

CTM Additional Meeting - August 12, 2020, 6:00pm.

A Google Meet Videoconference

CTM held a second August meeting, and due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the meeting was held via videoconference.

Attendees: Joe Brunner, Buddy Goose, Gerald Checco, Jan Checco, Brian Duffy, Teresa Hoelle, Malcolm Montgomery, Mark Jeffreys, Patrick Borders, Peter Block, Chris Harding, Rama Kasturi, Ioanna Paraskevopoulos (quorum: 13) and Florence Parker of OKI Regional

Absent: Robert Hamberg, Jennifer Krivikas

6:00 – Discussion led by President Brunner about composition of Nominating Committee. Serving will be Rama Kasturi, Chair, with Mark Jeffreys and Joe Brunner, and at-large members Kevin Marsh and Bruce Ault. Vote to accept: (U)

6:05 - Discussion and vote on NBDIP application, resubmission of CTM's earlier application for Clifton gateway elements. A pledge of \$500 is needed as our contribution to project if the application is accepted. President Brunner proposes shifting Memorial Day Parade budgeted funds (which anticipated a loss of \$500 if we'd held this event, cancelled due to COVID 19.) Vote to accept: (U)

6:15 - Discussion and vote on motion to create temporary a bike lane on Clifton Avenue, Mark Jeffreys presenting (see attached documents.) In 2014 and 2016, discussions about projects that would develop local bike infrastructure was supported by CTM Board. This proposal is for a temporary two-way bike lane on east side of Clifton Avenue, connecting Calhoun Street to Ludlow Avenue. All curb parking would be preserved and bike racks being offered by the City (photo attached) could be installed at a paved spot near Diggs Plaza. There can be economic and environmental advantages in Clifton with an increase of safe bicycle traffic. Peter asked if UC has been consulted, Mark said that there's no feedback so far. There is presently no resolution from the Cincinnati Park Board. DOTE and Police will want to be included in the discussion. Mark Jeffreys is working first for approval of the concept by CTM and then will go to CUF leadership, etc. to

build support before going to the City. Secretary Checco asked about potential sponsors of this 3-month test with smaller barriers. Ioanna remarked that, eventual City approval and permits for this may need to clear historically-controversy about bike. Treasurer Checco asked Florence Parker of OKI if she knows of any grants that could be applied for this kind of temporary project, and she said no, since it is temporary. Vote on the Resolution (attached): Mark Jeffreys moves, Buddy Goose seconds (U)

Housing and Zoning/Malcolm Montgomery. Request for deck replacement at 616 Evanswood Place. No objections from neighbors. (Committee recommendation attached) Malcolm Montgomery moves to accept, Patrick Borders seconds (U)

6:18 - CTM board communications list/ Pres. Brunner: A new link will be sent to Board members again to allow for list completion. New Google docs account is still in testing stages.

6:19 - Gathering for recognition of Lydia Stec/Secretary Checco: to be held on Clifton Plaza Tuesday August 25, 6-7:30 pm. CTM and CBA Board members will host and provide potluck contributions of beverages and single serving snacks. Masks and social distancing will be required of those attending.

6:25 - Security in Business District: Secretary Checco shared that business owner Paolo Salomone asks that CTM and CBA give consideration to installation of cameras at Clifton Plaza and Diggs. Treasurer Checco suggests that this suggestion be referred to the ad hoc community group working together on security. CTM Business and Safety committees are participating and asking if there are dollars available at Parks for this kind of project. Malcolm Montgomery offers his technical support if this goes forward.

6:29 - Meeting adjourned (U)

Temporary Protected Bike Lanes Connecting Clifton Heights to Clifton Gaslight on Clifton Avenue

5 Minute Clifton: Making a 5 minute jaunt to Burnet Woods or between business districts Inviting & Easier

Cities around the world are converting car lanes to temporary bike lanes, causing a surge in biking amid the pandemic. In 1 day, Boston converted 1.7 miles of lanes to a temporary bike lanes, Bogota, Columbia converted 13 miles of lanes to bike lanes overnight while other cities such as Oakland, Paris & Chicago have followed suit.

The result:

- An increase in economic activity: one study indicates that **people who bike spend 41% more** than people in cars.*
- Improved vibrancy and health: the **mental and physical health benefits of increased biking** – especially during a pandemic where people have been sheltered in place – are well documented.
- Reductions in pollution: cities have seen a **20-30% reduction in pollution** with shelter in place and fewer cars on the road – temporary bike lanes have been a solution enabling those levels to continue to remain low.



The opportunity – in Clifton: Temporary protected bike lane on Clifton Avenue

Convert the east side of Clifton Avenue from Calhoun Avenue to Ludlow Avenue to a temporary protected bike lane while also installing bike racks on Clifton Avenue & Ludlow adjacent to the fountain on Clifton.

Benefits:

1. Increase in economic activity in Clifton Gaslight business district as well as in Clifton Heights business district along Calhoun and McMillan Avenue without eliminating on-street parking or impacting private residences in the same way that studies have proven the economic upside in other cities*.
2. Improved air quality: From March 23 to June 30 during Shelter in Place, major pollutants in the Cincinnati air dropped by 20% vs the same period in the previous three years as car traffic declined from 20-42%. In July, however, as traffic increased, air quality measures have started to deteriorate. Enabling more biking vs travel by car reduces those air pollutants – the impact of which is immediate.
3. Enabling physically distanced travel while improving health: particularly in a time when physical and mental health are taxed by the pandemic, encouraging biking has clear benefits even for non bike owners with Red Bike.

Implementation Plan:

1. Enroll other stakeholders in the proposal: CUF council, UC, Parks Dept, TriHealth & Hebrew Union.
2. Convert curbside lane to a temporary bike lane with a physical barrier while moving the parking lane to second lane on the east side of the street by Burnet Woods/the UC Campus.
3. Install temporary markers (similar to ones in above photo) & paint (which local volunteers can supply/paint if need be) to ensure clear communication to cars & bikers.
4. Install signs similar to the above along route while promoting it in social media among UC students and Clifton/Clifton Heights residents to make residents aware of the change.
5. Work with DOTE on plan to measure the impact.
6. Leverage 1,000 bike racks donated to the City of Cincinnati to install them on Clifton Avenue near fountain across from Skyline at Diggs Plaza to enable easy parking of a bike and the walking along Ludlow; explore installing some also at CVS, by Clifton Plaza and Clifton Market.



Temporary bike lanes are just that – temporary. Without significant cost, this has been done literally in a day as cities around the world have shown. The benefits are clear – there's no risk to installing them now.

Appendix

25 foot space on Clifton by Burnet Woods & Diggs Plaza to install bike racks



South of MLK on Clifton by UC Plaza



Inspiration from other cities:



City of Cincinnati's Bike Rack Survey



Click to proceed

Proposed Resolution for Temporary Bike Lanes on Clifton Avenue
For Consideration in August 11, 2020 Board Meeting

Whereas the Clifton Town Meeting Board of Trustees has voted twice (July 2014 & January 2016) to support bicycling infrastructure such as bike lanes; and

Whereas, the benefits of biking have been well known particularly during a shelter-in-place COVID-19 time: mental & physical health through exercise, easier physically distanced commuting to work and/or shopping, and proven economic benefits for small business; and

Whereas, temporary protected bike lanes have been popping up literally overnight in cities around the world as a quick, efficient and cost-effective way to enable biking during the COVID period; and

Whereas, given the COVID-19 restrictions, small businesses along Ludlow Avenue have been adversely impacted from reduced foot traffic that could benefit from cyclists; and

Whereas, there is a proposal for a temporary two-way protected bike lane from Calhoun Avenue to Ludlow Avenue on Clifton Avenue on the east side of Clifton Avenue. This would incorporate moving the current parking lane over one (no elimination of parking and no impact on residential parking). This would be similar to the attached photo from a two-way bike lane in Columbus;

Whereas the Clifton Town Meeting Transportation & Public Safety Committee is in support of this proposal; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Clifton Town Meeting Board of Trustees supports the pursuit of these temporary bike lanes and finalizing implementation details with DOTE and other stakeholders impacted by the proposal (CUFNA, UC/The Heights, Cincinnati Parks, Hebrew Union College and TriHealth) and work with DOTE on installing bike racks donated to the city at Diggs Plaza and other locations in Clifton.

Resolved, that the Clifton Town Meeting Board of Trustees authorizes the CTM Transportation & Public Safety Committee to partner with these stakeholders to finalize a plan for implementation & measurement, and share that plan back with Clifton Town Meeting with an objective of having it in place by September 15, 2020.



**Motion of No Objection to Variance Request for 616 Evanswood Place
(Project: ZH20200122)**

Whereas:

Owner of 616 Evanswood Place wants to build a replacement deck at the rear of his property with a similar footprint as the existing deck which is flush with the west side of the house. The proposed side setback on the west side of the house is approx. 2.5 ft., the same as the current deck and the west edge of the house. There is a minimum side setback of 10 ft. required according to zoning regulations which will necessitate a variance of approx. 7.5 ft. in order for the replacement deck to be built in the same location. The owner has secured letters of support from the four adjacent and nearby home owners. The owner has also supplied a map to make the case that his replacement deck is consistent with similar decks in the immediate area on properties which have narrower than 10 ft. side setbacks because the original houses themselves have less than the 10 ft. setback and the decks were built flush with the side of the houses.

Therefore:

Clifton Town Meeting has no objection to the variance request, provided that no substantial changes are made to the City Project File as it exists on August 10, 2020.

The Housing and Zoning Committee is hereby authorized to communicate CTM's position to the City, including to withdraw it if in its opinion substantial changes are made; in which case the Committee Chair will return the question to the Board for reconsideration.

Malcolm Montgomery
Trustee, Clifton Town Meeting
Housing & Zoning (chair)

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