

CITY OF GRESHAM
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019

MEMBERS	Greg Olson (Chair)	John Andersen	Tracy Slack	Kristie Bernabo
	Edward Stahlman			
LIAISONS	Commissioner Anderson			
STAFF	Katherine Kelly	Jay Higgins	Carly Rice	Chris Strong
GUESTS	Briana Orr	Jacob Sherman		

1 Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

2 Approval of Minutes

- The April meeting minutes were approved.

3 Citizen Comments

- No citizen comments.

4 City of Portland E-Scooter Program Report

Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) staff Briana Orr (Transportation Demand Management Specialist / e-Scooter Pilot Program Manager) and Jacob Sherman (New Mobility Analyst) shared information about Portland's past and current e-scooter pilot programs.

- Portland's first e-scooter pilot ran July to September 2018 and a second pilot began May 2019 with a planned duration of 1 year.
- They shared permit details and administrative rules for both rounds of the e-scooter pilot, noting changes to the second pilot based on lessons learned from the first pilot.
- The City of Portland's approach to e-scooters and new mobility technology has been guided by its goals and objectives (i.e. safety goals, environmental goals, etc.).
- Oregon laws relating to e-scooters:
 - Minimum age of 16
 - Helmets + lights are required
 - No license, registration, or insurance required
 - Not allowed on the sidewalk
- Portland laws relating to e-scooters are:

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- Motorized wheeled devices are not allowed in parks, including multi-use paths that travel through parks.
- Ms. Orr spoke about multiple datasets they received during the pilot, including availability of scooters (location and volume), trip routes, collisions, and complaints. The City required these data from the 3 scooter companies (Lime, Skip, Bird). There were also 3 focus groups held with under-represented groups within the city. In addition, the City also received community feedback throughout the pilot via an online portal.
 - Portland's 2018 findings showed that 71% of users said they were using scooters for transportation purposes (to get to work, school, etc.) rather than recreation.
 - Routes highlighted existing bikeways while also showing desire paths for travel.
 - Findings from the pilot showed that Portlanders wanted the program to be more equitable (more geographic distribution throughout the city); for there to be more enforcement around riding on sidewalks and proper scooter parking; dedicated parking areas for scooters; and accessible scooter designs (seated/three-wheeled options).
 - The City of Portland partnered with Multnomah County Health to capture data around injuries related to e-scooters. Injury rates were relatively low when compared to all other travel modes.
- New strategies:
 - When e-scooters are improperly parked, PBOT parking enforcement will be sending fines through the app to the user.
 - Surcharges to companies and users will fund dedicated parking and safe infrastructure.
 - Geofencing does not allow parking / ending trips in geofenced areas.
 - Each scooter has an identifiable permit number for reporting violations. Permit numbers are now much more visible on each scooter, making reporting of violations easier.
 - Scooter "life cycle analysis" will be undertaken to understand environmental impacts and/or benefits relative to other modes.
- Portland Parks Department currently does not allow scooters on multiuse paths within Parks-controlled areas (Springwater Corridor, Eastbank Esplanade, etc.). Parks and PBOT are reviewing this policy for potential revisions.
- Katherine Kelly inquired about data and security. Mr. Sherman shared that data has allowed Portland to make important policy decisions (i.e. deployment of scooters in east Portland) to build a better program. Portland is constantly updating their data standards.
- For the first pilot, the City got all the complaints. For the second pilot, the public will contact the companies and they are required to report to the City. The City is auditing that process and doing some "secret shopping" to audit data submitted by vendors. There is a benefit to this approach as the City cannot respond as quickly as companies to complaints by citizens (after 5pm).
- There was a conversation around scooter parking. The company Swift Mile was mentioned. It offers dedicated bike-share parking but is exploring the idea of infrastructure for parking areas that holds the scooter and charges the scooter. Mr. Stahlman mentioned that dedicated parking areas may provide some level of reliability for users to more consistently find scooters. Ms. Orr talked about the fact that we dedicate a lot of infrastructure for vehicles, so she believes it is completely reasonable to have scooter and bike parking across the city.

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- Ms. Orr also mentioned they will be expanding their BikeTown program in the next year. It is envisioned to be expanded into East Portland.

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5 Transportation System Plan Update

Review Draft Community Survey

Mr. Higgins introduced the first TSP survey to get feedback from Subcommittee members.

Q1: *What 3 transportation topics do you think are the most important to address in Gresham today?*

- Mr. Stahlman asked for the Lyft/Uber response to allow for a broader focus topic (i.e. ride-hailing companies/TNCs) beyond loading and unloading areas.
- Mr. Olson mentioned incorporating a topic focused on "road diets".
- Mr. Slack brought up the idea of incorporating a QR code for people to answer the survey.
- Mr. Strong suggested adding "speeding" to the list.
- Mr. Stahlman brought up the idea of "condition of the street" being covered in the survey somewhere.

Q2: *How do you travel to work or school? Please provide a response for each travel mode.*

- Mr. Slack suggested including taxi as an option.
- Mr. Andersen suggested including a "primary destination" field to include for people to fill in.

Q4: *If you have ever used a ride-hailing service (Lyft, Uber), where were you going? Check all that apply.*

- Mr. Slack asked what this data was trying to achieve? Ms. Kelly suggested adding that people choose where they were traveling *most* of the time to have this question be more useful.

Q5: *Do you experience heavy traffic when traveling throughout Gresham?*

- Mr. Stahlman is interested in including a question around how people perceive traffic in Gresham relative to other cities in the region.

Q6: *The City works to move traffic efficiently during the busiest travel times through traffic signal timing changes and upgrading technologies. To identify problem locations, where do you experience the most delay when you travel around Gresham?*

- Mr. Olson suggested including the specific times for peak hours for more clarity.

Q7: *What would make it more likely for you to use public transit more often? Please rank.*

- Mr. Slack suggested an option for lower transit costs for passes.
- Mr. Higgins said we may change this question to rank the top 3 instead (to save time and to get a better idea of responses).

Q9: *How would you make traveling by bicycle in Gresham better? Please rank.*

- Mr. Olson suggested including a choice that addresses how cyclists feel about e-bikes using the bicycle network.

Q10: *How would you make walking throughout Gresham better? Please rank.*

- Mr. Bernabo suggested adding "feeling of safety".
- Mr. Anderson suggested adding an example such as flashing lights to the "better street crossings" response.

Q11. *How satisfied are you with the Active Transportation Plan recommendations and project list?*

- Mr. Anderson suggested adding a "I didn't know" response.

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- Mr. Slack suggested dropping the Active Transportation Plan questions entirely. Most of those in attendance agreed based on the fact the recently adopted plan went through a rigorous outreach process as it was developed.

Q15: *What keeps you or your student from walking or rolling to school more often? Please rank.*

- Mr. Slack suggested an option that skips the previous questions, which will be included when we put the survey into the publishing program.
- Mr. Stahlman and Ms. Bernabo both suggested adding a response related to personal safety.

Q16: *Where in Gresham have you had difficulty finding parking on a regular basis?*

- Mr. Slack pointed out the "it's not difficult" column is redundant to the "not a problem" column.
- Mr. Olson suggested a question about traffic challenges related to freight loading and delivery trucks. Ms. Kelly supported the idea of creating a question around freight loading. Ms. Kelly also mentioned incorporating something in a future survey about the difference between freight or mail delivery services. This could be included in the emerging technologies section as this relates to the rise of e-commerce.

Q19: *Have you ever ridden an e-scooter before?*

- Mr. Andersen brought up the point if the survey really needs so many questions focused on e-scooters. Ms. Kelly responded that scooters might be important to include in this survey to gauge community opinions on e-scooters especially because they are becoming more prominent throughout the region.

Q23: *What do you consider the biggest concern of e-scooters? Please rank.*

- Mr. Slack mentioned the importance of capturing scooter data through the survey because capturing data from the first year will be useful to gauge this trend moving forward.

Q25: *New transportation technologies are emerging that may likely change the way we travel in the future. Are you aware of the following technologies?*

- Ms. Kelly said we may not need this question and will most likely address these types of emerging technologies in the TSP briefly anyway as it is a part of the future transportation landscape.

Demographics:

- Mr. Slack suggested taking out "optional" in the demographics area, as all responses have the option to not respond.
- Questions were brought up about the income question. Mr. Strong mentioned this might be useful for seeing if income distribution of the survey correlates with the community. Ms. Kelly mentioned it should be household income instead of individual outcome.
- Ms. Kelly brought up the idea of including an age bracket. Mr. Slack suggested adding a question around how people best identify, such as a student, part-time employed, non-working, etc. He also mentioned including a question around schools or workplaces offering incentives to take public transit to their students and employees.
- Mr. Slack suggested including a question asking if people want to participate in a similar annual survey.

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6 Planning Projects Updates

- There were no other updates.

7 Construction Projects, Maintenance, and Operations Update

- There were no updates or questions.

8 Other Items

- There were no other items.

9 Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.