

NMTAC Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2015
7-9 pm

Committee Members & Liaisons: Kirk Robinson (Parks), Alyse Nelson, Demi Allen, Christian Ford, Patty Lyman, Don Willott, Wayne Roth (Council), Chris Hammer (City Engineer)

Excused: Marsha Cutting, Lief Horwitz

Guests: Ross Hathaway, John Grinter, Peter Harris, Maradel Gale (Planning Commission)

1. Call to Order - 7:05 pm

2. Acceptance or Modification of Agenda - NMTAC Members

3. Approve Meeting Minutes - Jan, Feb, March retreat, April 8 and 29 meeting
Meeting minutes were approved.

4. Hawley Cove Park Shoreline Substantial Development Permit (SSDP)

Kirk (Parks District) provided general project information on the permit application. The proposal is to connect across the wetland from current trail system to west side of park to the Hawley Way neighborhood. They selected a route that goes across an existing berm.

John Grinter - Provided comments about past conversations about goals to provide a connection between Wing Point Way and Hawley Cove. The connecting path should work for pedestrians and cyclists, but not be a commuter route. The upper route identified in the Non-Motorized Plan (NMP) is more direct and works for people walking or cycling. The berm is an environmental impact.

Kirk provided additional history about past permits and explained that a past grant with the RCO that the Parks District applied for was not denied but withdrawn by the Parks District.

John read the main goal of the NMP and goals from the trails plan from the parks district. John believes the upper route serves the community.

Kirk says that there isn't much difference between the two trails (upper vs. lower).

Demi Allen has walked the site. The existing trail doesn't work well for cyclists because it's steep.

Patty thinks the speeds should be lowered on Wing Point.

Ross Hathaway - Squeaky Wheels encourages recreational commuting. It gives people an alternative and ability to enjoy nature and getting away from traffic. It's important to encourage trails to work for all users and all ages and abilities.

Kirk - All the parks and trails in Parks District (except for one because it was a condition) allow bikes.

Alyse - There's a difference between allowing bikes and accommodating them with facilities that actually work. The trails in Grand Forest don't work for commuters vs. Waterfront Park.

Chris Hammer - The current route works fairly well for pedestrians. Potential for future switchback to accommodate bikes?

Patty doesn't feel that she has enough information to make a recommendation tonight. She would want to look at the safest way to get to town. It can't just be for people who are walking.

Maradel - Expressed concern about shoreline and wetland impacts. She would want the route to be the least impactful on the shoreline environment.

Demi - Based on his site visit, the vast difference in habitat on one side of the berm versus the other side indicates a significant impact.

Don - Any traffic through an area has an impact on habitat. Boardwalks are not especially bicycle friendly.

Alyse - Let's take time to review this and come back to whether or not the NMTAC wants to make a formal comment to the Planning Department at the next meeting.

5. City Engineer's Report - Chris Hammer

Schedule for STO and Olympic Drive - looks like they won't happen this fall. Funding isn't in jeopardy, but the large projects take longer due to coordination efforts and complexity.

STO - Now at the point to begin NEPA process - will take a few months to go through once submitted.

Olympic Drive - WSDOT is supportive of the project - they see it as a showcase project of the new urban standards. Will take six months to one year for state approval. Chris would like to get both projects wrapped up by the end of this year and award projects in late 2015 or early 2016. Construction could begin in late winter/early spring.

Hyla is no longer supportive of having the trail on their property within an easement. They still want to build a trail, but a private trail. Want to exchange crosswalk for ROW dedication. The City will work with a ROW consultant to further develop the future ROW acquisition/dedication.

Now we need to potentially spend our 2015 connecting pathway money. Think about potential projects, or we can have the money roll over.

Don suggested trail on Harrison property. Doesn't connect to the highway due to guardrail, but terrain would be feasible. On Madison, it comes out to 10-15' above Madison. The trail was a condition of a recent new development, but it's disconnected.

Chris can bring trails list to next meeting.

Traffic study - getting closer to having data for the IWTS. Model is very good.

Ross asked about Finch project and what width shoulder would be. Chris said it would be 4-5'.

Ross - PSE work at head of the Bay shouldn't preclude future work on the corridor. See if there is a way to look for opportunities to coordinate to get pedestrian improvements.

6. Feedback on Connectivity Map and potential projects lists - Chris Hammer & NMTAC

Alyse gave feedback on the current Comp Plan and non-motorized plan/IWTS update process.

Chris - Council wants to know if the CIP priorities of NMTAC to feed into the process. Fall will be too late for that and it'll be in the next budget year.

Demi - The Core 40 routes are important, but the type of infrastructure envisioned isn't sufficient.

Peter Harris (Squeaky Wheels) - Don't we have to go with plans on the book?

Chris - Core 40 was a tool to connect. Meant to build upon NMP. Meant to be a funding mechanism. Council adopted and had a funding stream at one point.

Patty - We need a policy or statement of how we decide which roads have facilities on them. If Miller is 35 mph, then we need to build a separated bike lane. If its a secondary road, bikes and cars can share the roadway. In Winslow, speed should be lower so it's safe for everyone.

Christian - there is a calculus to speed/volume to look at type of facility is required. We need to be able to prioritize projects. It all has to connect.

Ross - Suggest going with current CIP and going for a bond while climate is right. The non-motorized plan needs refreshing. Holistic effort is more than we can do right now. Need to keep freight train going.

Demi - Core 40 as just shoulder improvements isn't enough. Routes are good, but we need different infrastructure.

Kirk - Suggested developing standards for different facilities and then assign them to roads. That's when you take into your factors and site specific details.

Wayne - There are other funds besides just bond. Maybe Core 40 is a term that is bogging us down.

Don - The STO should continue to be a priority.

Ross - Stepping off the current CIP causes chaos for staff and the constituents are expecting this.

Maradel- Not even focusing on Winslow and walking.

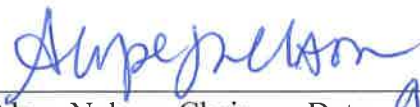
Chris will add Madison sidewalks to the current CIP due to widespread committee support.

7. Comments from the Public - No additional comments

8. Liaison Report Out - No additional comments

9. Miscellaneous Items - None

10. Adjournment - Adjournment 9:35 PM


Alyse Nelson, Chair Date: 9/2/15