



Short North Civic Association Minutes

May 1, 2025

6:00 p.m. Thompson Recreation Center

Attendees: Robin Keaffaber, Officer Mark Hauenstein, Chuck Fairbanks, Jack Decker, Jared Cape, Heather Rice, Randy Rice, Jeremy Thompson, John Christman, Laura Christman, Sheila Egan, Jon Armstrong, Kathleen Anderson, Michael Metz, Robert Mason, Ruth Dohner, Chet Ridenour, David Blau, Tim Price, Kris Harrison, Jeff Smith, Gina Cronley, Jennifer Cornman, Cathy Croy, Mark Dannemiller, Mariel Colman, Dan Moore, Laurie Patton, Jamie Patton, Councilmember Lourdes Barroso de Padilla, Charles Newman, and Jessica Cáceres

- **Welcome** – Jack Decker
- **Transportation Discussion** – Councilmember (CM) Lourdes Barroso de Padilla, Charles Newman, and Jessica Cáceres
 - The CM discussed making streets safe for users of all types — no matter how they get around. She stated that even 5 miles per hour can make a big difference. The City is doing what they can where they can but they only have so many resources. One way they are trying to be more responsive to community needs is quick build projects. Interventions such as road diets, bump outs, protected bike lanes, and flashing beacons contribute to safer and slower streets. The CM noted that the City must adhere to ODOT guidelines and design standards.
 - Jack Decker highlighted the representation of neighborhood associations in the room and the desire across the Short North to slow down streets in our area to 25 miles per hour. He highlighted decreasing speed limits and retiming signals as interventions that folks in the neighborhood would like to see. Jack also discussed historical commitments to the neighborhood that have not been upheld regarding the Interstate 670 project. Crosswalks, bumpouts, and islands were discussed as interventions that should be considered. One of the projects that the SNCA and other associations would like to see is a road diet of 5th Avenue continue west of High Street after the current road diet of 5th Avenue east of High Street is complete.
 - The CM highlighted a slow streets grant that the City received and is testing interventions on the near east side of Columbus.
 - Charles stated that the road diet of 5th Avenue east of High Street will be complete either at the end of this year or the start of 2026. The resurfacing of the street offers a lot of opportunities with potential additions added on later. He also stated that new crosswalk markings are being added to Buttles Avenue and Dennison Avenue.
 - Jeff Smith shared that the project has started but is not complete as the ladder

crosswalk style was still missing its rungs. Speed on Buttles Avenue is a major issue that needs to be addressed.

- The CM shared that open streets (when streets are closed to vehicular traffic and used solely for pedestrian traffic) are going to occur as events more often. A number have already occurred.
- East 5th Avenue was noted as a “race track” with many wrecks and vehicles that play loud music.
- The CM noted that the City is looking to add crosswalks along 5th Avenue to make it safer. Additionally, she shared that it is a street network so changes on important corridors must consider the full system. Link Us is breaking ground this year and will have a number of network effects that will create a lot of changes.
- A community member refuted a claim that crosswalks could be over-saturated if the crosswalks are placed where crosswalks should be located according to design guidelines. They offered to provide research on the matter and noted the issue of over-saturation of crosswalks stems from the improper placement of crosswalks in areas where they do not make sense according to design guidelines. The community member suggested that the City paint high-visibility crosswalks in unmarked areas in the Short North at the ends of blocks and where mid-block crosswalks are merited.
- A community member asked about resources to identify a street as the responsibility of the City or ODOT. It was explained that highways are ODOT while streets are typically the City however it depends on a number of factors. The City has to work with ODOT on certain aspects of street design such as speed. The CM suggested sending concerns to the City and they will forward the messages to ODOT if necessary. Charles suggested looking at the [Warriors Watch map](#) and clicking on the street of interest.
- A community member reiterated that 5th Avenue is a street of concern and was confused about the segment being 35 miles per hour. They discussed the history of the street as a 25 miles per hour stretch and how their experience was significantly better. Crossing or biking on the street is more challenging now than it was previously. They inquired about ways to decrease speed along this section. Plans for the 5th Avenue road diet were reiterated as were calls for the road diet to continue on 5th Avenue west of High Street.
- A community member from Harrison West called for two-way stops to become four-way stops at the intersections of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Avenues with Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Michigan Avenues.
- A community member identified King Avenue between High Street and Neil Avenue as challenging to cross or bike along. He cited the intersection area with Highland Street as a particular area of concern. Jared Cape noted SNCA changes made to the City’s Bike Plus Plan in that area which if implemented should address some of his concerns. The CM noted that changes with the Bike Plus Plan aren’t just for folks riding bikes but also people walking.
- A community member shared their disappointment that Columbus does not use speed tables and raised-crosswalks as much as peer cities in Ohio. The CM shared that the City considers best practices from all over and seeks to incorporate them.
- A request was made by a community member for crosswalks along the campus

area. They were instructed to submit 311 requests.

- A community member identified Neil Avenue from Buttles Avenue to Campus as too fast and in need of interventions to slow it down.
- Jack Decker asked for a commitment from the City to engage in a working group to slow down speeds in the Short North with our neighborhood associations.
- The CM said that they would be happy to have conversations to address speed in the Short North.
- Jack reiterated a request for a working group.
- A community member identified an issue where cars stop in bus stops disrupting transit and folks that use personal mobility devices. He asked about loading zones and other interventions. It was also mentioned that COTA buses can be seen running red lights or speeding through yellow lights. The CM said that she'd talk to COTA about these issues.
- A community member raised the issue of extreme speeding along Summit Avenue south of 1st Avenue. Cars have hit buildings along Summit Avenue. They asked how quick build projects can be implemented on this stretch. Officer Hauenstein said to submit 311 requests. CPD will put out speed alerting signs and do ticketing. The CM is taking notes and will follow up. She is also happy to do walks around the neighborhood. Jessica noted that the CM's schedule is busy so it may take a little time to find times that work.
- Jack thanked Councilmember Lourdes Barroso de Padilla, Charles Newman, and Jessica Cáceres for coming out to our meeting.
- **Crime Report** – Officer Mark Hauenstein
 - Officer Mark H. detailed incidents in the Short North and upcoming outreach efforts.
 - H.B. 366 of the 135th General Assembly is now in effect. It makes stealing mail a fifth degree felony.
- **President's Report** – Jack Decker
 - Jack presented an amendment to the bylaws for second consideration. This amendment would require indemnification of claims against directors and officers by SNCA for certain claims for acts undertaken in good faith.
 - Motion to adopt the amendment: Chuck Fairbanks
 - Second: Heather Rice
 - Unanimous approval
- **Adjournment at 7:28 pm**