

SWNI TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

January 19, 2011 Minutes

Chair: Marianne Fitzgerald
Arnold Creek:
Ashcreek: Roger Averbeck
Bridlemile:
Collins View:
Crestwood: Linda Niles
Far SW:
Hayhurst:
Hillsdale: Don Baack
Homestead:
Maplewood: Karen Williams
Markham:
Marshall Park:
Multnomah: Kay Durtschi
S Burlingame: Sandy Morgan
S Portland: Jim Gardner
SWHRL:
WPP: Jim McLaughlin
Guests: Mike Mason and Ron Kroop of ODOT
Visitors:
Staff: Leonard Gard

Minutes, agenda, introductions

January agenda is approved. December minutes are approved.

I-5 Iowa viaduct replacement

Mike Mason makes a presentation with large aerial photos of the project site. Most work to date has been excavation and construction of the west side retaining wall. Work on the wall is continuing. It is the western boundary of their construction. Work will next start on the detour bridge and roadway, also on the west side. In a month, they will be planting 450 trees between the detour bridge and Barbur. All the trees will be evergreens. By the summer or early fall the detour lanes will be ready for use. The bike path at Capitol Hwy will have to be relocated because it will interfere with trucks that will need to turn left onto Barbur.

Discussion takes place regarding coordination of this project and the Gibbs St bridge project. There is language in the Gibbs plan that requires coordination. For example, the Gibbs project has to give 30 days' notice of any freeway lane closure. A representative from Ron Kroop's team will attend Gibbs St project meetings. There will be a full closure with the sign bridges go down and the Gibbs bridge goes up. The project will also force closures on Hood, Barbur, the Corbett exit ramp, and Macadam. The Gibbs project will take about one year. Mike thinks the Iowa viaduct project will be finished in September of 2013.

Roger asks how the safety record is so far on the Iowa project. The answer from Mike and Ron is that there have been two instances of rocks rolling down into traffic. A few accidents have been caused by inattentive drivers. The speed limit has been reduced to 50 mph and policing is taking place on both I-5 and Barbur.

300 trees will be removed on the east side to make room for a retaining wall. The wall will improve slope stability. They are also removing noxious plants and “chasing” noxious plants. Over the next 25 years is committed to reduce its herbicide use (the active ingredients) by 20%. In all 1,000 trees will be removed, and 2,100 replacement trees will be planted, including grand firs, Douglas firs, western red cedar, and broad leaf maples. Ron and Mike are not sure where excavated soil will be disposed.

Several committee members say they are seeing more traffic on Barbur. Roger asks about stormwater management. Ron says it will be captured, treated, and then directed to the Willamette River. They will not send it down the slope on the east side of the freeway.

Updates from Marianne

- She'll set up a new mail group just for Barbur.
- There is a SW corridor study page on the Metro website.
- The city is still planning to do a land use study of Barbur. Patrick Sweeney said they did get some money for an alternatives analysis.
- The curb extension next to Master Wrench is in re-design. A bike box is not being considered. ODOT has not yet approved a design for a crossing at Luradel (next to the Chinese restaurant). A crossing at Alice will not move forward.
- The pedestrian signal at Barbur and Capitol (near Kaady carwash) will now have a countdown phase. One second will be added to the time to cross. Kay calls for public information about the new countdown pedestrian signals.
- At the dangerous Rasmussen section of Barbur ODOT is assessing options.
- Marianne and Roger talk about their experience on city advisory committees. Marianne's on a budget advisory committee. She wishes that PBOT would be more strategic in its planning. Instead, PBOT is chasing whatever money is available, and that's what primarily governs the direction PBOT takes.

Marianne reports that Metro is beginning a new round of regional flexible funds allocations. She describes the timeline. Adoption is expected in August. Our committee's top priorities are Barbur, Capitol Hwy, and Red Electric. Second tier priorities are Huber, Multnomah, Vermont, Spring Garden, and Sunset. The city may favor east Portland for reasons of equity. Equity and economic development are big issues in the Portland Plan. There is still a federal earmark of \$10 million for Capitol Hwy. We're being asked to choose among Red Electric, Capitol Hwy, and Barbur. Don calls for Red Electric improvements on the east end. Roger says the city goes for money regardless of priorities, but that we still should lobby for our priorities. Don asks for a joint Trails/Transportation meeting and one is scheduled for February 22. Kay calls for lobbying of our representatives on the Metro Council.

Neighborhood reports

Kay: The latest issue of the Multnomah Historical Society publication has an article about Capitol Hwy. The proposal for affordable housing at the Sears Armory site has failed. Funding

could not be gotten. The mayor and Merlo are now pushing for use of the site for emergency management. Multnomah NA has not taken a vote on the matter. The Multnomah NA originally supported emergency management at the site. One objection that some nearby residents have raised is that an emergency management facility may be too noisy.

Linda: A Wilson HS parent expressed concern that the Vermont bike project would cause a loss of parking near the high school. Marianne says the Vermont project is in the budget. There will be a booth at the next Hillsdale Farmers Market that will give information on the project, and there is also a webpage with information.

Michael: A group in Collins View is considering fundraising for the Tryon Creek Farm. He asks for an update on SR2S. Roger says that tomorrow (January 20) there, PBOT will conduct a lunch-time discussion on SR2S in the Portland Building, 2nd floor auditorium.

Sandy: An adult stepped into wet cement that was poured for the new sidewalk at Capitol Hill ES. It needs to be repaired but Sandy doesn't know whom to contact. Marianne advises contacting the project manager.

Jim G: The Gibbs Street bridge construction project is underway. The work will take about one year. They are now doing utility relocation. The bridge itself is scheduled to go up in July.

Don: Regarding the Hillsdale SR2S program, the local PTA may take the initiative to complete a crossing of the gully at SW 25th. Trails is having a work party tomorrow.

Roger: Ashcreek wrote a letter to the city asking that PBOT give Multnomah Blvd from 31st to 69th a complete re-paving after the sewer and water line work is done. They did get an email response from the mayor's office thanking Ashcreek for the letter and saying that the mayor has asked PBOT to respond.

End