

April 7, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council Members

From: Nick Sugar, Senior Planner

cc: Thom Sheridan, Assistant City Manager; Brad Kosko, City Engineer; Greg Hannan, Community Development Director

Subj: 2020 Connectivity Plan Discussion

Agenda items for April 7, 2020 Council discussion:

- Assess current effort/2018 Connectivity Plan
- Establish scope of 2020 Connectivity Plan effort
- Establish committee to guide effort
- Discuss projected timeline

Current Effort

The Connectivity Plan is typically updated every 3-5 years. The most recent Connectivity Plan was adopted in 2018. For reference, the entire document has been included as an attachment to this memorandum. The following observations can be made regarding the current effort:

- Hurdles encountered with implementation of trail/state funded projects
- Limited avenues for public input
- Veterans Trail is evolving/changing
- Private development has been key to sidewalk/trail extensions
- Difficult to implement impactful sidewalk extensions under current limited funding structure

Project Scope

The 2018 Connectivity Plan was a citywide plan addressing sidewalk and trail connections with a broad mission statement to “provide safe and practical community-wide non-vehicular connectivity in the City of Hudson”. The scope of the 2020 effort could be expanded or reduced, though the discussion items in this memo were prepared in reference to a citywide, comprehensive effort.

Committee

An Ad-Hoc Committee would be formed to direct the effort. Council would develop a mission statement for the Committee outlining purpose and goals. The Committee would meet monthly and could be made of individuals representing the following stakeholders:

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|---|---|--|
| City Council Representatives (3) | Metroparks | Hudson Senior Advisory Committee |
| Hudson Schools (1 admin and 1 student rep) | Local bike shop | Park Board |
| Next Gen Group | Merchants of Hudson | WRA |
| Hudson Velo Club | Vertical Runner Hudson Running Club | TASC (Trail Advocates of Summit County) |
| AMATS (Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study) | Destination Hudson | Cleveland Area Mountain Bike Association |
| Hudson Community Foundation | Peg's Foundation (formerly Margaret Clark Foundation) | Burton D. Morgan Foundation |
| City Staff Representatives from Parks, Police, CD and Engineering Departments | | |

- Staff would plan public outreach effort including:
 - Public open houses
 - Website landing page including upcoming events, previous plans, staff contacts, summarized data
 - Online survey/interactive map
 - Information table at Farmer's Market or other event
 - Pilot project: for example, install wayfinding signage or temporarily pavement marking.
 - Newspaper advertisements

- Approximate timeframe: June – September 2020 (see next page for projected timeline)

Project Timeline

| Timeline (all dates Tentative) | Agenda |
|--|--|
| Project Kickoff/Meeting #1 June 4 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch web page with survey/interactive map. • Mission Statement • Existing Conditions: Review current plan, current sidewalk/trail infrastructure, current projects, education/promotion programs • Priorities (safe crosswalks, regional bike trails, neighborhood sidewalks, park trails, bike lanes, sharrows, bike parking/facilities) • Mapping activity. Participants sketch connections on a base map. |
| Meeting #2 June 25 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop policies for each connection type: (user matrix, pavement types and widths, best conditions/locations to implement). • Mapping Activity – Staff would prepare draft map showing connections. Participants rank top three connections. |
| Public Open House Date TBD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement on priorities |
| Meeting #3 July 16 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish ranking system |
| Meeting #4 August 6 th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review draft ranking results |
| Public Open House Date TBD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement on draft plan. |
| Meeting #5 September 3 rd | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine and develop draft report |

- Initial considerations for 2020 Connectivity Plan include:
 - Expanded public outreach effort
 - Simplified scoring/ranking system
 - Scoring to add greater weight to high speed, high traffic corridors
 - Ensure major roads have sidewalk or trail on both sides of street
 - More detailed cost estimates
 - Develop policies to standardize design and placement of sidewalks and trails
 - Develop budget and funding sources. Review design criteria for funding sources including ODNR and ODOT and assess if they meet goals/policies
 - Develop realistic five-year plan