

**Brandon Public Hearing  
October 13, 2015  
Union Street / Maple Street Bike & Pedestrian Project**

NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and / or approval at the subsequent board meeting.

In Attendance: Doug Bailey Seth Hopkins, Devon Fuller, Tracy Wyman.

Also in Attendance: Dave Atherton, Richard Baker, Daryl Burlett, Kathy & Wayne Rausenberger, Linda & Jeff Stewart

The hearing was called to order at 6:04 pm by Chairman Doug Bailey.

The hearing notice was read and found to be in order.

Devon Fuller said he thinks this is a great idea.

Wayne Rausenberger asked if the engineering is done. Daryl Burlett said they are almost in the right-of-way phase. They are making some adjustments.

Kathy Rausenberger asked how close they can go and Burlett said 10' from the road.

Bailey said there is one homeowner most impacted. The end house is equally impacted but that is being converted from a regular residence to an apartment. The neighbor did not think it would be as big of a concern. Burlett said the rest of the houses should not be as impacted. K. Rausenberger said three of them are really close. Bailey said one is set back 25-30'. Bailey said at one time it was too close to meet setback for a fence, because it was so close to the road.

W. Rausenberger asked when the project goes up from the residence around the bend on the same side of the sidewalk, if there is going to be a lot of fill and Burlett said yes, a lot of fill. It does drop off.

Tracy Wyman arrived at 6:06 pm.

Burlett said this grant goes up to \$300,000 but the project is a total of \$900,000. We have to apply in three phases. The plan is to do Union St. first, then Maple St., and then the bridge.

W. Rausenberger asked why that order and Burlett said because of right-of-way issues. He said the three phases all together will total \$900,000 including storm drains. It is not just sidewalks.

Seth Hopkins asked about the town participation and Burlett said he does not know. He said it will not be over 20%. Atherton said from the original grant, we have \$150,000.

We either have to pay it back or go forward. Hopkins said he thought this was \$70,000. Burlett said we spent that much up to March. But since Dubois & King has been working on it, there have been more expenses. Dave Atherton said we would rather spend the money and get something for it.

Burlett said the total length is 2,632 feet. The name of the grant is Transportation Alternative. It used to be called Enhancement -- it is the same thing with a different name. He said it is all contingent on grant money. And the hearings are part of the process.

Bailey asked if the proposed bridge was a big part of the money. Burlett said the sidewalk is more than the bridge. Bailey asked about building a diagonal crosswalk. Burlett said the road is not even wide enough -- it is supposed to be 21-1/2' wide, without sidewalks.

Fuller said in theory we could apply for the grants and not get them and then only do one part now. Burlett said he thinks once they invest in this new grant they will keep it going. He said the problem is that this fell dead in 2010; eleven years had lapsed. This is federal money and is supposed to be used within ten years. We rewrote the grant to start the process over again. We have up to ten years to get the \$900,000 in grants.

Richard Baker said in 2010, the obstacle became the bridge. In 2011, Tropical Storm Irene happened and then this got pushed back. He supports a continuous sidewalk loop around town. People walk it all the time and it is not safe to walk on Union St. He said he supports the grant application.

Burlett said the closer the house is to the road, the more people have to walk even closer to the road. The sidewalk will help. Bailey said he asked the homeowner how many people walk in the street versus his lawn and he said 70% of the walkers walk on the road and 30% walk on his lawn. He said most is pedestrian traffic but if someone is pushing a stroller, they are forced to the road.

Burlett said this project will give a safe passage back to downtown. Bailey said he didn't think too many other houses would be negatively impacted by the sidewalk.

Baker said the standard width now for sidewalks is 5'. He asked about reducing the size and Burlett said it can be done if there is pre-existing. They have narrowed it to 4' in places. 4' is the minimum. Union St. would be 5' all the way. It would be 4' in front of one property, which would be ADA compliant.

Being no further comments or testimony, the hearing closed at 6:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Mondlak