

MINUTES
Transportation System Plan Policy Advisory Committee
Meeting #3
Newport City Hall Council Chambers
September 9, 2020

Committee Members Present by Video Conference: Jeff Hollen, Tomas Follett, Bob Berman, Rich Belloni, Dean Sawyer, Ralph Breitenstein, Judy Kuhl, Rich Belloni, Roy Kinion and Bryn McCornack.

Committee Members Absent: Rosa Coppola, Lyle Mattson (*excused*), Linda Niegebauer (*excused*), Roland Woodcock, James Feldman, and Fran Matthews.

City Staff Present: City Manager, Spencer Nebel; Community Development Director, Derrick Tokos; and Executive Assistant, Sherri Marineau.

Consultants Present: Ben Weber, and Carl Springer.

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call.** Meeting started at 6:08 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes.**

Motion was made by Ralph Breitenstein, seconded by Judy Kuhl to approve the March 12, 2020 Transportation System Plan Policy Advisory Committee meeting minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

3. **Review Of What We Have Learned To Date.** Springer reviewed the agenda, how the project schedule had changed since the last meeting, and the topics for the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting #4 happening in Winter of 2021. He then reviewed the key needs for the Agate Beach area and the North map. Berman asked for the maps to be identified better so they knew exactly what areas they were portraying. Kuhl asked if there was any discussion on the NW 73rd Street to Highway 101 to Avery Street route. Berman noted this street was where the state police was and traffic could get backed up there. Springer would note this.

Springer reviewed the key needs for the Northwest map. Hollen thought the parallel route was a problem and only got them through the one gully. There were wetland issues in this area and it would be difficult to construct there. Hollen thought the Harney Street option would put people off track and widening Highway 101 would be a better option. Springer asked if he thought there was a viable option on the east side. Hollen didn't think so unless they wanted people to bypass Newport and connect into Highway 20. He didn't see much traffic that would want to go down Highway 101 to Highway 20 without stopping to see something in Newport.

Springer reviewed the key needs map for the Downtown/Southwest map. Berman thought the parking issues on the Bayfront needed to be referenced. Tokos noted the city took action on the bayfront for a strategy on demand management. He thought Berman was right to reference parking. Belloni noticed that Harney Street should go up to the school and exit back to the park. He wondered if this was off the table or if they were still looking at it. Springer explained at this point they were just showing what was working and what needed to be addressed. The Harney Street extension was still in the TSP and something that would be looked at, they just hadn't examined it. Belloni reminded that there was a weight limit on Fogarty Street. Tokos would look into this. Hollen noted that the extension of Harney Street would be worthwhile for the schools and the route on 12th Street by the Middle School was a way to get around town to Highway 101. Taking Harney Street further north went into wetlands and was difficult to construct. Tokos explained they would be assessing this, highway widening options, and Big Creek Road as well. He noted 33rd and 36th Streets were problematic because of a new multi-family development in the area. Berman thought they

talked about Harney Street going east of Forest Park rather than Big Creek Road and asked if it was still under consideration. Tokos confirmed it was and explained it just wasn't shown on the document.

Springer noted the illustration for the Harney Street extension was on the east side of the hill. Nebel explained they were pursuing a development of a new dam on Big Creek. The low dam crossed Big Creek and there were thoughts to incorporate this into an alignment.

Springer reviewed the map of the key needs for the Southeast map. Follet thought the area circled for freight activity wasn't practical. Berman questioned freight concerns on the far east of Bay Blvd. If the area was developed it would become an issue. He didn't think there was any freight being moved past Moore Drive. Nebel noted there was a fish fertilization plan there and a number of semis traveled in that area. Tokos thought that Moore Drive should be flagged as a freight issue.

Springer reviewed the South Beach issues next. Tokos explained that the work on Highway 101 would begin around September 17th. Construction would start at the end of the year. Tokos explained what the project improvements in South Beach would entail and a discussion ensued regarding these improvements.

Singer reviewed the Traffic Volume Growth for the Agate Beach area map. It showed that there was a lot happening on the east side of Highway 101. Singer reported on the amount of trips and the traffic volume growth for downtown. Tokos thought the red area marked above the golf course on the Agate Beach map was high. Hollen agreed with this. Springer would check on this.

4. **Draft Approach for Community Workshops.**

Weber reviewed the TSP engagement events. They were proposing more targeted live meetings for a couple of hours and would build a project website with surveys to get people's thoughts on broader solutions. Weber reviewed the caveats for the process. He noted this was early in the design alternative process and the Planning Commission would help prioritize projects, figure out exact evaluation criteria, and evaluate concepts based on those criteria.

Weber reviewed the first public event that would be an online open house. He showed examples of the advertising and direct mail that would be done. McCornack noted a lot of the older community didn't drive, didn't go to evening meetings, and didn't walk. He asked how they could give input. Weber thought this was open for conversation on how best to engage the senior population when they didn't have online access. The team would be working with Tokos to find ways to do non-online engagement. McCornack thought the solution was hard but there was a group that could be approached for input. She thought the newspaper would be a good way to notify them. Tokos was curious how the senior community took to smaller group meetings in November. Berman thought most of the seniors were considered vulnerable populations and wouldn't attend. He asked if the mail in survey would be universal to every resident or just the mailing lists. Weber thought they were trying to be pretty extensive with this. Tokos explained it would be a city wide mailing they would make sure there weren't any double mailings to people. The mailing could have a low percentage of return but it was important. Spencer thought they should look at how to reach residents of multifamily units to make sure they weren't missed in a citywide mailing. Hollen asked how much materials they would be sending along with the survey. Weber explained this would be informational and inquisitive for most people in Newport. There would be a project flyer and other information that would help bring people up to speed on what the TSP goals were, where they were in the process, and how their input would be used to shape concepts. Weber would be asking the PAC to look at how extensive and lengthy to make the survey so it wasn't too long, and to make sure it was meaningful and approachable. This would be sorted in the next few months.

Nebel asked what level of technology the 60+ population was comfortable using. Berman thought this was tough. He explained that he recently attended an advertised Zoom meeting for Medicare and it wasn't well attended by the senior community. McCornack noted many of the population didn't have internet access. Weber reported this would be part of the thought process to determine different ways to contact the community. Berman thought the households with school children were import to target as well. He thought

the Lincoln County School District would have a way to help. Belloni thought they could use their student information system to help with this.

Weber reviewed the live public event information and noted this would be a 2-hour session in mid-November. There would be breakouts to discuss specific areas and they would report back to the PAC to provide input. Kuhl thought if the event was lived streamed it could be shown on the TV for everyone to view. People viewing on TV wouldn't interact but would gather information. Breitenstein asked how many seniors they wanted input from. He thought the Center for Health Education could be used to do outreach and there was a lot of ways to do separation at this location. They could set specific times for the public to participate. Weber thought an in person event with a small crowd was an idea to keep on the table.

Weber reviewed an example of the online welcome page for the project. He looked at the focus area navigation on the webpage. Weber reviewed what each focus area page looked like and showed the background, graphics and tools. Berman asked if they were going to talk about the challenges and issues in any particular areas. He wanted to see preliminary screens for the webpages before they were finalized. Weber explained they would show this on the website in the context of the maps. The PAC would have a way to weigh in before the information launched.

Weber reviewed the information on couplets next and reported that there would be examples of couplets provided. They would also show examples of intersections, roundabout options, and signalization. He reviewed the highway options noting the long and short Highway 101 couplets next. Weber also reviewed the Highway 20 couplets and improved two-way highways.

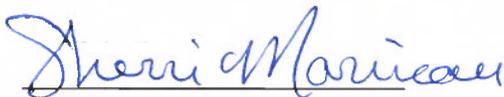
Weber showed the long-term Yaquina Bay bridge plan next. He then reviewed the other possible questions. Weber then showed the graphic samples for other communities, concept map designs, larger network maps, cross sections examples, plan drawings, concept boards, and plan drawings. Nebel asked about the suggestions to eliminating parking on the Highway 101 couplets and to expand the sidewalks. Weber thought it was important to stress that nothing had been decided yet but they would communicate this. Nebel thought they should show an option that wasn't a couplet. Tokos cautioned to not convey a message that could be perceived to be leading to an certain option. Weber noted they would tailor different formats and work to put people on equal footing no matter how they weighed in on the process.

Berman asked about dual language for the presentations and thought it was important for the Hispanic population to be involved. Tokos explained this was something they were planning on doing. Berman thought the zoom meetings were easier to do and liked an opportunity to review these things once they were concrete.

Tokos explained that they wanted to see if the PAC was okay with the new direction versus what they originally wanted to do. Berman thought it was okay. He didn't think there were any other options and wanted to make sure there were ways for people who were technologically challenged to participate. Follet wanted the public to give input for their thoughts on how walking and biking would relieve traffic. Tokos thought good visual preferences to the survey would help to get feedback on this.

5. **Public Comment.** None were heard.
6. **Next Meeting – Winter 2021.** No discussion.
7. **Adjournment.** Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Marineau
Executive Assistant