

**MINUTES
LAWTON ACCESS BOARD
CITY HALL
CITY ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
JULY 31, 2018**

Mike Jones called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in the City Attorney's Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Harper, Joseph; Kesler, Don; Jones, Mike; Polk, Ray.

ABSENT: Love, Kay.

OTHERS PRESENT: Keith Neitzke, Parks and Recreation; Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office, Sean Fortenbaugh, Ward 6 City Councilman; Judy Franco, GIS.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

APPROVE MINUTES from May 29, 2018 meeting

Motion by Kesler, Second by Harper, to approve the minutes of May 29, 2018. **Aye:** Kesler; Jones; Polk; Harper. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. New Business

A. Review and discuss current status of Priority #2 Project (NW Sheridan Rd. sidewalks)

Jones stated I spoke with Whisenhunt in regards to Priority #2. The design is almost complete with some surveying to be done. Engineering is short engineers so I will be completing the designs on all sidewalks. The city's intent is to have a sidewalk master plan. Councilman Fortenbaugh is one of the key members working on that. We have a presentation for you today of the new master plan. This is Judy Franco and she works with me in GIS. The great thing about GIS mapping is we can put a lot of information into it and then we can query the data base for results. The master plan will have a limited amount of money that won't begin to cover all the sidewalks we need. We are going to examine the city and prioritize the greatest needs. The system will show us where sidewalks should go based on the most important factors. The master plan has a set of priorities and so does this board. When the city implements the master plan they may use some of our funding. The priorities will remain separate. Their priorities are based on access to an arterial road, schools, hospitals, government buildings, and LATS stops. This map shows the priorities laid over a map of the City of Lawton. We have identified 10 different areas by using the 8 Council Wards and 2 at large areas. The at large can be located anywhere within the city. This is the corner of 38th and Gore of some new work the city has done. You have sidewalk going north on 38th and it doubles as a bike path. You see the priorities we used.

Kesler stated our priorities need to be moved up to 1 and everything else bumped down. They chartered us with making a plan and we have done that. It isn't right that we are number 3.

Jones stated those aren't in any particular order. Those are just the 4 factors that went into determining the priorities. We have our own priorities and the master plan has its own. Let's begin with Ward 1. This is the entire city and the Wards are in different colors. You also see the different facilities. LATS stops are shown in blue, existing sidewalks in dark gray, LATS routes are shown and Council Wards. The crossed hatched area is the area that all the factors came together. We asked the system to shade those in. These crossed hatched areas are where those optimal zones would be. The crossed hatched area on Gore shows a half a mile out. For Ward 1 we came up with Cache Road between 38th and 44th Street on the north side of the road. You have Lowes here and Fluffy across the street. We determined this to be the highest priority that will serve the most pedestrian traffic. You can see a worn path through the grass.

Rosco stated plus there is a LATS bus stop there.

Jones stated yes. There is another one to the east of 38th Street, 2 here and one here. You have several in that zone and going south on 38th. That area gets a lot of LATS traffic. There is also an existing bike path on 38th Street. Other sidewalks will be put in as new projects are built and it fills in some gaps.

Harper stated I still believe Sheridan should be the first priority. There are too many gaps and it needs to run from Lee Boulevard to Smith.

Jones stated Sheridan is our second priority. We have 2 miles that makes up Priority 2 and 3. This is Ward 2. In Ward 2 you have Central Junior High and LATS stops. There is sidewalk coming up from the south all the way past Central Junior High and a bike path along the frontage road. There are some accessible ramps here with no sidewalk leading from the existing sidewalk. In this case we are filling in gaps. It connects to a bike path that is used regularly. The other part of Ward 2 is the sidewalk along the north side of Ferris between 6th and Fort Sill Boulevard. This serves a lot of purpose. Pedestrians can get from 11th Street to the park, the bike path, LATS stops, McMahon Auditorium, and Lawton High School. You see lots of kids walking and this gets them to the residential area safer. This sidewalk will double as a bike path. It actually extends past Fort Sill Boulevard to the other side and connects to a park that gets a lot of use. We are connecting it all the way to Laird Boulevard. You have the park and the Walk to School Program that would get them safely all the way across Fort Sill Boulevard. This is a busy intersection. Ward 3 was a surprise to us. Elsie Hamm Drive is a road on the south side of Cameron. You have LATS stops, Taliaferro Center, and Center for Creative Living.

Harper stated they didn't complete it from 28th to 38th. They stopped at the bus stop.

Jones stated we are connecting it all the way to here and to the sidewalks on 38th.

Kesler asked "With the city's realignment of 27th and 31st will that change the east end?"

Jones stated it's hard to say right now. This can be moved if they need to. Ward 4 is on the east side of town. The biggest factor here is the schools. You have MacArthur High School and Middle School. Gore gets a lot of traffic from the residential neighborhoods. The 45th Street project is going to have sidewalks that will reach the middle school and you have existing sidewalks along the south side of Gore. This project would connect those to get kids safely across the intersection and to a LATS stop in front of the high school. We will fill in a gap a little further down. The east side is in pretty good shape. You have sidewalks down Gore and Flower Mound with 1 gap identified here. At Carriage House Apartments there are 2 LATS stops with a gap here. We are proposing to fill in this gap. Once that is complete you would have accessible sidewalks almost from the city limits all the way west to I-44. You see the crossed hatched area here for Ward 5. This is kind of busy to look at. You have Gore Boulevard from 2nd Street to Sheridan. There are some gaps we will be filling in. You have a lot of existing sidewalks and businesses that would benefit from pedestrian access, and schools. This is a high traffic area. If you drive along Gore you see a path in the grass. This would have a nice impact on downtown all the way to Sheridan Road and would connect to your Priority 2. Ward 6 is west Gore between 67th and 82nd Street on the north side. Currently there are no sidewalks and it does get a lot of pedestrian traffic. This would connect to 67th and 82nd Street. It would connect the residential neighborhood and get them to the bike path going north. There is also senior living there.

Fortenbaugh stated in Ward 6 we are working with ODOT to redo that road and there would be new sidewalks. That will be done within the next 2 years.

Jones stated then we would shift the priority to something else. Ward 7 is Lee Boulevard between Sheridan and 11th Street on the south side. This is another area that gets a lot of pedestrian traffic due to all the businesses there. You are connecting 2 existing sidewalks, you have LATS, social security administration office and it is adjacent to residential areas. Ward 8 is Lee Boulevard between 52nd and 67th along both sides of the road. This is a vital segment of sidewalk. You have Southwestern Hospital, various offices, LATS stops, 2 banks, a church, a restaurant, and a convenience store. This is another area you see a path in the grass. That is Wards 1 through 8. The At Large is the one I think is the most important project. It is along C Avenue from 2nd Street to 9th Street. You have lots of businesses, banks, retail, restaurants, the Courthouse, the mall and City Hall. You have activities like Open Streets and Arts for All. There are lots of reasons for people to park and walk somewhere. The sidewalks range from non existing to bits and pieces with no accessible ramps. This being in the downtown area I think this would be a really good show piece for what we are trying to accomplish.

Harper stated I would think you would want to go all the way to 11th Street.

Jones stated if funding is available we would. Do you have any questions or comments.

Hanna asked "How many liner feet is the proposed plan?"

Jones stated we don't have the number yet. That will be the next phase of what we do. Once we have the liner feet then we can get a dollar amount. I have taken pictures of C Avenue

intersections and areas where there are tripping hazards so I'm almost to a point I can estimate that project.

Fortenbaugh stated I want to say that the Access Board money is yours. I don't want anyone from the City to help you spend that money. Maybe the City will wind up having the same priorities and can help you. They will come ask you for money and it might not be for one of your priorities.

Kesler asked "How hard would it be to send us the presentation?"

Franco stated I can put it in a PDF and send it to you.

Kesler stated it would help to have a copy to work from.

Jones stated this is the first version and it is very early in the game. It does give us a place to start. I don't know if we can let this out to the public.

Fortenbaugh stated that would be Jerry Ihler's call.

Jones stated I will get with him. I don't believe there will be a problem.

Rosco stated I would like to thank Jones, Franco and Fortenbaugh. I know you have been working on this for over 6 months and this is the way to do sidewalks. Thank you for your efforts.

Visitor asked "Can I ask a question?"

Jones stated sure.

Visitor stated go back to Ward 1. This is on Lindy between 40th and 46th Street. There is a new sidewalk and we are wondering why they choose the north side rather than the south. From here to here is new road with a LATS stop for disable people. People love that. On 52nd Street there is a couple of stops and people in wheelchairs can't get off the street. Can those become a priority to make then handicapped accessible?

Jones stated it is possible and this board would be the avenue for that action. We hear special request or issues for consideration.

Visitor stated this is just a request. I'm speaking for others.

Jones stated they can bring the request before the board for them to consider. We would want input from LATS on the number of users to see if it warrants LATS traffic. The board would decide if this should become a higher priority. We did this exact thing at 20th and Smith.

Visitor asked "Who do I need to talk to about putting a bench there? I need to find a starting point and that is why I'm asking."

Jones stated I don't know who funded those. If you will leave me your information I'll get back with you.

Harper stated the pad at Smith needs to be cleaned up. Trees are starting to overtake the pad.

Jones stated I'll pass this one to Neighborhood Services. Are there any other questions or comments on the Master Plan.

Harper stated I think this is a good start.

Fortenbaugh stated Sheridan Road needs to be a priority for the city also.

Jones stated it is a current priority for the board. There are going to be some real challenges for the Master Plan. Along Cache Road from 38th to 44th the sidewalk will be on the north side. You have Cache Road Square parking lot and a concrete retaining wall that makes it a nightmare to design a sidewalk that will work. After you get past the intersection by Stripes it gets better.

Rosco stated one good thing is we are starting to see multiple groups come together and that is the key to all of it.

Harper stated this board has done a lot since it started.

Jones stated I agree.

2. Comments/Discussion

Jones stated this is going to be Harper's last meeting. He is moving back to California. I would like to acknowledge his efforts and let you know we appreciate your time. Thanks and best of luck.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Motion by Kesler, **Second** by Harper, to adjourn. **Aye:** Jones; Polk; Harper; Kesler. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**