Link #3: Potential Trailhead and Link #8: Ravenna Road
 - a. New trailhead at corner of School Drive and Ravenna Rd
 - b. 20-space parking lot and twin pavilions with picnic tables, restrooms, bike racks, and fixit stations
 - c. Safer, more visible intersection and crosswalks with overhead pedestrian crossing signals and traffic-calming elements near the intersection
4. Link #5: Ravenna/White Oak Drive Connector
 - a. Section A: .34 miles, Section B: .17 miles
 - b. 10' wide sidewalk/multi-purpose path
 - c. Off-road connection to community destinations such as the Fitness Center, Public Library, and White Oak Drive/Birchwood hills Neighborhood
 - d. New path lighting
 - e. Some regrading may be required
5. Link #6: Ravenna/Glen Chamberlin Connector
 - a. .36 miles
 - b. 10' wide sidewalk/multi-purpose path
 - c. Links popular community destinations with Ravenna Road corridor
 - d. Connects to existing path system to create an off-road loop
 - e. Potential conflict with bus parking/driveways
 - f. Will required a boardwalk/raised component
6. Link #2: Center Valley/Miktarian Connector
 - a. .24 miles
 - b. 10' wide multi-purpose trail
 - c. Provides a direct connection to the Center Valley Trail
 - d. Relatively straight path that builds from existing walking paths/clearings
 - e. Links Bel Mawr and Arbor Glen neighborhoods to the trail system

- f. Requires a bridge to cross Tinkers Creek
- 7. Link #7: post Road Corridor, Link #11: Darrow/Post Intersection Upgrades
 - a. 1.2 miles
 - b. 8' wide sidewalk trail
 - c. Provides off-road connection to amenities and trail system at Liberty Park
 - d. Greatly expands path system
 - e. Safer and more visible intersections
 - f. Required intersection and trailhead improvements at Route 91 and Post Road
- 8. Link #4: Ravenna/East Idlewood/Gettysburg Intersection Upgrades
 - a. Traffic calming elements near intersection
 - b. Shoulder striping along Ravenna Road narrows travel lanes for traffic calming and provides space for on-road cyclists
 - c. Bike lanes along Gettysburg to connect to Laurel Bike and Hike Trail
 - d. Bike lanes along East Idlewood to Connect to Center Valley trailhead
 - e. Safer, more visible intersection with overhead pedestrian crossing signals and extra wide ladder style crosswalks
 - f. Trail marker signage to identify Center Valley Trailhead on East Idlewood
- 9. Link #9: Ravenna Road Corridor and Potential Trailhead
 - a. Shoulder striping along Ravenna Road narrows travel lanes for traffic calming and provides space for on-road cyclists
 - b. Trail signage and wayfinding at Town Square along with new trailhead area with parking and bike facilities near Richner Court
 - c. Sidewalk trail on east side of Ravenna that connects from Town Square up to the civic campus (0.46 miles)
- 10. Link #10: Town Square NW Intersection Upgrades
 - a. Overhead pedestrian crossing signs
 - b. Extra wide ladder style crosswalks for increased safety and visibility
 - c. Continue sidewalk trail in this area to link Route 82
- 11. Overall network
 - a. Park Loop: 5 miles
 - b. Civic/School Loop: 2 miles
 - c. Recreation Loop: 1 mile
 - d. All interconnected and create one large trail system

Feedback, Questions, and Concerns

- 1. School traffic flow
 - a. Related specifically to trailhead proposals near Dodge Intermediate School and Twinsburg High School, with the high school trailhead parking lot at the corner of School Drive and Ravenna Rd causing the most concern
 - i. Concerns were raised about how proposed trailhead parking lots along school road would affect traffic
 - ii. Emphasis stressed on how busy the road is during mornings and afternoons with parent drop offs and student drivers

1. Already heavy traffic and congestion as is, would adding public parking make this problem even worse and be detrimental to the school and the parents, students, and staff trying to enter/leave?
2. Ravenna/White Oak Drive connector library parking lot concern
 - a. Concern that the proposed trail location would prohibit any future parking lots expansion at the library
 - i. Already a congested and disorganized traffic flow and worry about how the trail system will interact with this
 - ii. Suggestion to reroute this trail segment to go around the other side of the library in order to keep the potential land unobstructed for a future parking lot expansion
3. Ravenna/Glen Chamberlin connector trail safety concern
 - a. Concern that the proposed trail would cross the school bus parking lot entrance drives
 - b. Heavy bus traffic during morning and afternoon that could potentially impact pedestrians and bikers trying to use the trail and pose potential safety risks, especially with kids traveling along this trail to access the community water park
4. Overall positive feedback and there was support shown for the initiatives of the project and the overarching idea of connecting key points across the city with a unified trail system

Next Steps

1. Establish further communication with the Board of Education to clarify feedback and determine best course of action to proceed.
2. Revise and finalize project proposals to create the finished study.
3. Proceed as necessary from the steps taken and proposals compiled to this point.

If any of the items herein are in conflict with your recollection of what was discussed or if any important elements have been omitted, it would be appreciated if you would contact us immediately. Otherwise we will assume the above items are correct.

CITY ARCHITECTURE, INC



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Senior Urban Designer / Planner

Copies to: All Attendees
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