

**Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway Advisory Committee (BPGAC)**  
**Tuesday, September 12, 2017 – 7:00 PM**  
**GF City Hall, 255 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Grand Forks, ND – Room A102**

## Meeting Notes

David Kuhrenko, GF engineering  
Jane Croeker  
Richard O'Connor  
Nick Jenson  
Sarah Jenson

Dave Lambeth  
David Sears  
Art Young  
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

### A. Bikeway & pedestrian items

**1. Project updates:** David presented a map of GF bikeway projects completed in 2017:

- Asphalt overlay:
  - North side of 32nd Avenue South from approximately South 38<sup>th</sup> St to approximately 500' west of Columbia Rd
  - South 38<sup>th</sup> Street from 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South to approximately 500' north of Ruemmele Road,
  - Greenway path from Demers Avenue to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
  - Elmwood entrance from floodwall to trail system
- New concrete shared-use path:
  - Demers Avenue from 42<sup>nd</sup> Street to North 48<sup>th</sup> Street using Transportation Alternative (TA) funding
- Asphalt shared-use path:
  - Belmont Road from Prairiewood Drive to Sandpiper Lane

**2. Upcoming projects:**

- **North 55<sup>th</sup> Street shared-use path:** Has been designed and submitted to NDDOT for bidding in October 2017. This will add a concrete path from University Avenue to West Lanark Drive. The project was originally intended to extend to the Amtrak Station but the City was unable to obtain trail crossing licenses from BNSF. Two road crossing closures are required to allow this trail crossing. This path will be constructed in 2018.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North from North 40<sup>th</sup> Street to the English Coulee:** The City of GF has been awarded funding for this project. The preliminary design phase has begun. A public input meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10 from 4:30-6:30pm at the North Dakota School for the Blind, 500 Stanford Rd. This project will likely be constructed in either 2018 or 2019.
- **North side of Gateway Drive from North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to Columbia Road (between Gateway Drive and the GF County Fairgrounds):** A trail overlay is anticipated to happen in 2018.

**3. Input for candidate projects for Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding request:**

The GF Engineering Department is taking suggestions for potential projects to be included in a funding TA application. All potential projects need to be shown on the MPO Transportation Plan to demonstrate that the project has been approved and will be built.

The minimum length for a trail project is usually one-third to one-half mile. With the additional costs and reporting requirements associated with federal funding projects should be at least \$150,000 in federal funding. The TA program has a maximum federal share of \$290,000 with an 80/20 split. The maximum project cost to qualify for federal funding is approximately \$360,000 (\$150,000 local and \$290,000 federal).

**Potential projects:**

- **University Avenue from the trailer park entrance to North 48<sup>th</sup> Street:** Currently has a 5' wide sidewalk and connects to shared-use paths on both ends. Connecting these shared-use paths will constitute a "last segment." This project provides a direct connection to UND residential housing. There are also two bus stops located in this area.
- **17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South from South 26<sup>th</sup> Street to South 20<sup>th</sup> Street:** Currently has a 5' wide sidewalk and connects to a shared-use path at South 26<sup>th</sup> Street. There are no bike path connections at South 20<sup>th</sup> Street. This segment is in front of Red River High School.
- **32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South from South 48<sup>th</sup> Street to Heartland Drive and South 48<sup>th</sup> Street from 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South:** Currently a gravel bike path. This area has not had a lot of development yet, and will likely be a good candidate as the area develops. The project would likely be phased into 3 or more segments in order to make it worthwhile for TA funding. This gravel bike path will connect with businesses in the developing business park such as FedEx, Acme Tools, and other businesses in the area.
- **47<sup>th</sup> Avenue South from South Columbia Road to South 20<sup>th</sup> Street:** There is currently no sidewalk or bike path on the south side of the street. The City applied for TA funding last year. The project was ranked 8 of 11 in the grading process. It is located near South Middle School and adjacent to Ulland Park. It connects to a shared-use path on South 20<sup>th</sup> Street but would not connect to anything at South Columbia Road. This segment of 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue S is scheduled for reconstruction and widening in 2018. It is not known yet if a shared-use path will be installed at that time.
- **South Columbia Road 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue South:** Currently has no sidewalk or bike path. The City applied for TA funding last year but the project was ranked 11 of 11 in the grading process.
- **South Columbia Road from 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South:** This segment is approximately ¼ mile in length and shorter than projects usually recommended for TA funding. The right turn lane project on Columbia Road is coming up next year, with a possibility of including a wider sidewalk for the length of the right turn lane. This is not guaranteed but staff will look the idea.

Any additional recommendations should be sent to David by the end of next week. This will give him time to gather information on the suggestion.

**Suggestions and questions about bikeway connections and repairs:**

- The underpass on Gateway Drive needs pavement work at both approaches.
- Elks Drive: Can lights or better signage be added to this intersection? Crossing Belmont from Elks Drive is very challenging.
- Where are the project lists from previous community input meetings? Can that be used? David will look into these lists.

- Can grant money be used for wayfinding signs? Possibly. It would have to be included as part of a project. There are no wayfinding sign plans adopted for either city at this time.

**4. MPO: Update on Bicycle & Pedestrian Activities: Minnesota Bicycle Plan (Update):**  
See attached. No MPO staff present for discussion.

**B. Greenway items**

1. **Vandalism concerns:** The City of GF is looking into a few vandalism incidents in the Sunbeam area. Trees are being cut down with chain saws.
2. **Greenway Takeover Festival:** HB Sound & Light will be hosting a four-day festival in the GF portion of the Greenway. This is an opportunity to spotlight this area as a site for community festivals.
3. **Freezeway project:** Nick would like to avoid areas that are highly used in the winter. Two potential sites have been identified so far:
  - i. Lincoln Drive Park – west of the dog park
    1. Trail could be 150 yards in length
    2. Possibly too far from the warming house
  - ii. Downtown GF
    1. Trail could be 600 yards in length
    2. Lighting and warming house nearby on other side of levee
    3. High visibility

The BPGAC group chose to recommend the downtown site for the 2017 – 2018 season. Howard Swanson, GF City Attorney, is working on a user agreement between the City of GF and Freezeway, LLC. Kim will forward that agreement to Nick when it is ready for signing.

The skating trail will be 12' wide with flexible boards on both sides. Nick believes that the boards being used for the trail are safer than what the park district uses for their rinks because they are more flexible. He plans to give the equipment to GF Park District or City when the 18 month grant period is finished

Nick stated that he has met with the GF Park District and they will be filling the trail with water. He and his group will be handling the daily maintenance of the trail. *\*Discussion on clarification has happened since this meeting.*

Nick plans to watch activity in the Greenway over winter for usage and where to expand the trail could possibly be expanded in the future.

Questions from the group:

- How will skaters make the connection between the ice rink in Town Square to trail: Rubber mats will be placed on the sidewalk to make the connection.
- How will uneven surfaces be handled? Nick will be looking into that challenged but it might be something like the lock system used for boats.

**C. Next meeting date: 7PM, Tuesday, October 10, 2017, GF City Hall, 255 North 4th Street, Grand Forks, ND – Room A102**

Supporting documents: MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan –Update dated September 12, 2017  
Maps of potential locations for Freezeway 2017  
Map of completed bikeway projects in GF 2017

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist, City of Grand Forks