



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: The Urbana Plan Commission
FROM: Lily Wilcock, Planner I
DATE: July 3, 2020
SUBJECT: Plan Case No. 2401-CP-20: An application by the Urbana Zoning Administrator to adopt the 2020 Urbana Pedestrian Master Plan as an amendment to the 2005 Urbana Comprehensive Plan (as amended).

Supplemental Memorandum

On June 18, 2020, the Plan Commission considered a request to adopt the Urbana Pedestrian Master Plan (Pedestrian Plan) as an amendment to the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. This is a supplemental memorandum to address questions related to the proposed text amendment that were raised at that meeting.

Introduction

At the Plan Commission meeting, commissioners continued the public hearing to allow staff to address two outstanding items: recommendations regarding the reconstruction of brick sidewalks, and a planned connection from the Kickapoo Rail Trail to the north side of University Avenue at High Cross Road.

Discussion

The Plan Commission held a public hearing on the request at its June 18, 2020, meeting. The main discussion at Plan Commission focused on two specific items in the Pedestrian Plan. The first concerned a recommendation in the Plan to consider changing the default policy for reconstructing brick sidewalks, and the second was to clarify that the Plan included a desired north-south connection to the Kickapoo Rail Trail, making a connection to the trail across University Avenue at High Cross Road.

Brick Sidewalk Reconstruction Recommendation

During the plan's public input period, several people expressed concern about the safety and accessibility of brick sidewalks. Based on that input, the draft Pedestrian Plan recommends that the City consider changing the default brick sidewalk reconstruction policy from "reconstruct with brick unless the owner asks for concrete" to "reconstruct with concrete unless the owner asks for brick" for certain sidewalks.

The Pedestrian Plan will not change the City's brick sidewalk policy. If the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and staff were to pursue the recommendation made in the plan, there would be a public process and discussion of any changes to the policy at City Council. Ultimately, Council would decide whether to change the policy or not.

University Avenue and High Cross Road Recommendations

It is a high priority for the City of Urbana to safely connect the Kickapoo Trail to the north side of University Avenue. In addition to providing a connection to the trail, this would close the gap between two popular community destinations (Aldi and Walmart) for people taking transit, biking, and walking. The proposed connection was difficult to see on the infrastructure recommendation maps in the draft plan, and pedestrian signals at High Cross Road and University Avenue were not listed in the plan's recommendation tables and maps, which was an oversight. The maps have been adjusted to be more clear, and pedestrian signals were added to the recommendations tables and maps (Exhibit B).

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Draft Plan Commission Minutes for June 18

Exhibit B: University Avenue and High Cross Road Recommendations

The draft Urbana Pedestrian Master Plan can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/yakbppjz>. The Pedestrian Plan is not being printed due to the size of the document.

CC: Shannon Beranek, Civil Engineer I