



**CITY OF NEWARK  
DELAWARE**

Newark Transportation Improvement District Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 1:30 p.m.  
Location: Virtual Meeting

**Attendees**

<u>Committee Members</u>	
Newark Planning and Development	Mary Ellen Gray, AICP
Newark Planning and Development	Mike Fortner, AICP
DeIDOT	Sarah Coakley, AICP
WILMAPCO	Heather Dunigan
University of Delaware	Robert Mullen
Newark Planning Commission	Alan Silverman
BikeNewark	Bob McBride
Mayor's Appointee	David Levandoski
District 4 Representative	Julie Maresca
District 5 Representative	Jim Jones
<u>Other Attendees</u>	
Newark Planning and Development	Tom Fruehstorfer
Newark Planning and Development	John Kennell, AICP
Newark Planning and Development	Josh Solge
Newark Planning and Development	Katelyn Dinsmore
Newark Public Works and Water Resources	Mike Falkowski, PE
University of Delaware	Jim Conrad
<u>Committee Support</u>	
AECOM	David Athey, PE
AECOM	Mayuresh Khare, AICP, PP

**Meeting Minutes**

- The meeting started at 1:30 pm. Since the meeting was being held virtually, David Athey read the names of the attendees.
- Minutes from the December 8, 2021 meeting were approved without exception.
- Sarah Coakley began her presentation by revisiting the Old Papermill Pathway from the December meeting. She noted that the project originally ranked 5<sup>th</sup> but falls to a near-last ranking if the bicycle / pedestrian path on the south side of Capitol Trail is eliminated. However, since other projects with lower ranking are still being considered for the TID, DeIDOT's consultant will update the cost estimate accordingly which will be provided to the Committee. Jim Jones and Bob McBride both thought people would still figure out a way to get to the remainder of the path even if the portions

along Capitol Trail were eliminated. Mary Ellen Gray and Mike Fortner discussed complaints they'd heard about lack of paths but it was clarified by Alan Silverman that those were regarding the Walton Track which is not proximate.

- Sarah then continued her presentation of TID-CTP projects begun in December by looking at area B starting with the Main Street McKee Connector. See Meeting Materials. Heather Dunigan asked why the path was being shown as separated from the road and was told by Sarah it was due to parking conflicts. She offered that the project could be redone as on-road. Alan noted such a change would be contrary to prior efforts to find additional parking on Main Street. Heather suggested that the City would need to look at parking use for the on-road option to be pursued. Alan also noted two proposed development projects in the area that could impact parking. It was questioned if power poles could be relocated into easements which Mike Falkowski said he thought they could. Sarah said land acquisition costs were included in the cost estimate as were utility pole relocations. Mike Fortner said a loss of parking would be a red flag. Julie Maresca thought that making it easier to traverse by bikes could relieve some traffic concerns. Heather said that travel speeds tend to be higher when on-street parking is not used. Mike Fortner indicated that the area around Washington Street is mostly residential and if it would be beneficial if students used the path. Mike Falkowski asked about costs for a separated on-road bicycle lane. Sarah said DelDOT's consultant would estimate it.
- Sarah continued with the Library Avenue Side Path Extension. She noted that two permanent easements would be needed. Alan asked how the closure of the library would affect the model results. Sarah replied that there would be little change. Mike Falkowski said residents of The Grove would be primary beneficiaries and that he was concerned about tree loss.
- Sarah then discussed the Route 273 Pathway to Marrows Road. She noted that permanent easements would be needed on three properties. Jim Jones said he thought the pathway would be dangerous to ride on and thought it would be easier to travel through The Grove. Tom Fruehstorfer said transportation options for the Hudson building should be considered. Mary Ellen said more people may use the path if it was there as none exists today. Bob indicated that the path could make businesses farther east on Ogletown Road more attractive. Jim asked if the path could be placed on the south side of the Post Office and Hudson building. Bob suggested thinking about the path in a wider context such as the site of 84 Lumber if it was redeveloped. Sarah thought the project would rank even higher with more development in the area. Alan observed that the entrance to the Post Office often backs up which could be in conflict with the path and that a turning lane for queues would be helpful but should not be part of the TID.
- Sarah continued with the Marrows Road Pathway to Old Newark Road which she said was the highest ranking project. Alan asked if the costs shown on the estimate for stormwater management were for existing structures or new. Sarah said they were for new structures. Mike Falkowski said the project made a lot of sense as it would connect residents in the area with shopping. Bob agreed even though would be on the edge of the City.
- Sarah completed her presentation with the South College Avenue Bike Lane. Alan asked if the bus stops shown included the University buses to which Sarah replied that they do. He also asked if the proposed improvements would limit their ability to put stops. Sarah said she did not know.
- David Athey closed the meeting by stating that there would be a Committee meeting in February.
- There were no public comments.
- The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.