

CITY OF GRESHAM
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019

MEMBERS	Greg Olson (Chair)	John Andersen	Tracy Slack	Kristie Bernabo
	Edward Stahlman	Steve Entenman		
LIAISONS	Councilor Echols			
STAFF	Katherine Kelly	Jay Higgins	Carly Rice	Chris Strong
GUEST	Ben Brady			

1 Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

2 Citizen Comments

- Mr. Olson recently met with several Gresham committees to discuss some issues regarding transportation in the city.
- Ms. Bernabo informed staff there is currently no sign posted to keep clear of the railroad tracks traveling southbound on Eastman Parkway. There is one when you are traveling northbound.
- Mr. Olson spoke about visibility for pedestrians and bicyclists as there is plenty of development being built right up to the sidewalk. One example is near 181st/182nd where sight lines for pedestrians and cyclists are inhibited. Mr. Stahlman also pointed out another location where visibility is an issue at Main and Powell where overgrown bushes are blocking sight lines.

3 Approval of Minutes

The December meeting minutes were approved.

4 Update from City Council and Planning Commission Liaisons

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Councilor Echols gave an update on the following items:

- There is a new Councilor, Eddy Morales, in Position #2.
- The new Council Work Plan is out and identifies priorities for the city going forward. The City Manager will use this plan to help determine budgets based on recommendations. Councilor Echols will email the plan to the Transportation Subcommittee.
- The City budget and Urban Renewal District budget hearings are coming up.
- The first listening session of the year occurred in March and focused on Public Safety. Both the Police and Fire Departments were present. The next listening session will be focused on Housing (low-income to executive level) followed by Homelessness and Emergency Preparedness in the Fall 2019.

5 Transportation System Plan Update

Parking Overview | Katherine Kelly

Ms. Kelly gave an overview of public (parking lots and on-street) and private parking in Gresham. This topic was urged as there have been recently-voiced concerns from Rockwood residents about on-street parking. Ms. Kelly looked at usage of the city's Park + Rides to better understand on-street parking patterns and capacity. For instance, the Park + Ride located at 181st has a usage rate of 13%, which is important information to have as we move forward to address community concerns.

The City has been gathering parking count data (in public and private lots and on-street) since 2009 in Downtown Gresham to better understand a) turnover rates and b) how many spaces are generally being used. Ms. Kelly gave an overview on occupancy rates in lots and on-street parking Downtown.

Ms. Kelly gave an overview of how we address parking through our policies from the City's TSP, the Development Code, enforcement in the right-of-way, and development incentives. Ms. Kelly went over different parking strategies and some benefits and challenges related to each. She went over some ideas the University of Oregon students proposed to address parking with the introduction of new technologies.

Comments:

- Mr. Slack suggested looking at how parking shifts as businesses come into and leave locations across the city.
- Mr. Slack questioned whether the City could justify phased parking strategies and programs. He asked if it is cost-effective considering Code Enforcement resources related to return on that time spent in changing parking behavior.
- Mr. Stahlman stated that Gresham's policies do not necessarily seem to support the State Transportation Planning Rule (goal to reduce per capita parking by 10% in the next 20 years). Moving to parking structures supports this idea as it reduces the land footprint used for parking because structures add capacity vertically.
- Mr. Andersen questioned what we do in the interim as new mobility technologies (such as scooters) start to hit the streets and how existing infrastructure interfaces with that. Ms. Rice responded that University of Oregon students in the Urban Design Studio will be looking at this by exploring solutions through incremental design.

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Process + Engagement Overview | Jay Higgins

Mr. Higgins spoke about the City's Transportation System Plan (TSP) 2040. The Transportation Subcommittee will be an important group as we go through the update process. We will have additional subcommittee meetings so we have enough time to address topics for the TSP update. He asked what the most useful way is to get information to the subcommittee to have engaging conversations about these topics. Mr. Higgins stated the importance of figuring out what topics people care about so they show up to outreach events. How do these issues differ depending on the area (i.e. Rockwood versus East Gresham)? Staff will focus conversations at the Transportation Subcommittee meetings, but that will be supplemented with additional outreach in the community.

The bottom-up approach will look at what people like, what their concerns are, and how we aim to take those things and fit them into actions; those actions will then inform the policies in the TSP. Mr. Higgins did an exercise asking what concerns people have related to different modes of transportation. The group brainstormed topics to fall under each mode (image attached).

Comments:

- Ms. Kelly addressed the approach for this TSP update as one more focused on a bottom-up approach as opposed to last time, which was very much informed by a top-down broader vision.
- Mr. Olson stated it would be helpful to get materials to the subcommittee at least two weeks before each meeting so there is enough time to review and better engage.
- Mr. Andersen spoke about community engagement and ways to effectively reach the public. It is important to use the Transportation Subcommittee as a filter before reaching out to the community as it supports building trust and receiving more meaningful feedback.
- Ms. Kelly stated that during the last TSP update staff went to every Neighborhood Association. This time, we want to use the TS as a sounding board and then bring these ideas and issues to the community.
- Mr. Stahlman brought up the idea of paying attention to trends in the market as we go through the update process.
- Councilor Echols brought up e-scooters. From Council's perspective, they are thinking about the concerns around details related to scooter issues and benefits. It would be beneficial to have this conversation with Council to hear and address community concerns around scooters.
- Ms. Bernabo brought up the idea of scooter use fluctuating throughout the year (summer vs. winter). We could look at parking demand in relation to these new modes of travel fluctuating.
- Mr. Entenmen brought up the issue of under-used parking lots and park + rides. What are the strategies from staff and Council as to how we address that regarding property ownership?

6 Construction Projects, Maintenance, and Operations Update

Chris Strong

Mr. Strong gave an update on what staff anticipates being the major activities Transportation Engineering is doing this calendar year. Hollybrook and Powell Valley Neighborhoods are the primary concentration areas.

Comments:

- Mr. Slack asked if, at the end of the "Hitting the Streets" program, we will be at the point where we have the capacity to keep everything in the top 2 tiers of repairability moving forward. Mr. Strong responded that there were streets that did not qualify for the program but still needed improvements. Those streets will be dropping down the list so they can continue repairs over time. There may not enough funding but the City is in a far better position due to the funding revenue source.
- Mr. Entenman asked if the ADA improvements efforts will be continued. Mr. Strong responded the effort will continue to move forward.

7 Planning Projects Updates

Safe Routes to School | Carly Rice

Ms. Rice gave an update on the City's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. One effort the City has been involved in is a partnership with Gresham-Barlow School District to create a district-wide action plan to set goals and actions related to SRTS efforts. The plan also includes a how-to guide which provides users with resources. The City continues to partner with Multnomah County's SRTS Coordinator (MaryJo Andersen).

Ms. Rice spoke about the open streets demonstration event and walk at Davis Elementary School held on April 1, 2019. Couch Street (between 192nd and 194th) was closed. Temporary curb extensions were placed at Couch and 194th to shorten the crosswalk and slow traffic. There were over 100 people who came out to the event which also hosted the Blazers mascot and Gresham Fire Department staff. The City is working to get ready for May Bike Month working with schools to hold Walk + Roll to School Day events.

Comments:

- Mr. Higgins brought up an important lesson learned from this school as the principal's involvement was key in maintaining momentum of Davis's program.
- Mr. Olson brought up the Davis Elementary event. He suggested placement of speed measurement tools would be more effective closer to the pop-up curb extensions.

8 Other Items

- Ms. Kelly mentioned the regional funding measure for transportation. Councilor Echols is on the task force of 35 people. Projects have not yet been identified at this point. Councilor Echols explained that there are 75 possible projects and the task force will be choosing 15 of those to eventually be narrowed down to 5. There will likely be 8-10 projects chosen. Councilor Echols stated that all participants in the task force need to be looking at this from a regional perspective for this bond measure to be passed in 2020.

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- Mr. Higgins mentioned upcoming May Bike Month activities: the kick-off event, Bike to Work Day, and SRTS walks. City staff will send the Transportation Subcommittee a list of all events happening so people can participate.

9 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.