

CITY OF LEBANON
PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

CITY OF LEBANON PLAN COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT
JANUARY 19, 2021 PUBLIC HEARING

Project Overview:

Lebanon Business Park Bicycle & Pedestrian Mobility Plan

The City of Lebanon began the process of developing a sidewalk and trail plan for the Lebanon Business Park with the assistance of the landscape architects from Kimley Horn. The plan is expected to be an extension of the new Comprehensive Plan completed in 2019 and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan completed in 2015. The proposed plan is intended to be adopted as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and used as a guide to future development and projects in and around the business park.

The following information, taken from the draft report, further explains the goals and process.

Increasingly, states, cities and towns are realizing the many ways active transportation influences a healthy economy. Recent studies have shown that communities that invest in bicycling and walking facilities also have higher property values, create new jobs, and attract new residents and tourists. Where citizens have mobility options for more affordable transportation, they can realize personal savings of thousands of dollars per year (AAA, 2013; Drennan, 2003). These communities save money for commuters, employers, and businesses by decreasing traffic congestion and commute times, and by improving air quality and public health. (2014 Benchmarking Report by Alliance for Biking and Walking)

Research has shown that when states, cities and towns invest in safe biking and walking infrastructure, people's habits change and public health outcomes improve. The City of Lebanon's 2015 Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan established priority corridors for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The East Street corridor became the first project to be implemented, connecting your beloved Memorial Park to downtown. More recently, the Big 4 Trail corridor was extended into downtown from the Sam Ralston road trailhead to the Boone County Courthouse Square. Continued efforts to expand these types of facilities in Lebanon has resulted in this Pedestrian Mobility Plan for the Lebanon Business Park. Studies have demonstrated that bicycle and pedestrian commuters show up to work with greater enthusiasm for their workday and deliver higher levels of productivity. Employers that provide incentives for active living commuting see even greater benefits such as fewer sick days and increased employee morale.

The overall vision for this mobility plan is to elevate the appeal and attraction of the Lebanon Business Park to existing park businesses and their employees, while also giving local residents new trails, side paths and amenity areas to explore. The proposed improvements will add another dimension to the quality of life and place investments being made by the City of Lebanon. A mobility plan must strive to provide safe and convenient connectivity to destinations. Within this mobility plan, the destinations are places of employment with connectivity to Lebanon neighborhoods for commuting activities and to proposed Lebanon Business Park amenities for employee use. Public road rights of way, utility corridor easements and interstate bridges are all being utilized to achieve

the desired connectivity. The proposed mobility solutions will include paved roadside paths, bridge crossings, and in some areas elevated boardwalks. Highly visible street crossing markings will be used to provide safe bike and pedestrian movements across vehicular routes.

Projects identified in this plan will be considered for implementation as funding at the federal, state and local level permits.

Plan Commission Action:

In order to amend the Comprehensive Plan to include this Lebanon Business Park Mobility Plan, the Plan Commission must hold a public hearing and review the plan in order to provide a recommendation to the Council for adoption. If you have any questions, comments, or requested revisions, please be prepared to discuss these items during the meeting so that they can be incorporated prior to Council review and action.

Planning Staff recommends that the Plan Commission forward the Lebanon Business Park Mobility Plan to the Council with a favorable recommendation.