



CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENGINEERING

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Laurel Prussing and Members of the City Council

FROM: William R. Gray, Public Works Director
Jennifer J. Selby, Civil Engineer

DATE: June 5, 2008

RE: Main Street Bike Lanes – Cedar Street to Maple Street

Introduction

The City of Urbana Department of Public Works recently submitted an application for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) funds to construct bike lanes on Main Street from Cedar Street to Scottswood Drive. The proposed bike lanes are a part of the larger Urbana Bicycle Master Plan. If the City receives the requested funds, construction of the bike lanes will likely occur in 2010.

At the May 27, 2008 City Council meeting, Council Member Smyth asked if it would be possible to temporarily provide bike lanes on Main Street from Schnucks (Maple Street) to Strawberry Fields (Cedar Street) to provide safe passage for bicyclists traveling through the downtown. This memo is in response to that request.

Public Works Concerns

Public Works Department staff have concerns with the request for temporary bike lanes. The project is not simply painting lane lines and bicycle symbols. Please see the attached exhibit for more information.

- The median on the west leg of the intersection of Main Street and Race Street must be removed to facilitate construction of the bike lanes.
- Signal modifications are desired at the intersections of Main Street with Race Street and Broadway Avenue to provide better traffic flow with the change from a 4-lane cross-section to a 3-lane cross-section. While these signal modifications are not be required upon installation of bike lanes, they would allow the intersections to function in a more optimal manner.
- The clock tower at the Champaign County Courthouse is currently under construction and the outside eastbound lane will be closed for the next 15 months while this work takes place. Because of this lane closure, there is no space to construct bike lanes in either direction between Broadway Avenue and Walnut Street.
- The pavement between Vine Street and Maple Street is in bad condition. Some pavement repairs would be necessary to make this segment safer for bicyclists.

- The City is currently conducting a Downtown Parking Study, of which the results have not been determined. One of the key items of discussion in this study is the addition of angled parking on Main Street between Race Street and Broadway Avenue. If angled parking is suggested, bike lanes will not be possible in this stretch. Temporarily striping bike lanes will pre-empt the diagonal parking vs. bike lane discussion to occur in the next month or two
- Most importantly, temporarily striping bike lanes could jeopardize the City's ITEP grant application. The estimated total project cost, including engineering, for the Main Street project from Cedar Street to Scottswood Drive is approximately \$2,369,000. Because street maintenance is not eligible for funds, we pulled the costs for street patching and milling and resurfacing (beyond the surface) out of the requested amount. Also, to make the project more attractive to the State, we showed the City paying for all of the construction costs from Cedar Street to Grove Street, but we kept the engineering costs for all of this work in the grant application. We estimated the cost to mill and resurface, paint bike lanes, erect signage, construct new sidewalk ramps, and modify the traffic signals between Vine Street and Grove Street to be approximately \$800,000. Engineering fees of 25% for this segment would total approximately \$200,000. If we temporarily striped bike lanes from Cedar Street to Maple Street, IDOT would likely not give the City any money to stripe bike lanes on a permanent basis. This means if we wanted to do the milling and resurfacing, sidewalk ramp and signal modification work in 2010 with the work to the east – which we want to – we would lose out on \$200,000 in engineering fees we could have received to design this work.

Recommendation

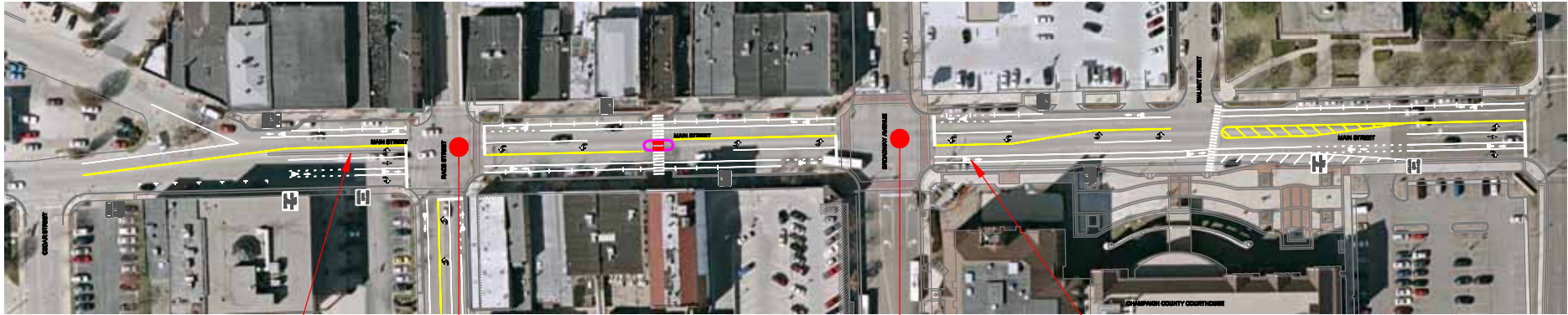
Staff recommends that Main Street not be temporarily striped with bike lanes at this time. When the City hears back from IDOT about the ITEP grant, this request may be re-evaluated.

Prepared by: 

Jennifer J. Selby, P.E.
Civil Engineer

Reviewed by: 

William R. Gray, P.E.
Public Works Director



MEDIAN TO BE REMOVED

SIGNAL MODIFICATIONS NEEDED

EAST BOUND LANE CLOSED FOR 15 MONTHS DURING COURTHOUSE CLOCK TOWER RECONSTRUCTION



PAVEMENT REPAIRS NEEDED TO MAKE SEGMENT SAFER FOR BICYCLISTS



Sheet 1 of 1
 Date: 06/05/08
 Design/ACAD by: JJS

MAIN STREET BIKE LANES
 CEDAR STREET TO MAPLE STREET