



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 1, 2016

To: Parks and Recreation Board

From: Brad Reid, Director of Parks and Recreation

Re: Consider approval of the Recommendations of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

Background:

As a result of increasing interest from the Coppell community in improving bicycling and pedestrian access in the city, the Parks and Recreation Department began working with Alta Planning and Design, a nationally recognized bicycle and pedestrian planning firm, to develop a master plan for the streets and trails of Coppell, which addresses this need. The plan is currently in the final stages of development and is now ready for the endorsement of the Park Board and the City Council. This process has taken many months to complete (began in July 2014) and included a number of methods to receive public input. A Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Planning Committee was formed, which included Parks and Recreation Department, Engineering Department, Human Resources, Police and Planning Department staff, as well as interested members of the community.

Analysis

The proposed Master Plan represents the efforts of many people over the past year and a half and much input from the cycling community, walkers and joggers who live and play here, or simply use our roadways for transportation. This plan includes recommendations for improving the conditions, creating awareness and establishing guidelines for future amenities and policies related to bicycle and pedestrian safety. The plan should be considered a blueprint for what can be considered as future opportunities present themselves. A prime example of this is occurring as the plan is being finalized. The design considerations for Parkway Blvd. are currently being established because the roadway itself is deteriorating and needs to be replaced. In lieu of thinking only of the considerations of auto traffic and replacing the roadway section as it exists today without pedestrian and bicycle designs, the engineers are looking at how bicyclist/pedestrians

might be better served with a different road section. Establishment of this master plan will identify these opportunities when previously they might not have been considered.

The recommendations outlined should not be considered the law of the city but suggestions as to how multiple modes of transportation could be deliberated as future development occurs. Each transportation route should be carefully designed with community input when a change in the proposed infrastructure is being considered. Further, the recommendations in this plan include suggested bicycle networks, pedestrian networks, programs which include education and enforcement criteria along with policies to “foster a culture in which bicycling and walking are a part of daily life for Coppel residents.”

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends Board endorsement of these Master Plan Recommendations