CITY OF FAIRBORN
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
July 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.
Fire Training Room

COUNCIL MEMBERS	Present	Absent
Dan Kirkpatrick, Mayor	☒	☐
Clint Allen, Councilman	☒	☐
Sylvia Chess, Councilwoman	☒	☐
Adam Fritzsche, Councilman	☐	☒
Rodney McCubbins, Councilman	☒	☐
Mary Reaster, Deputy Mayor	☒	☐
Tana Stanton, Councilwoman	☒	☐

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Adkins, E. Gay, Gebhart, Rose, Schell, and Taylor.

Mike Gebhart, City Manager, stated before he turned this over to Brad Kerry he wanted to confirm that he would like to place a Resolution on the agenda next week to approve putting the renewal levies for Fire and Police, each one is a 4.4 mill renewal, no new taxes onto the November 2025 ballot. Council would have to take action to do that on the 21st so that it has time to get over to Greene County Board of Elections prior to August 5th. We would want to get it over to them prior to the deadline. It would take Council approval to place both of those requests on the ballot. It is a renewal of both with no new taxes. That 4.4 mill for each one's effective rate is 2.7. We would like to secure that funding so there are no ill effects on Fire and Police. Unless he hears an objection, he will go ahead and place it on the agenda for the 21st.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Brad Kerry, who works with zoning, explained he would provide an overview of the Active Transportation Plan which will come before Council at tonight's meeting. The Active Transportation Plan that revolves around improving the traffic surrounding the automobiles, the pedestrians, and the cyclists that we get in Fairborn. As well as the other forms of transportation including electric scooters. It involved creating infrastructure that limits cyclists and automobile interactions. It limits the opportunity for traffic accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists. It provides access to the key areas of the City including parks, schools and the downtown areas They are developing this plan due to the changes in the traffic and business associated with the redirection of 444 a while ago. It has changed how our City experiences vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Additionally, this will open up funding opportunities for new projects which take the taxpayer burden out of the City and into ODOT. Most of the grants are match grants which range from 50 to 80 percent. They also would like to create better places for families and those with mobility issues. Reviewing the demographics of Fairborn, they are seeing the groups age up and

our immediate population is starting to get older, and we will see some mobility issues start to pop up. They are trying to head that off 20 years before it happens.

This plan was developed by the citizens for the citizens. They did six public surveys. They went to the FISH pantry, Fairborn High School, did three open houses here at the Government Center Building and then they did an open house at Wright State as well. They had 200 survey responses. They received only three negative responses. Two of them were concerned about the fact that they drive and they don't want more bikes on the road. Once Mr. Kerry explained that it was one of the core intents of this plan to create space for cyclists off the main areas, they were agreeable. The third negative person basically said cars exist and I'm not going back 100 years. Out of 200 responses he received one negative response.

He explained a couple of the Council members were involved with this project as well. One of the core intents of it is the improvements of our existing green spaces. This ranges from improving our parks to supporting a lot of green infrastructure that we don't know exists in the City. An example of that would be the Buckey and the North Country Trails. The Buckeye Trail is a 1,444-mile trail that goes all around Ohio with 8.4 miles running through Fairborn. That trail is in slot to become the next National Scenic Trail which puts it in the same category as the Appalachian Trail. Once they obtain that status, they are expecting more foot traffic in Fairborn by adding that to their inventory of hikes that they have done. By supporting this they are to prepare for the influx of people they are going to see. The North Country Trail already exists and runs from Vermont to North Dakota. It follows through Ohio the same route as the Buckeye Trail. That one is being used by people. In April you would have seen a ton of people come through with backpacks and that was the start of trail season. On a casual count over two weeks, he and Kathleen Riggs counted about 170 people that walked through our City.

Another inspiration would be the Tree City plans that have been discussed with the City. Using the Tree City aspect can help with some of the traffic calming measures. Combining projects would be beneficial to the City. Trees help cool off the City.

Infrastructure improvements could include Dutch style intersections. The main improvements the plan calls for include path separation as much as possible. This separation is based off of speed and traffic volume. He described the different types of land separation improvements to include standard bike lanes, buffered bike lanes, protected bike lanes, protected bike lanes with vertical separation and off-street shared-use paths. He described the Dutch style intersection in depth. The plan calls for improved parking and accessibility to busy routes. If they are looking at Kauffman going south bound, they don't have any right-hand turnoffs until you get to Dayton Yellow Springs Road in that stretch of two miles. What they would like to do is perform a traffic study and see what the counts are and does the road justify being as large as it is currently and if not, turn the right lane into on-street parking so that people can get on Kauffman and then hit the bike trail. It would allow for improved access to the trail by guests. This would be in addition to the traffic study done on Main Street. This is where they got the idea of doing street-side parking as well. Whenever street side parking is not appropriate the plan calls for increased crossing opportunities. On Kauffman that would be an additional three crossings.

The amenity ideas for the plan include better lights, rest areas to include a place to sit down and fill up a water bottle along the trail. It could include some shade to get out of the sun. A lot of these ideas came from those with mobility issues. When they were working with Rehab Health and Warriors on Wheels, who is non-profit specializing in helping to rehabilitate first responders and wounded warriors through cycling they made it known that rest stops aren't just a nice amenity to have but a form of ADA compliance as well. It is a form of accessibility for them.

Councilman Allen asked if natural habitats were taken into consideration for these amenities. Mr. Kerry stated yes, one thing he is enthusiastic about is native plants and habitats and he will add those in whenever and wherever they can. He throws that in with beautification. Mr. Kerry stated the big one for a rest stop would be a Central Park Hub. They would like to put a hub there similar to the one in Yellow Springs at their bike trail or similar to Xenia's. As a side note, he had two ideas of what that could be. The first one is they could model it after the train station that was here before the cities merged. Model it after the Fairfield Train Station or since we are close to the Base it could be some sort of aircraft hangar. He would like there to be something unique to Fairborn at the hub.

Deputy Mayor Reaster asked where the funding for things like this would come from to complete those types of projects. Mr. Kerry stated a majority of this funding would need to come through grants. He did not touch on funding in his plan very much because that is something he did not feel comfortable with coming in and discussing as figures would change in the future. He does however have a list of grant opportunities.

Councilwoman Stanton asked if this is one of those situations where you have to have a plan and then be able to ask for the grant. Mr. Kerry agreed. This plan shows that we have an actionable document behind it so when they go through and make changes to infrastructure they can go in and say they have an Active Transportation Plan so that when we are doing Broad Street for example, we can go to ODOT or Safe Routes for Schools and say this is our plan, we are applying for an 80 percent match.

Councilwoman Chess asked if there is anyone in the township or around here that are benefiting from the grants he is discussing. Mr. Kerry stated Yellow Springs has benefited and also the City of Fairborn has as well. Fairborn had two grants from Safe Routes for Schools. Everyone who has partnered with the MVRPC is a major partner in this.

Another aspect of the plan is to support the integration of mountain bike trails alongside the major bike routes. That would be an optional route. Mr. Kerry explained the route would be rough and include many obstacles. He discussed Bentonville, Arkansas where mountain bike riding is popular. The other idea they had was the inclusion of obstacle courses along the bike routes as well.

He explained that the majority of the bike routes currently exist. He reviewed the data he obtained from the Strava platform. These include the Kauffman, Maple Avenue, the downtown area which are most frequently visited. Once you get out into the residential areas a lot of people are walking on Garland. Many people are avoiding Dayton Yellow Springs Road. He would like to see the routes go where the people are currently going. Most of these routes are in the 30 to 30 mph zone which means unless our traffic volume is crazy for that area it will be standard repainting and buffering on the bike lanes. We would not be dropping hundreds of thousands on capital investment projects. This plan

is meant to grow. Mayor Kirkpatrick asked if a lot of these will be joint biking and walking paths. Mr. Kerry explained it would depend on the area. For instance, the Huffman Prairie Bike Trail area is going to be shared trails. If you have areas where bicycles are in transit, but it is too busy to put them on the sidewalk, but not so busy as to require a separated path they would have their own protected bike lane.

He discussed the beautification which would include plants that are native to southwest Ohio. If we are putting trees in, we should give first priority to Oaks, Hickories and Maples. Some of those trees are good for roadside as they have tap roots, meaning the roots don't spread out.

Mayor Kirkpatrick asked about the acreage of the park that Mr. Kerry displayed in Bentonville. Mr. Kerry responded it is eight acres. Mayor Kirkpatrick stated that it could conceivably be the bottom back end of Community Park. Mr. Kerry stated also Oakes Quarry Park would be a possibility.

Mike Gebhart, City Manager, pointed out that if the City were going to do this there would need to be more manpower in Parks and Recreation. This is not carved in stone. We are holding capital projects back for two years to pay down debt. This is a guide only to help us apply for things. We have a difficult time right now finding seasonal workers for Parks and Recreation. The people are just not out there, let alone adding extra staff. Please keep that in mind. It is just like the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. We will do everything we can to keep on track but this by no means obligates us to do anything. Mr. Kerry stated the cost of adopting this is zero dollars.

Councilman Allen asked what other cities have the Dutch intersections. Mr. Kerry stated Oakland and Minneapolis. He would have to get back with him for sure on that answer. Mr. Kerry stated Greene County Health has offered grant money of $1200 for education. They asked if they could put in a bench and he suggested they use the money for education.

Mayor Kirkpatrick asked if this could be used for roller blading. Mr. Kerry stated yes. Mayor Kirkpatrick met with high schoolers and a roller-skating facility, better sidewalks, and bike paths were mentioned to him at that time.

Councilwoman Chess asked if they investigated an alternative to a Dutch intersection. Mr. Kerry responded that the other one discussed is roundabouts.

Councilwoman Stanton asked if he has these sorted out in his mind based on what he has seen of the traffic and some concerns about some safety issues. Mr. Kerry stated they don't have a lot of motor vehicles versus non-motor vehicles around here. The last one was three years ago. He stated the last major fatality he saw that was related to something like this was in Yellow Springs due to excessive speed and striking a child. He would suggest doing the downtown area of Fairborn first. Mike Gebhart, City Manager, stated it would be similar to the bike lane on Maple, and we would incorporate them into our existing projects and put them together. It may be whatever our next roadway project would be to add something like this into the mix. That would probably be where the most funding would be available to us.

Councilman McCubbins stated in California they put in a Dutch intersection from scratch into an already developing multi use area and the intersection was about one million dollars. That is brand new. Councilman Allen believes a Dutch intersection could work but it would require educating the community to understand why it is necessary.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mike Gebhart, City Manager, made no additional comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Allen thanked Mr. Kerry for the presentation. He appreciates the effort that went into getting feedback from 200 citizens.

Councilwoman Stanton stated she could attest to the need for more shade trees. She appreciates the work that went into the plan.

Councilman McCubbins thanked Mr. Kerry for his presentation.

Mayor Kirkpatrick mentioned an upcoming Dayton Dragon's Fire Night on Thursday, August 7th where they are encouraging Fire Departments to show up. If anyone is interested in attending, we could look into getting a block of tickets.

Deputy Mayor Reaster stated she always learns something new from Mr. Kerry's presentations. For instance, the Dark Sky proclamation and now this she had no idea the trail ran through here. He is a plethora of information. She thanked him for the presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Chess moved to adjourn the meeting. Deputy Mayor Reaster seconded. Yeas, six: Chess, Reaster, Allen, Stanton, McCubbins and Kirkpatrick. Nays, none. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK, CITY OF FAIRBORN