

NMTAC Meeting February 4, 2015

Present: Demi Allen, Lief Horwitz, Don Willott, Patty Lyman, Marsha Cutting, Alyse Nelson

Absent: Christian Ford

Liaisons: Chris Hammer, Wayne Roth, Kirk Robinson

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Alyse called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 pm.

Minutes and Agenda

The meeting minutes for November and December of 2014 were approved.

Comments from Public

John Grinter

John expressed support for the recent trail improvement project along Sportsman Club Road. He also mentioned that the newest non-motorized map adopted in the last round of Comprehensive Plan updates had been put on the City's website. John wanted to reach out to the NMTAC to see if there was interest in supporting him moving forward with developing some trails within the Lost Valley land owned by the City. Lost Valley is at the head of the bay by the Dahlia stand and goes west towards Fletcher Bay Road. It doesn't connect with Fletcher Bay Road, but is very close and would require easement negotiation with private property owners to connect to Fletcher Bay Road. The Lost Valley area also connects with Sportsman Club Road/Finch Road via Carmela Lane and could provide a trail connection to the trail adjacent to Bethany Lutheran Church. Overall, the Lost Valley area makes up over 40 acres of public land. John would like to either like the committee to work on this project or he would like the committee's support to move forward with permits. He wants to stay in the upland areas and develop a 3-4 foot wide trail in an area that would make sense for future development of a more permanent, wider trail. The Lost Valley trail project is identified on the City's CIP and the City's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. John would be happy to take committee members on field visits to get a sense of various trail opportunities both in Winslow and throughout Bainbridge Island.

Charles Schmidt

Charles is a liaison for the Waterfront Trails Committee. He mentioned the development proposed along Wyatt Way that may connect through to Shephard Way. Charles noted that currently Shepard Way is one of few places on the Island where you can walk without cars alongside.

Chris Hammer noted that the subdivision proposed a cul-de-sac connection to Wyatt Way and that the City had concerns about overburdening Wyatt Way, so they were studying if there was a way to require that the development have a through street connection to Shephard.

John Christiansen

Stated he was interested in volunteering. He likes to bike and mountain bike around Bainbridge Island.

Update from COBI Engineer - Chris Hammer

(1) Chris stated that the City is having listening sessions for the Comprehensive Plan update and that the NMTAC is encouraged to attend. (2) Hyla project: The cost for the mid-block crosswalk is \$24,000, which is within the budget. The City is on hold with the project while Hyla and American Legion formalize their parking agreement. (3) The Olympic Drive and Sound to Olympics projects are moving forward full speed ahead for construction in the fall. For the Olympic Drive project, they are getting base maps and soils testing done this month. For the Sound to Olympics trail, they are working on formalizing the alignment. (4) Chris said the Water-front Park Bridge project has a \$100,000 budget, but to do a 10' wide bridge that would be more comfortable for pedestrians and bicyclists will cost more than anticipated due to additional costs due to testing to confirm pile depths and the need to retrofit girdles. The cost will be \$161,000 according to Chris, so he is seeking a recommendation from the committee to whether or not they'd support staff requesting a budget amendment from City Council.

Patty asked if lighting would be part of the project. Chris said if there was electrical connections nearby, lighting could be added.

The committee expressed support for Chris moving forward with a budget amendment.

Patty asked Chris for an update on Finch. Chris stated they were working on a design. This project will use 2014 funds and it will be built this year. They may be able to continue around the corner onto Sportsman Club Road.

Island-wide Transportation Study (IWTS) Update

Alyse asked for an overview of how the IWTS fits into the overall Comprehensive Plan process. Chris said that typically City Council accepts the plan but doesn't adopt it and he's thinking it would be similar this time. He's hoping to do a limited update because conditions haven't changed a lot in his mind. The purpose is to further the planning effort before the Comprehensive Plan update.

Marsha expressed concern that the study doesn't talk about all groups of users. It should include wheelchair and scooter users not just pedestrians and bicyclists.

Demi feels that the study is outdated and also a defensive document that is worried about growth and protecting the Island's character. The first goal is protection, but this is a transportation plan. It's heavily car-focused, which may make sense since the Non-Motorized Plan is a separate document.

Chris stated the goal this time around is to combine the non-motorized and motorized portions together.

Patty stated that she agreed they need to be together. She says that fits in with the goals of complete streets.

Don mentioned the history during the last update. Part 1 was the IWTS and part 2 was the Non-motorized transportation plan (NMTP). The NMTP included extensive public input. Don said that there is a risk of transportation still equating to cars in peoples' minds and that he has concern about fully integrating the non-motorized and motorized elements into one plan.

Wayne stated it really depends on how it is crafted.

Demi asked Chris about level of service (LOS) and whether it will be multimodal. Chris said it would measure vehicles because that is what is quantifiable. For bicycle and pedestrian measurements, it will look for infrastructure versus no infrastructure.

Don mentioned that in general as you improve LOS at intersections, you make it more hostile for non-motorized users. He mentioned there are a variety of resources like the PSRC toolkit that may be useful. He also said he has an interest in seeing vegetated buffers retained.

Demi stated that it might be worth submitting comments from the NMTAC to the City with regard to the comprehensive plan update.

Discussion of PSRC Non-motorized Tiger Grant

Don said that he and Chris had been looking at the possibility of applying to the PSRC for Tiger Grant monies. This grant is for projects that are "shovel ready." They had talked to PSRC staff about whether they could have a successful application. Don believes that they can apply for Phase 2 of the Olympic Drive project. Tiger grant doesn't pay for design and requires a 40-50% match of City funds. The WSDOT pedestrian/bike grant funding would be more funds and require less City match. However, if a Tiger grant was received, the phase 2 project could move forward quicker and it seems like a good candidate. The committee supported moving forward with applying for grants to get the project built as soon as possible.

Discussion of Annual Retreat

Alyse said she would send out a Doodle poll to help decide when to hold the retreat. Dates will be for several weekends in March.

Liaison Report Out

Kirk reported that the City and Parks had been working on the STO trail and bridge alignment and how it might affect the John Nelson Trail. There were some concerns about the alignment, but it looks like they've been resolved.

He also mentioned that the Parks District would be interested in helping the City with recreational trail building at Lost Valley if the City was interested.

Miscellaneous Items

Alyse mentioned Patty had coordinated with the Cascade Bicycle Club to have a representative come to our April meeting to talk about Vision Zero. The committee was supportive of that idea. That will most likely occur at the April meeting for about 30 minutes at the beginning of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.


Alyse Nelson, Chair