Youngstown SMART2 BUILD Project

Meeting: BUILD Team Meeting
Date: 2019-08-23

Attendance:
Refer to Sign-In Sheet

Discussion Items:
1. Welcome and Introductions
2. General
   a. Jim Kinnick opened the meeting with a description of the project
      i. 5th Avenue must be started first
      ii. Multiple autonomous shuttle vendors have shown interest in the project
      iii. The project is to be featured at OTEC
      iv. Drive Ohio is engaged and in support of the project
   b. OhWOW is expecting to have 400,000 visitors per year by 2022
   c. Youngstown would like to have the lighting incorporated into the renderings at the next meeting.
   d. Downtown should have a minimum of 5 inch thick sidewalks
   e. Utilities should be engaged now to verify if they want to perform any upgrades to their facilities prior to construction
      i. With phased construction, the utilities can be working on streets not under construction
   f. Jim encouraged everyone to begin engaging the public in respect to the project
      i. Want to avoid property owners being unaware of the project and give them an opportunity to provide input
      ii. All interactions with property owners and general public should be documented to include in the environmental document
   g. GPD to investigate cost and options for steps on Walnut north of Rayen.
   h. Next meeting to be Friday, September 13th at 9:00 am
3. Front Street
   a. The cycle track was explained to the new members of the meeting
      i. Cycle track is at sidewalk level to provide casual cyclists a form of comfort
      ii. The cycle track will extend to South St
         1. This is a state bicycle route
         2. Consistent connection should be made
      iii. Cycle tracks are becoming more prevalent in downtown areas
   b. There is a school between Market and Phelps on the north side of the street
      i. Try to incorporate pavement markings / lights / signage
      ii. School pickup will be a concern as currently parents line up to pick up and drop off their children
   c. Evaluate drop off zone for Covelli Center on Front Street.
   d. Look into the possibility of adding RRFB at all non-signalized intersections
      i. Make recommendations on where they may be beneficial
   e. The autonomous shuttle will be dropping off and picking up on the north side of the street
f. Eastgate to speak with Covelli Centre in regards to drop-off area  
g. Streetscape typicals introduced by Ivan  
   i. Three options shown as possible ways to treat the streetscape  
   ii. No decision made today  
h. Traffic growth was questioned as to will the road diet work in the future  
   i. A justification study is being performed  
   ii. The Wick Ave road diet actually help move traffic more efficiently  
   iii. Chris Tolnar explained that a 2 lane section with turn lanes or a 3 lane section actually moves traffic more efficiently than a 4 lane section  
   iv. Depending on the location of underground utilities, shrubs may have to be used in lieu of trees  
j. Bus operations need to be incorporated into the next renderings if possible  

4. Federal Street  
a. It was stated that the majority of business owners do not want the street trees because they are in the way  
   i. Street trees would not feel as intrusive with the wider sidewalks  
   ii. GPD will take into consideration the location of street trees in proximity of café seating  
b. The northbound and southbound left turn lanes on Wick Ave seem to be confusing to some motorists  
   i. Chris Tolnar explained the reasoning for the left turn lane locations  
      1. Placing the left turn lanes on the opposite sides of the median island places the motorist in direct view of the oncoming traffic  
      2. Longer storage lengths can be achieved  
      3. It more efficient because some motorists would have to sit through multiple signal cycles to get through the intersection  
c. Can a number of lost parking spots be calculated?  
d. Eastgate stated that the northwest corner of Federal and 5th may be converted to a trailhead in an alternate project  
e. Moveable planters may be preferred to permanent  
f. It was asked if café seating can be unfenced  
   i. Alcohol consumption typically must be held within a secure area so this may not be an option  
      1. GPD to verify  
g. The city would like to standardize café seating fences  
   i. Movable fences were suggested to help with snow removal  
      1. It was suggested that the fences be removed during winter months  
         a. What will be needed for the smokers who are consuming alcohol during those months?  
         b. Who will be responsible for storage to the fences?  
         c. How do you ensure the fences are replaced at the correct locations per the permits?  
         d. What stops the business owners from expanding them without permission?  
   ii. Is it possible to get this done by contract award?  
h. Plants should be salt resistant  

5. Commerce Street  
a. Currently there is a lot of pavement that we should try to repurpose
b. There was a request to have N Walnut reopened to traffic or at a minimum reopened to pedestrians
   i. This would be a separate project
   ii. GPD was asked to provide an estimate to what it would cost to open this area to pedestrians with some sort of stairway system

c. We should try to save money on Commerce by minimizing curb and walk work

d. With the closure of Phelps, it was requested that Hazel be opened to two-way traffic
   i. Will the closure affect traffic enough to justify Hazel being two-way?
   ii. Hazel is very narrow
   iii. On-street parking would be lost
   iv. This would need to be a separate project

6. Rayen Avenue
   a. Traffic currently moves above the speed limit
   b. Look into a signal warrant at Hazel to slow traffic
   c. Suggest ways to slow down traffic
   d. Evaluate on-street parking versus medians
   e. Fire access can be prohibited with the addition of medians and narrower lanes
   f. If medians are used, look into the possibility of mountable curbs
   g. Rayen should feel like a street that is running through a campus not a street at the edge of a campus
   h. Look into how other urban universities are slowing down traffic
   i. The extension west to Belmont should match the SMART2 typical section
      i. This area is already programmed for another project
      ii. Agreed that the extension should look and feel the same
   j. Would bike lanes be more beneficial than on-street parking on Rayen?
      i. There is currently no dedicated east/west bike route in this area

7. Park Avenue
   a. The BUILD application stated a mini transit hub would be installed on Park
      i. Does the hub have to be built?
   b. The shuttle may be looped around the hospital

8. Phelps Street
   a. Southernmost part of Phelps needs to be built when Front St is being built
   b. Do something special with the concrete to promote pedestrians
   c. Utilized movable planters
   d. No parking at all on Phelps
   e. Loading zones can be used in the north block
   f. No drop-off in front of city hall
   g. Evaluate realigning the road to provide the wider sidewalk on the west side while eliminating the jog on the south end.

End of Minutes