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Newport Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Members Present: Ken Dennis (chair), Jerry Kern, Dave Teem, and Chuck Forinash

Staff: Lee Ritzman, City Engineer/Public Works Director, Tanya Timberlake

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm. Lori Mackey emailed that she needs to resign from the committee due to a scheduling conflict with the regular meeting time she was unaware of when signing on. The October and November minutes were accepted.

Staff Report:

Lee reported on Naterlin Drive sidewalk grant that was awarded by the State which will provide over 1/2 million dollars to a small match (\$35,000) from the city to be used prior to October of 2010. Lee sees no reason we can't get it built by then. The graphics for the application was worked on by high school students who made a computer and physical model of the concept for bike/wheel chair ramp/steps and benches/planters to more easily visualize the concept. We'll hire a consultant to design this. There will be 3 sets of switchbacks. Our matching funds will come from a variety of sources including room taxes. Discussion ensued on the project – questions about actual dimensions and details concerning various particulars including ADA standards and possible design exemptions. US Coast Guard will have to give easements for us to work on their property, but project will not actually be on US Coast Guard property.

Chuck mentioned that since we have been interested in the North Jetty trail perhaps easements for the jetty access road could be combined with this project. Lee indicates he would prefer to see what kind of issues comes up with this project dealing with the Coast Guard rather than combining requests, which could potentially stall the sidewalk.

Chuck asked if this would go to HWY 101 – Lee indicated it connects to 101 but not to State Park. Chuck would like some connection with park, and Lee said he would discuss with Allen to see if that could happen. Chuck said the parks had indicated they would come a little towards us if we went closer to them.

Jerry indicated that he was present at the hearing for the grant and the design and especially the visual of benches available looking out over the bay appealed to the committee. Chuck asked about interpretive signage which was not a part of the original grant proposal but could be included. Ken asked for copy of grant application. Lee indicates he'll hope to have an engineer on board for this by March

Lee has not heard anything new concerning sidewalks on South end of bridge, he will call Dean Fuller at ODOT.

Lee mentioned a walk thru again of Ocean View Drive. Discussion ensues. Lee suggested that bike lanes could be designed for the up-hill direction only. Dave points out that just working on uphill sides to fit something in to limited width would be odd in a bowl, how do you transition to the other side of the street? 19th – 15th is the scary part of this ride, Jerry concurs. Lee reiterated there should be a field trip with the right of way maps and throw some ideas around. Chuck suggests that Park St extension would solve both those problems.

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Old Business:

Bike racks at Nye Beach locate – Dave and Lee plan on doing that Wednesday 12/10/08

Oceanview video discussion – Ken suggested a helmet cam instead of a police car, which affected normal traffic flow.

Ken mentioned economic stimulus package and a concern that there aren't as many transportation dollars or none for bicycle/pedestrian projects. There is some lobbying happening to get that changed. Everyone is encouraged to call their congressman and express support for transportation dollars being designated specifically for bicycle/pedestrian improvement projects.

Oregon Coast bicycle route signage – can Sheila supply to Newport Streets department to install? Staff will discuss at Tuesday meeting.

Local bike route signs – Ken said that some cities designate “bicycle boulevards.” Ken passed out copies of Newport bicycle/pedestrian master plan. Exhibit F still needs to be updated and then the copies can be distributed via CD to general public. Page 5-7 discusses Bicycle Boulevard concept. The master plan includes lots of good stuff – and the committee is encouraged to read through their copies. Jerry states that the City trail program is included in the plan.

Chuck reported on South Beach water property and connecting to 40th going to college. There might be a property swap involved. Jim Protiva, City Parks & Recreation Director, is doing some discussions with various parties on possible alternatives.

New Business:

Ken mentioned to Dave a program where Samaritan Pacific Community Hospital is handing out helmets... Perhaps officers could have helmets available to hand out. Dave mentioned setting up some bike rodeos.

Lee announced new senior planner will be starting the first of the year and will likely replace him as liaison for Bike/Ped committee.

Jerry mentioned Idaho rule for bicyclists, and there is a move in Oregon to adopt these rules – the current issue of Oregon Cycling magazine has a great article. One of the rules is letting bikes roll through stop signs and in some cases red lights.

Next Meeting:

Meeting adjourned 6:45

Next meeting: January 13, 2009, 5:30 PM at Newport Parks and Rec.