

January 14, 2014
5:30 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

The City of Newport Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met on the above date in Conference Room A of the Newport City Hall. In attendance were Alisha Kern, Maryann Bozza, Chuck Forinash, Susan Hogg, Marsha Eckelman, and Amanda Capri. Also in attendance was Peggy Hawker, City Recorder/Special Projects Director. Others in attendance were Tarah Campi, Transportation Options Outreach Coordinator for the Cascades West Council of Governments.

ROLL CALL

Everyone present introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - DECEMBER 10, 2013

There were several corrections to the minutes. MOTION was made by Forinash, seconded by Eckelman, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

It was noted that a map of bike and pedestrian ways is needed, and that the map be broken up into three sections or as designated in the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.

PRESENTATION BY TARAH CAMPI, TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS OUTREACH COORDINATOR, OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Campi explained the OCWCOG, its various departments, offices, and functions. She noted that she works in the Transportation Department.

Campi reported that the COG had received a Safe Routes to Schools grant from ODOT for this year and next. She noted that she is working with Newport Intermediate School. She distributed a handout and added that the program is comprised of five components: Evaluation; Engineering; Education; Encouragement; and Enforcement. Bozza asked Campi whether she was getting traction with the schools, and Campi noted that the program/work is starting small. Bozza asked what the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee could do to help the progress. Campi suggested “meet-up” locations with volunteers as a community event.

Campi reported on the “Drive Less Connect” program which is a program that matches riders with drivers. She explained that there is a website, “Drive Less Connect.com” on which riders and drivers can look for matches. Campi reported that there is a program campaign in May and again in the fall. Bozza asked whether public transit could be included. Campi noted that there could be a link on the website, and that this would be a

good software upgrade. She added that the initial goal was to reduce 78,000 single vehicle miles, and there was actually a reduction of 92,000 vehicle miles. Hogg asked what kind of checks are conducted to determine if the carpool drivers are licensed, insured, etc. Bozza noted that the program was not promoted at HMSC, and the “ride board” was unsuccessful due to liability issues. Campi noted that groups could have their own network in the “Drive Less Connect” program.

Campi expressed a willingness to meet with the Committee in the future.

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION - FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION

Bozza reported that the Committee’s presentation to the City Council had gone well. She noted that there was a good discussion, and that staff will take the next step.

Forinash suggested a grassroots beautification effort for the Highway 101 crosswalk project. He recommended partnering with the community on this project. Capri asked who maintains the landscaping on other ODOT roads.

REVIEW DRAFT LETTER FROM CITY TO ODOT

Bozza reported that Ken Dennis resurrected the letter from ODOT to Tim Gross regarding sharrows on the bridge. It was noted that correspondence was dropped at that point. It was suggested that the Committee draft a letter for Gross’ signature, or that Gross draft his own reply. Forinash noted that the ODOT representative is no longer with ODOT. Bozza noted that she would send the e-mail string. It was suggested that the next step is to ask Gross to send the letter or discuss the issue with the City Manager. Kern suggested talking with Sheila Lyons at ODOT. Bozza noted that Dennis is anxious for the letter to be sent. She agreed to draft a letter to send to Gross along with the e-mail string, and ask that he send it to ODOT.

REPORT ON BICYCLE AND/OR PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS DURING DECEMBER

Hawker reported that there were no bicycle or pedestrian accidents, in the city, during December.

STAFF REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Bozza noted that she had asked for these departmental reports to better track projects. She added that there is an update on Safe Haven Hill in the Community Development report. She noted that there will be a great walking path on Safe Haven Hill.

It was noted that the TSP update is something that should be monitored.

The Committee requested a copy of the graphic for the STIP program for the next meeting.

It was reported that Big Creek Road had been opened to one-way traffic.

It was asked whether the city is going to overlay Nye Street.

Kern noted that Benton Street should be addressed in the sharrow plan.

REVIEW LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR CITY STAFF

A brief discussion occurred regarding minor pedestrian improvements at SE Chestnut Street and Ferry Slip Road.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

The Committee expressed appreciation for Gross' efforts on the sidewalk by City Hall, Benton, and 9th Streets.

Bozza requested the list of questions to the staff from the April 2013 meeting.

Forinash noted that now that Big Creek Road is one-way whether there is a thought to separating the user groups. Hogg suggested a railing with reflective arrows. Forinash noted that he would like to walk the road first and that suggestions could be included in the Committee's next set of priorities.

ESTABLISH NEXT AGENDA

Agenda suggestions include: Separation of User Groups on Big Creek Road; Report to the City Council from Staff; and the Potential Increased Pedestrian Traffic at Lucky Gap.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.