**Winston Downs Community Meeting Notes**

**January 21, 2020**

**Meeting held at BMH Synagogue**

**7P-830P**

Meeting was requested by City Public Works on behalf of DOTi (Department of Transportation & Infrastructure) and Denver Moves Consumer Advisory Group.

**Topic**:

To gain input and approval from Winston Downs’s residents about proposed bike path/bike lane to be installed on E. Virginia Avenue from S. Jersey St. to S. Quebec. Bike path would connect Cherry Creek Bike Path to Highline Canal Bike Path. Path was determined in 2011, reviewed in 2015 and 2016 and presented in Denveright plans approved in 2019 by City Council.

Tim Rooney, WDCA President, introduced the speakers, presided over meeting.

This meeting replaced the normally scheduled WDCA Board meeting. Board members present: Tim Rooney, Terry Telfer, Jerry Shustrin, Jane Lorimer, Wendy Glazer, Joanna Milewski, Marsha Badanes

Turnout from neighborhoods estimated at 50 which represented both Winston Downs and S. Hilltop, with another 10 representatives from presenting groups.

Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer arrived as discussion was heating up and she took charge of the meeting in terms of getting objections and questions from residents heard.

**Positives**

* Proposed bike path would be “safer” route for bikers to travel from Cherry Creek Bike Path to Highline Canal Bike Path
* It is part of the 125 miles of added bike path planned and endorsed by City planning
* It is part of an effort to reduce vehicle traffic in Denver which reduces accidents and pollution and increases safety for pedestrians and non-motored transportation users

**Negatives:**

* No discussion with neighborhoods in prior years or recently
* Residents of both Winston Downs & S. Hilltop were blindsided when advance work by Public Works was laid out on streets without discussion or notice to residents
* Winston Downs invited S. Hilltop – City did not include them into WD meeting notice
* This meeting notice was not sent to City Council District 5 by City- WD sent notice to District 5.
* Lack of understanding by Planning about
  + Where E. Virginia Ave empties unsafely onto S. Quebec
  + That Fairmount Cemetery is private land that may not be open or willing to accommodate mass bike traffic
  + That Alameda (2 blocks north) already has wide multi-use sidewalks already in place and has crossing lights in place at Alameda at S. Quebec
  + Tbout whether or not the S Quebec sidewalk is multi-use or not and if multi-use, who is responsible for maintaining snow removal; it’s been a battle for past decade or more
* Traffic studies by planning were done on weekends and from 7p-9p on week days which did not represent traffic realities during the weekdays when schools are open and did not note that staff and school bus parking and recycle barrels occupy more than half of the street width during school hours
* Bike path routing seems a connection more for pleasure biking than “needed” transport through the city and that could present safety issues for WD walking community to have a constant flow of pleasure biking through neighborhood on weekends and religious dates.
* Bike path connection between Cherry Creek and Highline canal already exists via alternated routes.

**Action Items**

* Proceed with paving E. Virginia Ave from S. Jersey St. to Quebec if in schedule to be repaved
* Include Fairmount Cemetery into planning as this impacts their private property
* Delay center striping (which has never appeared in past anyway) and delay bike lane painting
* Determine the sidewalk use status on S. Quebec (between Alameda and Leetsdale) and who is responsible for maintaining clear walks going forward
* New ADA ramps being installed in advance of repaving "regardless"
* Advise alternative routes for bike lane that would achieve same goal of connecting Cherry Creek Bike Path to Highline Canal Path and do so safely and with understanding that Fairmount Cemetery is private property and may not remain open to multitudes of bikers in future.

This is a map showing how Cherry Creek Bike Path currently connects to Highline Canal path per Google Maps. Fairmount Cemetery is private property so riders going E. Virginia would turn north to Alameda and go to Fairmount St to enter path

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Cherry+Creek+Bike+Path,+Denver,+CO/High+Line+Canal+Trail,+Colorado/@39.678422,-104.9299381,14z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x876c7dd47e8b1e17:0x3a64b37dc34cd794!2m2!1d-104.922448!2d39.6968862!1m5!1m1!1s0x876c639f9d0b68e9:0x727554c49099014e!2m2!1d-104.9042757!2d39.6603351!3e0>

Notes submitted by Jane Lorimer, WDCA Secretary