

PARTA
PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES**

May 26, 2022

Board Members Present:

Karen Beck, Acting Chair
Marge Bjerregaard
Richard Brockett

Jeff Childers
Virginia Harris
Jack Murphy

Morgan Tipton
Frank Vitale
Marvin Woods

Staff Present:

Claudia Amrhein
Denise Baba

Marcia Fletcher
Kelly Jurisch

Justin Markey, Roetzel & Andress
Brian Trautman

Board Members Not Present:

Debbie Davison (2nd excused absence)
Dave Gynn (1st excused absence)
Mike Lewis (4th excused absence)

R. T. Mansfield (1st unexcused absence)
Karen Wise (4th excused absence)

Guests Present:

Jim Bowling, Superintendent of Engineering, City of Kent

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Karen Beck welcomed everyone to the May 26, 2022, PARTA Board of Trustees meeting. She called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and asked for a roll call. After roll call, it was determined that **a quorum was participating.**

Ms. Beck then asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the April 28, 2022, meeting. **Mr. Marvin Woods** made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, which was seconded by **Mr. Jack Murphy**. She asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, she asked all those in favor to say aye. Any opposed same sign. Hearing no opposition, she said the **motion to approve the minutes, as presented, passed unanimously.**

GUEST COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Beck said there were no guest communications.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Moving on, Ms. Beck asked Ms. Claudia Amrhein to give the General Manager's report.

Ms. Amrhein thanked everyone for coming and said there were a few conflicts because of graduation and travel schedules with the holiday. With the unexpected absence of Mr. Dave Gynn tonight, Ms. Beck has offered to step in for him. Just as a reminder, next month's Board meeting has been cancelled. Instead, PARTA will be hosting a trip to the RubberDucks game hopefully on a trolley. RSVP to Ms. Marcia Fletcher. She then introduced Mr. Jim Bowling, Superintendent of Engineering at the City of Kent. She said PARTA, the City of Kent, and Kent State University (KSU) have worked together on several

projects over the years. Mr. Bowling will give an update on the East Main Street project that runs from the Kent Central Gateway (KCG) to Horning Road, which is almost totally funded and planned to begin in a few years, and the Connecting Communities study. He will explain what is needed next to request funding through the city and the county for the project. She concluded by saying she would be happy to answer any questions.

Hearing none, Ms. Beck thanked Ms. Amrhein and moved on to the committee reports.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Beck said the Administration Committee did not meet.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Beck asked Mr. Jeff Childers to give the report of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Childers said the Finance Committee met on Tuesday concerning the finances for April 2022. Ms. Rebecca Schrader said the finances were doing very well. The budget was right where it should be. One thing that came up was the monthly variance of \$83,333 that hasn't been drawn down under Federal Capital Maintenance Assistance. The FY2022 grant has not been executed because we are waiting for flex funds to transfer. Sales Tax Revenues was down \$59,741. According to Ms. Schrader, that's common for this time of year - April and May being the low months. There is money in Restricted funds for future projects in the amount of \$5,948,537. PARTA is doing very well, and the staff has kept PARTA afloat.

Moving on to KCG, Mr. Childers said Hotel Overnight Parking was \$17,051 in April, which was budgeted at \$12,000 so the hotel is looking good. 2nd Floor Revenue was down \$1,682, which was attributed to electric that was paid for the Kent City Health Department (KCHD) that should have been under Retail Revenue. The parking deck had a monthly surplus of \$1,887, which was insignificant. The amount earned per parked car was \$5.80, which was par for the course. All things considered, KCG is doing very well.

Mr. Childers said the other thing that was discussed was a resolution, which was voted unanimously to recommend for approval to the Board. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Frank Vitale asked what was trying to be accomplished with the Streetsboro employee survey.

Ms. Amrhein said she doesn't know how it will work yet. After Mr. Bowling presents tonight about how the City of Kent and KSU collaborate with PARTA in advance of designing and building roads, it will be clearer that it's a much different approach than what currently exists in other parts of the community, including Streetsboro, which is basically Route 14 as a highway providing fixed route transit service and bus stops where there are no sidewalks and rights-of-way. PARTA is looking at how it can provide service to the employers in the Streetsboro and Aurora areas that are remotely located off the beaten path. That's complicated now by the lack of employees. PARTA is doing the best it can by looking at the data to determine what might meet their needs and then possibly try a pilot program.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Moving on, Ms. Beck said the Operations Committee did not meet this month.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Beck said the Personnel Committee did not meet this month.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Beck said there was no Old Business and moved on to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Beck asked Mr. Jim Bowling to give an update on what's going on with the State Route 59 project.

Mr. Bowling presented his PowerPoint, which is attached.

After Mr. Bowling's presentation, Ms. Beck asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Jack Murphy said it's not necessarily related to the State Route 59 project, but a lot of riders start and end a ride in neighborhoods. He asked what efforts the City of Kent has made to maintain sidewalks and handle hazards like low limbs.

Mr. Bowling said maintaining the sidewalks and streets is the largest funded capital work in the city - about a third. When the streets are paved, the sidewalks are fixed at the same time usually encompassing at least one or two city blocks to ensure the whole walkable area is completed. The number of sidewalks built per year has quadrupled over the last three years. It's a very high priority from council members and there is an annual program for that work. Sidewalks, in most cities, are the responsibility of the property owner. The property owner can approach the city if they want work done. There are four different programs that will help facilitate sidewalk work even if it's not part of what the city does. The city can never catch up on sidewalk work.

Mr. Vitale asked if this project could be part of the new infrastructure money.

Mr. Bowling said potentially. The East Main Street Project was submitted for grant funding through Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE). It has a minimum threshold of \$5 million; and unfortunately, it's a nationally competitive program and not submitted to the state. For the State Route 59 project in the township, the best way to get funding is through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for the design and then through Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) for the construction. HSIP and AMATS were approached, and they indicated that the job was very likely to be approved. Unfortunately, when the infrastructure bill passed, a lot of the money went to national grant related programs and some new national pilot programs, which are submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to get funding. KCG was one of those pilot programs, which usually cost about \$30,000 to \$40,000 just to submit the grant application.

Ms. Amrhein said Mr. Bowling is referring to the funding for highways. The funding that PARTA has access to is through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). It's possible that if the city can calculate the cost of the transit amenities, which would include sidewalks, crosswalks, shelters, etc., PARTA might be successful in applying for funding to support those portions of the project. PARTA can't build a road and the city can't necessarily buy a bus, but there might be access to funding through the state and federal programs.

Mr. Bowling thanked everyone for their time and asked if there were any other questions.

Hearing none, Ms. Beck thanked Mr. Bowling for his nicely done presentation.

Ms. Amrhein said one other point is that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit service has been discussed a lot over the past few years about how expensive it is and how the functional assessment process was set up to properly identify the individuals and the trips they take that are eligible for that service that is required. That process is complete, and the number of trips has been reduced somewhat, but ADA trips can't be reduced if the streets aren't accessible. It doesn't matter if a person can't get to the bus stop. PARTA still must provide the paratransit service within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile

of the entire East Main Street corridor. By working together and looking for FTA funding to support the transit side of things, the city looking for money through the highway side of things, and then the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) in the middle for the township, hopefully funding will be available to be applied for. It will be years down the road but that's the only way it can get going.

Ms. Beck thanked Ms. Amrhein and said Mr. Childers mentioned that there was one resolution to consider this evening, which was Resolution #2022-05-01.

Resolution

Ms. Beck then presented the resolution.

#2022-05-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A TRUSTEE AND ALTERNATE TRUSTEES TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NEORIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG).

Ms. Beck asked Ms. Amrhein if there was anything she would like to say about this resolution.

Ms. Amrhein said NEORide is a group of transit authorities that work together on some regional and/or coordinated projects. PARTA has been a part of NEORide since 2014. Currently, she is the appointed voting member, but she has two alternates to ensure that someone can always be at the meetings to vote. Those alternates are Mr. Brian Trautman and Mr. Clayton Popik, but Mr. Popik left PARTA a few months ago so someone needs to be appointed in his place. She is appointing Ms. Kelly Jurisch as the other alternate.

Ms. Beck thanked Ms. Amrhein and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

Motion: Morgan Tipton

Second: Marvin Woods

Ms. Beck then asked for a roll call vote.

Roll Call:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
R. T. Mansfield	<u>UNEXCUSED</u>		Virginia Harris	<u>X</u>	
Marvin Woods	<u>X</u>		Debbie Davison	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Karen Wise	<u>EXCUSED</u>		Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	
Frank Vitale	<u>X</u>		Richard Brockett	<u>X</u>	
Morgan Tipton	<u>X</u>		Marge Bjerregaard	<u>X</u>	
Jack Murphy	<u>X</u>		Karen Beck	<u>X</u>	
Mike Lewis	<u>EXCUSED</u>		David Gynn	<u>EXCUSED</u>	

Ms. Beck said the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, as needed

Moving on, Ms. Beck said there was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Beck said Mr. Gynn asked her to remind everyone that there is no meeting next month but there is a trip to the RubberDucks game that same evening, which will be a fun activity. With luck, those who signed up to ride the bus will be able to ride a trolley. She asked everyone to make their reservations with Ms. Fletcher as soon as possible.

Ms. Jurisch said since Ms. Karen Wise is not here tonight, she just wanted to interject that nominations for President, Vice President, and Temporary Presiding Officer should be sent to Ms. Fletcher. If someone needs more information, they should contact Ms. Wise. These are one-year terms and will start immediately after the July Board meeting.

Hearing nothing further, Ms. Beck entertained a motion to adjourn. **Ms. Marge Bjerregaard** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by **Ms. Virginia Harris**. Ms. Beck asked all in favor to say aye. She asked any opposed to say no. Hearing no opposition, the **motion to adjourn passed unanimously**.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcia Fletcher
Executive Assistant

Streets for all Users

- Repurposing Streets
- Why the Significant Changes?
- Upcoming Street Changes
 - E Main Street (KCG to Horning)
 - SR 59 (Horning to SR 261)
- PARTA/Cities Partnership ... key to making streets for all users

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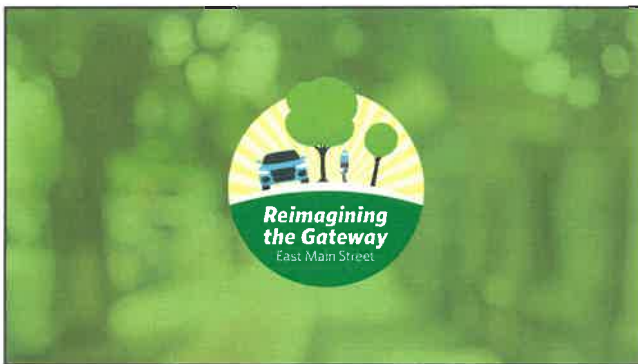


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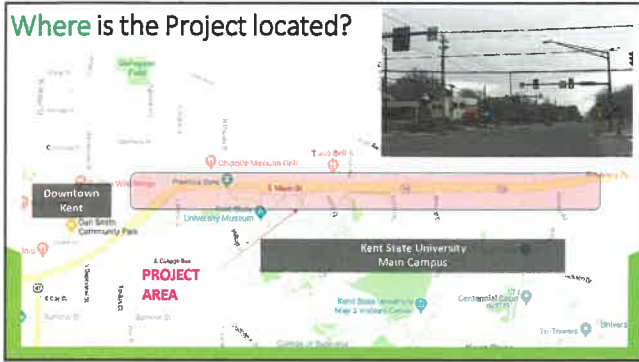
Why?

- Safety
- Quality of Life
- Place Making (Economic Development)
- Sustainability
- Equity
- ??

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Why are we doing the Project?

- Vehicular Crashes
 - **Worst** Crash Corridor in AMATS Region (2014-2016; 2015-2017 & 2016-2018)
 - Three Intersections on AMATS Intersection Crash List (2015-2017)
 - **Over 12%** of all crashes Citywide (2016-2018)
- Pedestrian Crashes
 - **Eight** pedestrian Crashes (2016 – 2018)
 - **Over 15%** of all pedestrian crashes Citywide (2014-2016)
- Pedicycle Crashes (1)

8 of 9 Ped/Bike Crashes occurred in marked Cross Walks

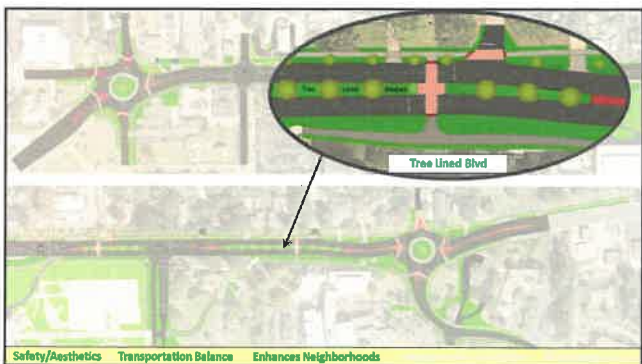
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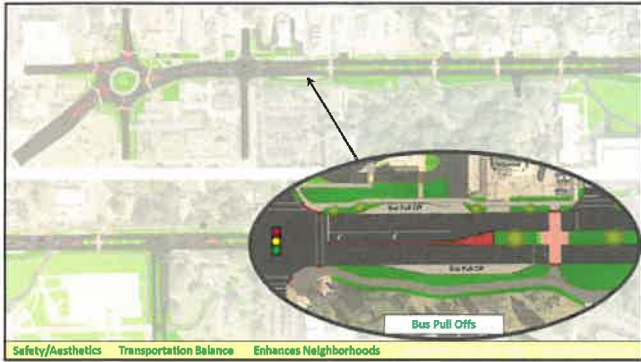
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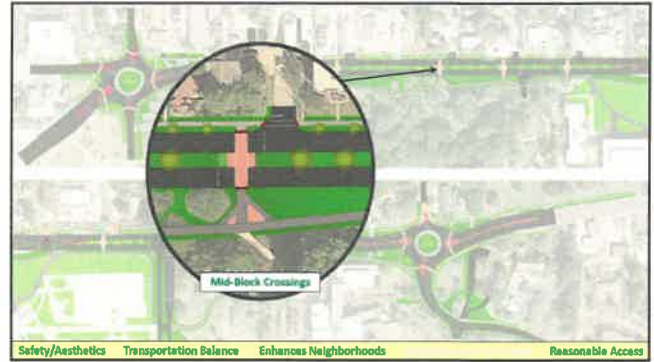
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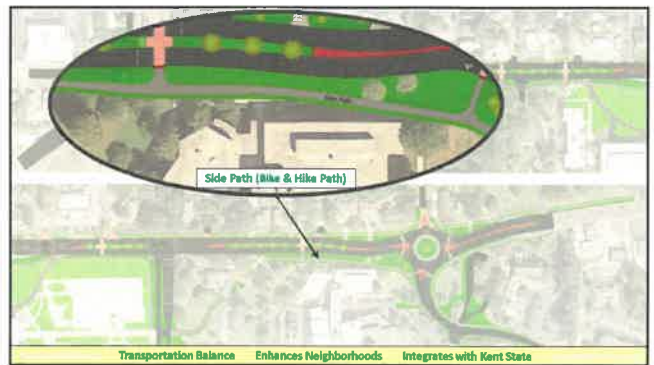
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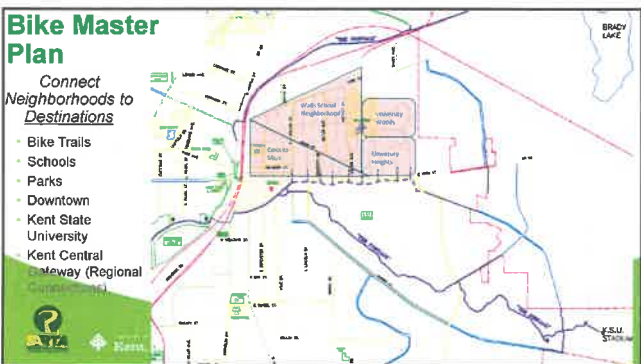
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SAFETY

- Anticipated Crash Reduction - 18.644 per year (23 %)
- Crash Modification Factors
 - Signal to Roundabout (-7.008 Crashes per year)
 - Right in/out at Stop Signs (-4.906 Crashes per year)
 - Resurface Pavement (-2.201 Crashes per year)
 - Raised Median (-2.115 Crashes per year)
 - Others (5) (-2.413 Crashes per year)
- **Summit Street Actual Reduction – 60%**

Logos for Kent, Ohio and Kent State are at the bottom.

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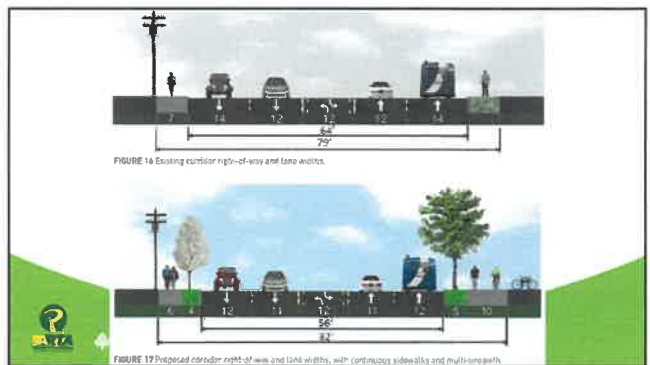
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