

Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport Committee

October 23, 2025

Attendees: Chris Bell, Dennis Galicki, Ruth Cavanagh, Bill Koons, John Buda, Misha Alexander, John Wahl, Carrie Schloss

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

Chris Bell communicated that the motions the committee requested passed at the last Council meeting. The engineering firm is now moving forward with the scoping and we are looking for a third-party engineer (to comply the ODOT grant requirements). Mayor Koons noted that the bid solicitation for the engineering firms have gone out and expects it to take three weeks. Three firms have already replied.

Mayor Koons shared streetside renderings that were created by Verdantas. He noted that Verdantas is still working to determine how many feet into the right-of-way the paths need to go. The goal is to limit tree removal or other disturbances. The committee asked that the renderings be included in the next South Russell newsletter.

Mayor Koons shared a reflective slap bracelet that the Geauga County Sherrieff's department hands out. He would like to give a similar item the residents of South Russell.

Mayor Koons reported that he keeps in contact with Chagrin mayor Bill Tomko, Chagrin River Watershed Partners, and other mayors in the area. Their goal is to have a path all the way to Shalersville, which includes the new Solon to Chagrin pedestrian link.

Mayor Koons shared a map displaying future trails proposed by the Headwaters Trail Connector Communities. Mayor Koons noted that Mayor Tomko would like South Russell to join the organization.

Mayor Koons communicated that people continually ask him about a connector to Chagrin Falls and he lets them know that its not going to happen in his lifetime.

Mayor Koons offered to draft a page for the newsletter highlighting the status of the trails project and sharing the renderings from Verdantas.

Councilman Galicki highlighted the many issues of late being featured in the news regarding e-bike and scooter accidents. The committee discussed such issues and potential ways to avoid problems on the pathway.

The December committee meeting was discussed and the date was moved from December 2 to December 4 at 8:00 a.m. at Village Hall.

Councilman Galicki advised the group to make sure the newsletter and other communications regarding the trails are transparent about the costs, not simply implying that the only cost to the Village will be \$200k. He noted that engineering and other costs are not covered by the grant. Councilman Galicki agreed to write up a paragraph or two explaining this for the next newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 a.m.