

MEETING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
January 14, 2019
East Conference Room

Present: Councilmembers Rader, Bullock & Anderson

Also Present: Council President O’Leary, Planning Director Sylvester, David Short, ODOT Transportation Engineer

Call to order: 6:11 p.m.

Resolution 9040-18 – A RESOLUTION expressing the City’s approval and support for the development of US Bicycle Route 30 and State Bicycle Route 71

Director Sylvester explained that the State sent out a communication in June communicating its effort to proactively help cyclists travel across the state and country by establishing state and national bike routes. The State identified Lakewood’s Riverside Drive and Lake Ave. as part of these routes. Director Sylvester noted that these routes are also identified in the City’s bike master plan as priority routes. Director Sylvester stated that the administration is supportive.

Mr. Short remarked further on ODOT’s plans for the state and national bike routes. He explained that designating them comes with no additional regulations upon the City. The most significant aspect of the designation is that ODOT will install signage and produce maps including the routes. He explained that there is no funding associated with the designation but that designation may be leveraged to in grant applications

In response to committee questions, Mr. Short discussed how these particular routes were selected. The state selected the safest and most direct routes that could be continuous across communities. Preference was given to routes with bike lanes or trails.

He explained that the initial signs will be installed on a program-wide scale. A contractor will be hired to install them. No additional striping will be done or funded. The state will provide no maintenance or funding for maintenance. Mr. Short estimated that 3-4 signs in each direction on each route would be installed.

The Committee discussed the role of the Public Works Department in approving and/or advising on sign placement.

Councilmember Bullock expressed support for the routes but proposed that the City and State work together to create a more substantial impact.

Mr. Short remarked that there is a new administration in Columbus and he is not entirely sure yet about its priorities. He made suggestions for how the City could leverage these routes to create funding opportunities. He shares information about other regional and state transportation programs.

The Committee discussed the specifics of the route on the west end and pointed out that the route avoids Clifton Blvd, where new bike lanes have been installed this year. It was also acknowledged that continuing on Clifton into Rocky River becomes hazardous due to the bridge.

Councilmember Bullock proposed amending the routes to utilize the Clifton Blvd. bike lanes. The Committee agreed that this could put pressure on Rocky River to improve its infrastructure which connects to Lakewood's.

Mr. Short asked that the recommendation be put into writing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Rader and seconded by Councilmember Bullock to recommend adoption of Resolution 9040-18 with the condition that the Committee will make a recommendation in writing to ODOT about changes to the proposed routes.

All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:37 p.m.