

Statement for Parks Board Meeting of June 11, 2014

John Nolen Path Reconstruction, North Shore to Monona Terrace PN 53W1712

The John Nolen Path (a/k/a Capital City Path) through Law Park from North Shore Drive to Monona Terrace is one of the City's most heavily used and visible paths. The existing condition of the pavement is poor and it is currently flanked by informal dirt paths, indicating both the popularity of the route for runners and walkers, and the inadequacy of the existing paved width.

Engineering proposes to reconstruct the path to address the pavement condition and at least partially address the capacity issue. The proposed typical sections are a compromise between the need for greater capacity and our intention to not remove any of the mature, healthy trees on either side.

From North Shore to Broom St (585 feet) we are proposing to keep the existing 10-foot paved width, but add 2-foot wide crushed limestone shoulders (over crushed aggregate base) on either side. This approach has proven very successful on the busy Southwest Path, providing a stable, inviting surface for runners and walkers while not excluding them from the paved surface if they prefer it.

From Broom Street to the Terrace (815 feet) we propose a total paved width of 17 feet, providing 10 feet primarily for bikes and skaters, a separate 6-foot wide pedestrian surface and a 1-foot wide flush, textured and colored separator between the two. Most likely we would provide stabilized grass shoulders in this segment as the paved section should accommodate most users.

One innovative feature would be a "bike barometer", an attractive kiosk displaying path usage numbers in real time. Pioneered in other bike-friendly cities, this is 1) a data collection device; 2) an educational device and 3) an encouragement device.

As a data collection device the information will supplement our already extensive bike counting system. It will be an additional year round permanent count station. As an educational device the machine displays the count data so it is visible both to path user and nearby roadway motorists. This shows the public how many people are using the paths and should encourage people to expect cyclists as routine users of the street and path system. As an encouragement feature we hope that the system will encourage people to ride and emphasize to residents and visitors the City's commitment to active transportation.

Current cost estimate for the project is \$120,000.