MacArthur Hwy Road Improvement Project
Public Meeting
Thursday, May 15, 2014
6:00-7:00 pm

Introduction: Councilwoman Denise Moore – This meeting is an Informational meeting about what will be happening in the First District, Restripping MacArthur Hwy. Few things to address:
1. Across the street from Martin Luther King Hwy is the park, and many kids cross the street. There is not very adequate parking adjacent to the park.
2. Robert Johnson from the Park District may come tonight. The District received TIF Funds to put in Fire Fighter Themed Park Equipment which will be installed adjacent to the Fire Station.
3. There will be work on the Bluff between Richard Allen and Union Hall. The block may be shut down for 3 months

Director of Public Works Mike Rogers-Over 2,000 people took part in the Comprehensive Plan and some of the things that came out of the study are “We need more complete streets.” Complete streets are designing for the pedestrian, cyclists, disabled people as well as the vehicles. We are trying to design all of our street projects to be complete streets.

City Traffic Engineer Nick Stoffer-We want to try to tie this into the Main & University intersection that was just completed. We took a road diet and brought the 5 lanes down to 3 lanes and part of the plan was to look at the intersection in all directions. We wanted to make this a vibrant and pedestrian safe street. On the north side, we took down the lanes all the way to the Interstate. Then we looked south to Moss Avenue and MacArthur. MacArthur has about 8,000 cars a day and that road is too big for that number of cars. We can tie it into Campus town. We looked at bike lanes in both directions. They eventually will connect to Borland and to Sheridan and even further north. We are looking at a road diet to give MacArthur for bike facilities. Here’s a few boards for examples:

a. 6’ Right of Way. Instead of 5 lanes, will have 2 lanes in each direction with a center turn lane, 9’ parallel parking. The bike lanes will be on both sides but on the Eastside, the parking will shelter the bike lanes away from traffic.

Questions:
1. Pastor Holmes- Will there be a charges for parking? No, there will be no charge
DM-I would like to see parking only when the park is open. You can do that. At parks you may want to do a limited parking time. We don’t want to encourage parking and drinking or doing drugs and staying there for a long time. We can work with the Police Department and have them be aware of this.
2. Pastor Holmes-Would there be signs that designate how many hours they can park there so they don’t sit there all day long? If we do, we will have signs that say no overnight parking or are time limited.
3. Pastor Holmes-We have many people that have criminal activities sit there all day long.
DM-We need to have more conversations about that and collaborate with the Police Department to see what we can work out.
4. Man-If you are cutting the lanes down, are you still going to be able to accommodate the traffic flow? It has a steady amount of traffic and 3 lanes will accommodate 18-20,000 cars a day.

5. Rev. Robinson- Are you going to try to revitalize it and put more businesses there? There is not much property on MacArthur for more businesses. Even if there was some new development there, I don’t see that it will be a problem or a need for more lanes. We are really talking about striping and it is not a permanent thing that we cannot change. The goal is to slow down the traffic and create bike lanes so that people have an opportunity to travel up and down that street.

Nick- Any time you put less car lanes and put bikes on the road, you are going to slow traffic down.

6. Pastor Holmes- My concern is that the gas station around this area sells alcohol and how will that be monitored? That is not something the Public Works Department manages, but our Police Department. The police monitor this area constantly. We are doing this to keep the children safe.

7. Per Ellingson- What is Terra Engineering’s role in this? They worked on Main & University and we asked them to do the rendering for these posters. The City is going to be doing the design & layout.

After the last Main & University meeting, I posted online on the Bike Peoria Face Book page. Many people brought up concerns about how people turn at intersections with 2 bike lanes on each side. I did some internet research on how they work and they seemed to be ‘not recommended’ unless you had specific bike traffic signals integrated into the traffic lights. I reached out to Downtown Alliance in Chicago about the bike turns on Dearborn in the Loop and they seemed to think you wouldn’t put that into the design unless you had traffic signals.

N-We don’t have signals into the budget.

Can you at least put some bike stop signs so that the cyclists are going to turn into the turn lanes. If we do it right, it could be a for-front in the country. I appreciated the effort & it seems when you are putting bike lanes on both sides, you need some type of control. Bounce it off of Terra and keep us in the loop for cyclist feedback. Cyclists think that they are protected with the green strip in the intersection and feel that they can just keep rolling when cars are turning in the intersection. This could be dangerous, if they are turning left.

DM-Thank you, you could potentially be our bike consultant.

It could be something as simple as a stop sign for the cyclist to tell them to stop and look for traffic.

MR- Where I came from, they had lights on these dual lanes. You are not thinking that there is car coming that way. We want to monitor those projects and see how well they work. We may have to go to a honk signal or other signs. And, this is why we have public meetings, to get the feedback from the public.

8. Man-Any modifications to the curb or sidewalks? No this is not like Sheridan.

9. Pastor Holmes- Where is MacArthur going to connect with Sheridan? We have control of MacArthur to Jefferson all the way North and then it ties into University, then up to the Borland ROW and then we will put bike lanes into residential streets by going on Windham to Sheridan.

10. When will the striping take place? We want to get it done this season.

11. Man- Have a question about the bike side? Is it an East side of the Street and then it connects into the University route? Yes, we will put some more strips down but people don’t pay attention. One other thing-Do you have a plan for the winter when it snows because the plows may not be able to fit between the barriers. N-We sheltering a 10’ piece of pavement. Anything smaller is not effective.

Nick- Brought a picture of what MLK would look like.
Dm- there is not a sidewalk on the side of the hill and what do you do. It looks like the wall is going to shore up that area. We are not building a sidewalk today. The wall will be about 10’ from the curb and then grate it and when there is money available, they will put in a sidewalk. Up ’til then it will be grass.

12. Woman-Will the sidewalk be widened or stay the same? We don’t anticipate any changes to the sidewalk at this time.

Denise Moore:
Thank you for coming and we appreciate any comments. These conversations are how we make improvements and get the residents feedback.