The City Council Study Session was held in the Chambers, 5th floor of City Hall on June 25, 2012. Mayor Welsch called the Study Session to order at 5:35 p.m. In addition to the Mayor Shelley Welsch, the following members of the Council were present:

Ms. Paulette Carr  
Mr. Byron Price  
Mr. Stephen Kraft  
Mr. Terry Crow  
Mr. Michael Glickert  
Mr. Arthur Sharpe Jr.

Also in attendance were City Manager Lehman Walker and Margaret Johnson the spokesperson for the Bike and Walkability Task Force.

The Bike and Walkability Task Force presented its final report after meeting for over fourteen months. They partnered with Kevin Neil from Trailnet and Timothy Breihan from H3 Studio.

First noted was the structural shift in demographics consisting of empty nesters and young families. Next shift was in the markets for commuters, walkers and bikers.

Ms. Johnson showed photographs of problems sighted at North and South as there were no sidewalks, or deteriorating sidewalks as on Olive and trees planted in the middle of the sidewalks making them inaccessible for the disabled. Street maps of University City were provided showing locations of sidewalks, traffic signals, bus stops and cross walks.

The vision of the Task Force was to make University City the region’s premier walk-able and bike-able city by creating a community with universal accessibility and transportation alternatives, enabling residents of all ages and abilities to walk and bike to their destinations. The Task Force noted U City is unique because of its connectivity; access to transit and regional significant locations; and amenities.

Goals the Task Force developed:
- Create “equality of mobility” within University City by providing transportation alternatives  
- Support and increase ongoing investment in and revitalization of University City  
- Encourage walking and cycling as legitimate modes of transportation thus promoting public health and healthy and active lifestyles.

The Task Force identified the needs of the pedestrians
- Well maintained sidewalks that are ADA-compliant, adequate lighting, buffered from vehicles with safe crossings.  
- Paths are well used for recreational purposes
- Well marked lanes on-road
- Off-road whenever possible
- Connecting within and into neighborhood communities
- Controlled traffic speed
- Bike parking

The bicycle and pedestrian facility network consists of:
- Bike/walk streets – shared-use streets that give preference to bikes over vehicular traffic.
- Super Sharrows – utilize painted, full-lane width enlarge shared lane markings with signage
- Bike Lanes – dedicated, directional traffic lanes for bicycles
- Bike Routes – consist of Share-the-Road and Bicycle Route signage and optional shared-lane markings

All facility types include streetscape enhancements consisting of curb and sidewalk improvements or replacements, tree lawns, street trees and possible decorative lighting.

Other strategies for assisting in Complete Streets are:
- Pass complete streets legislation
- Safe streets to school program
- Updating planning and zoning
- Improving infrastructure
- Apply for grants and funding

The Director of Public Works provided a print-out of a Bicycle Pedestrian Plan Cost Estimate, which is attached to end of these minutes.

Mr. Price asked how they would keep up with tree trimming when more trees will be added.

Ms. Carr said there is more outreach needed to the public first before there is any legislation.

Mayor Welsch asked about making curbs ADA-accessible and the Task Force said that this is funded 80 percent by grants.

Study session was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Joyce Pumm, MRCC, MCC
City Clerk
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