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**MINUTES**  
**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN ADVISORY GROUP**  
**Remote Participation**  
**June 1, 2022 – 3:00 p.m.**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Advisory Group meeting was held remotely on Monday, June 1, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chairman Craig Niedermaier.

**Members Present:**

Chairman Craig Niedermaier  
Stephen Sanders  
Brian Lee  
Peggy Reins  
Ticia Doughty-Ashcroft

**Staff Present:**

Nathan Bruemmer, Staff Liaison  
Tom Powers, Village Engineer  
Nick Zakula, Police  
Andrew Vitale, GIS Coordinator  
Kathy Thake, Deputy Village Manager

**Also Present**

Tim Gustafson, Epstein

**Call to Order**

**Approval of Minutes**

Group Member Peggy Reins, seconded by Group Member Steve Sanders, moved to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2022, meeting; on voice vote all concurred.

**New Business**

**I. Police Accidents Report**

Deputy Chief Nick Zakula of the Niles Police Department presented five pedestrian and bicyclist involved traffic accidents that have occurred since the April meeting:

- On May 1 at 10:32 AM in the general area of Main St and Harlem Ave. A bicyclist was riding a bike southbound on Harlem, turned right onto Main St and was struck by a vehicle backing out of a driveway. The bicyclist was transported with injuries to the hospital.
- On May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:50 AM at Dempster and Greenwood, a bicyclist traveling westbound on Dempster in the curb lane collided with a vehicle traveling

southbound on Greenwood. The bicyclist told the responding officer that he had disregarded the red light and went through the intersection. The bicyclist was transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

- On May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:35 PM at Golf and Milwaukee, a pedestrian was walking northbound on Milwaukee from the SW corner of the intersection and was struck by a vehicle traveling eastbound on Golf Rd. The driver was cited with failure to yield to a pedestrian, neither parties were transported to the hospital.
- On May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:19 PM, at the 8000 block of Lyons in the alley, a bicyclist was traveling in the alley hit a vehicle backing out of a parking spot. The bicyclist was transported to the hospital for minor injuries.
- On May 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:11 PM at Mulford and Octavia, a bicyclist was traveling southbound on Octavia and braked hard to avoid a vehicle traveling on Mulford, causing the cyclist to tumble over their handlebars. The bicyclist and vehicle didn't actually collide. The bicyclist was transported to the hospital for precautionary measures.

Group Member Ticia Doughty-Ashcroft made a statement that the speed tracker at Cleveland and Waukegan is not accurately tracking vehicle speeds. Chairman Niedermaier stated that where Gross Point Road meets Caldwell Ave, trucks are clipping that light post repeatedly. When that road is re-done in the future, he's hoping that street or turn is widened.

## **II. Bike Plan Final Draft Presentation**

Tim Gustafson, Epstein, presented on the changes to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Update that were made based on feedback from the BPAG and the Village. One of the first things he wanted to highlight were the performance measures for the plan. Gustafson had a suggestion for reporting on these performance measures. As data becomes available, the Village should give annual status updates to the BPAG. There were some changes made to the policy recommendations section of the plan. One of the major changes is to make sure the Village continues regional coordination with surrounding municipalities and that these meetings should generally happen two months before Public Works begins its capital improvements planning process. The plan had three recommendations for Safe Routes to Schools, and added language saying we should start with one school, and expand the program to add more schools as SRTS coordinators at each school are identified. Additional language was added to the plan stating the importance of the on-street network. There was language clarifying when shared-use paths should be used rather than other infrastructure, specifically that they are not ideal for corridors with closely spaced driveways. There was another clarification recommending that all new or modified signals in Niles should include camera detection. Group Member Brian Lee recommended adding a qualifier to the \$43 million dollar capital program snapshot page, stating that it's \$43 million over a period of 20 years.

Under the recommendations section for new signalized intersections, it became very obvious that everywhere a new signal is recommended is not under Village jurisdiction. All of these would require a signal warrant. Because of this Gustafson added language saying that while recommended, they may not happen. The plan does not make a recommendation for prioritization. Village Engineer Tom Powers stated that it needs to be prioritized otherwise there will be indecision, and would like them prioritized based on likelihood of getting approval. Gustafson said he would add

prioritization. Chairman Niedermaier asked why the signal in front of Maryhill Cemetery was needed at all. Gustafson said there is a commercial land use on the east side causing people to cross, and also because it's halfway between Dempster and Main. Per the guidelines, we're saying if we have an un-signalized crossing more than an eighth of a mile from another one, people will try to cross it, so we want to fix that. Chairman Niedermaier said it's important to strike a balance between driving and walking, and there are many lights on Milwaukee, causing frequent stops. Gustafson said he would re-evaluate that intersection and see if a signal is really needed.

In the spring of 2022 the FHWA announced a new funding program called the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant program. The SS4A grant program requires a community to have a Safety Action Plan. There are a few items that need to be in a bike plan to have it be considered a Safety Action Plan, so Gustafson went over those. The Village can self-certify if the plan includes a vision zero statement. Gustafson is going to make sure all of the required safety action plan elements are in the bike plan update.

Gustafson went over next steps for the final changes and adoption of the bike plan. Group Member Lee asked how the plan meshes with the Village's complete streets policy. Gustafson said the plan is in accordance with the complete streets policy, and provides a specific place to look for what complete streets improvements should be made. Chairman Niedermaier asked about areas for "unique-ness" in the Village's bicycle facilities. Gustafson said he added a recommendation for the Village to host a marquee bicycling event. There also is a recommendation to consider proposals for indoor bike recreation facilities, which would dovetail with the Village's existing culture of athletic facilities. Group Member Reins asked about a recommendation for the BPAG to review park district facilities, and is there any influence the BPAG can have on the park district. There was discussion about the need to collaborate with the park district, and development review for park district facilities. There will be a recommendation for BPAG to review park district facilities in the plan. Tom Powers suggested BPAG members attend park district board meetings, and hopes it could grow into a more collaborative partnership. Group Member Reins suggested getting on a park board agenda to announce the Bike Plan update.

Gustafson asked the Chairman, when the update goes before the Village Board, what would they like to know that the BPAG did with the draft. Chairman Niedermaier said the VB would likely be most concerned with the safety and cost. They will be most interested in seeing the vector of what projects are the most doable/likely to get funding, and what projects will do the most for safety. He personally wants an active and fit community that places importance on activity. Gustafson will be making a full presentation on the plan to the Village Board, touching on the engagement process and reiterating the phased outlay of the capital program, and that 60% of that could be covered by grants. Chairman Niedermaier gave a few more suggestions for what to include in the presentation. Gustafson said he will make all changes discussed at the meeting today, and the plan will be ready to take to the Village Board for their vote.

### **Other Discussion**

There was discussion about the launch party for the Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update. The group thought it would be best to partner with the already established Walk and Roll event on August 4th. Tim Gustafson went over some suggested actions running up to the event. Group Member Steve Sanders also gave some details for his planned bike ride on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Comments from the Public**

None.

**Next Meeting**

June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Group Member Lee, seconded by Group Member Sanders; all concurred and the meeting adjourned at 4:23 PM.

Nathan Bruemmer  
Staff Liaison