



11333 N. Cedarburg Road
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www.ci.mequon.wi.us

Public Works Department

Joint Mequon-Thiensville Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission

Thursday, December 14, 2023

9:00 AM

North Conference Room

Agenda

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Action requested: review and approve

a. November 9, 2023 Minutes

3. Discussion/Action Items

a. Draft Letter to Ozaukee County Regarding Safety Concerns of the Ozaukee Interurban Trail Alignment near the We Energies Substation

b. Bikeway Mequon Rd/OIT Project Update

c. 2024 Bikeway Commission Meeting Schedule

4. Adjourn

Dated: /s/ T. Azinger, Chair

Notice is hereby given that a majority of other governmental bodies may be in attendance at this meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision making responsibility, although they will not take any formal action relative thereto at this meeting. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations for attendance at this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at 262-236-2914 twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting.

Any questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the Engineering Office at 262-236-2934, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.



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Public Works Department

Joint Mequon-Thiensville Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission
Thursday, November 9, 2023
9:00 AM
North Conference Room

Minutes

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Kenneth Maciolek
Chair T. Azinger
Commissioner Jim Doornek
Commissioner Ron Heinritz
Commissioner John Liegeois
Commissioner Kristin Wade

Absent:

Commissioner Rob Holyoke

In attendance was the Director of Community Services/Public Works LaFond for the Village of Thiensville. Also attending was City Engineer/Director of Public Works Lundeen, Assistant City Engineer McCraw, and Engineering Administrative Assistant Redeker.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
a. October 12, 2023 Minutes

No residents were in attendance.

RESULT: **Approved [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Commissioner Heinritz

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Wade

AYES: Maciolek, Azinger, Doornek, Heinritz, Liegeois, Wade

3. Discussion/Action Items

a. Signage for Riverview Route Through Village of Thiensville

Commissioners discussed alternative bike routes through Thiensville that may be more safe than using the roadway on Freistadt Rd, west of River Rd. Commissioners also discussed signage for the potential routes directing bicyclists and pedestrians to the Ozaukee Interurban Trail as well as Thiensville Village Park from the area of River Rd and Freistadt Rd. No action was taken on this discussion item.

b. Directional and Regulatory Signage Review

Commissioner Doornek led a Powerpoint presentation regarding ways to improve the bike-ability/walk ability of Mequon. The presentation consisted of photograph examples of trails and signs from the cities of Milwaukee, Madison, Minneapolis, and Tucson. Discussion followed regarding ways to make Mequon a more bike and pedestrian friendly community. No action was taken on this item.

4. Adjourn

a. Motion to adjourn at 10:07

RESULT: **Approved by Voice Acclamation [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Commissioner Maciolek

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Doornek

AYES:	Maciolek, Azinger, Doornek, Heinritz, Liegeois, Wade
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Respectfully Submitted,

Kaye Redeker



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Office of Engineering

TO: Joint Mequon-Thiensville Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission
FROM: Cole McCraw, Assistant City Engineer
DATE: December 14, 2023
SUBJECT: Draft Letter to Ozaukee County Regarding Safety Concerns of the Ozaukee Interurban Trail Alignment near the We Energies Substation

Background

This item was prepared to review the draft letter to Andrew Struck at Ozaukee County regarding the safety concerns of the OIT alignment near the We Energies substation. The Commission previously discussed the item in October and November.

Analysis

The draft letter is attached for review.

Fiscal Impact

This item has no fiscal impact.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission approve or suggest any modifications to the proposed letter.

Attachments:

Draft Letter (PDF)



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Joint Mequon-Thiensville Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission

Mr. Andrew Struck
Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Director
Interurban Trail Division
121 West Main Street
Port Washington, WI 53074

Re: Railroad Crossing on Ozaukee Interurban Trail between Bonniwell and Highland Roads

Dear Andy:

As Chairman of the Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission I am writing you about a safety concern that may exist at the railroad crossing between Bonniwell and Highland Roads. This crossing was designed and constructed in 20____ pursuant to a three-way agreement between the City of Mequon, the Union Pacific Railroad and WE Energies. We believe that the crossing may not be achieving its original objective of encouraging bicycle riders to get off their bikes and walk over the railroad tracks. Instead, the crossing may be creating a safety issue for bicyclists.

The crossing consists of fencing on each side of the tracks which requires bicyclists to negotiate two tight u-turns while remaining within the narrow fencing lanes. Some bicyclists choose to get off their bikes and walk through the crossing maze but it appears the majority of riders just proceed through the crossing maze. Larger bikes such as electric bikes seem more likely to walk through the maze.

There appear to be two potential safety problems. Riders not familiar with the crossing will try to ride through the maze and realize they cannot make the tight u-turns. This can and has resulted in falls. Several commissioners have witnessed such falls during their rides on the trail. The other safety issue is caused by riders who attempt to ride through the maze and crash into riders who are walking their bikes through the maze. We have one case of a woman who was run into by a bicyclist attempting to ride through the at high speed. The woman sustained injuries requiring the dispatch of a medical response team.

We would like to explore possible alternative designs to make the crossing safer. This will necessarily result in discussions with Union Pacific and WE Energies. We understand that

Attachment: Draft Letter (9027 : Draft Letter to Ozaukee OIT near Substation)

Ozaukee County was not involved in the original design, and we are not asking you to participate in the negotiation of any potential changes to the crossing. However, as Ozaukee County has overall responsibility for the Interurban Trail, we would appreciate your endorsement of a review of the safety issue presented by the crossing. This could be done by a letter to the Commission indicating that you are aware of the problem and agree that a safety review should be undertaken for possible design changes. Your input on possible redesign would, of course, be welcome.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sam Azinger
Chairman

Attachment: Draft Letter (9027 : Draft Letter to Ozaukee OIT near Substation)



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Office of Joint Mequon-Thiensville Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission

TO: Joint Mequon-Thiensville Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission
FROM: Cole McCraw, Assistant City Engineer
DATE: December 14, 2023
SUBJECT: Bikeway Mequon Rd/OIT Project Update

Background

Commissioners requested an update on the Mequon Road/OIT Improvement Project currently underway. The project officially started the last week of April and has a final completion deadline in June 2024.

Analysis

The contract authorized substantial completion by mid-October of 2023, with preauthorization of landscaping completion by June of 2024. The following improvements were not complete by mid-October, necessitating a City-authorized extension and a new completion date of mid-November, 2023:

- Pedestrian lights within the terrace area
- Paver installation at intersection locations
- OIT crossing opening
- Bollard light installation

Due to supply chain and material delivery issues, the following improvements were issued a City-authorized extension and a new completion date near the end of December 2023:

- Traffic signal installation (Weston Drive traffic signal will not be operational until 2024, due to the preemption requirement and coordination between the Office of the Commission of Railroads and Wisconsin Department of Transportation)
- Remaining regulatory signage
- Advanced warning signals for OIT

The following improvements were not complete by mid-October, and provided a City-authorized extension to the final completion in June 2024:

- Median lights (due to supply chain delays)
- All gateway signage (due to WisDOT requirement for a breakaway base design)

- Landscaping at base of each street tree
- Final punchlist items

Additionally, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has a 2028 project (advanceable to 2027, pending funding) that includes resurfacing the subject area (mill and pave 4 - 4.5 inches and concrete base patching) and reconstructing the railroad crossing and updating the railroad signals.

Fiscal Impact

This item is informational only and has no fiscal impact.

Recommendation

This item is informational only and no action is needed.



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Office of Engineering

TO: Joint Mequon-Thiensville Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission
FROM: Cole McCraw, Assistant City Engineer
DATE: December 14, 2023
SUBJECT: 2024 Bikeway Commission Meeting Schedule

Background

This item was prepared to review the upcoming meeting schedule for 2024.

Analysis

The proposed 2024 Joint Mequon-Thiensville Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission schedule is attached for review.

Fiscal Impact

This is an informational item only.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission suggest any changes to the proposed schedule if there are known conflicts.

Attachments:

2024 Bikeway Meeting Dates(DOCX)

Joint M-T Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission

2024 Meeting Dates

Second Thursday of every month at 9:00 am in the North Conference Room

- January 11
- February 8
- March 14
- April 11
- May 9
- June 13
- July 11
- August 8
- September 12
- October 10
- November 14
- December 12