

SWNI TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 21, 2011 Minutes

Chair: Marianne Fitzgerald
Arnold Creek:
Ashcreek: Roger Averbek
Bridlemile:
Collins View:
Crestwood: Linda Niles
Far SW:
Hayhurst:
Hillsdale: Glenn Bridger
Homestead: Susan Egnor
Maplewood: Karen Williams
Markham:
Marshall Park:
Multnomah: Kay Durtschi
S Burlingame: Sandy Morgan
S Portland:
SWHRL:
WPP: Jim McLaughlin
Guests: Wes Risher, Stephanie Routh
Staff:

Minutes, agenda, introductions

March agenda is approved. February minutes are approved.

"Getting Around on Foot", Steph Routh, Willamette Pedestrian Coalition

Steph Routh described WPC's goals for a strategic pedestrian network and a recent study regarding priority needs for pedestrian improvements.

<http://www.wpcwalks.org/PDFs/GettingAroundOnFoot-ExecSummary.pdf>

The study methodology combined document research (transportation system plans), resident surveys, interviews with regional jurisdiction staff, and neighborhood case studies based on on-the-ground field observations.

She reviewed the 12 Key Findings in the report—safe crossings, closing sidewalk gaps, recognizing equity, designing for all abilities, planning at a human scale, calming traffic, combining transit and walking/rolling, walking the talk, urban design, engaging communities, funding it, and creating partnerships.

Steph then described the ten action items related to planning, design, funding, engaging communities, and creating partnerships. She participates in a Transportation Health Equity Network that meets monthly. They are looking at the Portland Plan and Wes asked, why is Equity so focused on East Portland? They get attention because of the demographics, and it is so much more expensive to build in Southwest. We then talked about property taxes, and the recent

budget documents that show that for every \$6 in revenue generated in SW, \$1 is spent on infrastructure. Wes went on to suggest we need a citywide ADA compliance transition plan and that Portland is vulnerable with streets in their current condition; other places like CA and Chicago raised funds following lawsuits.

Project Update

SW Trails discussion on Neighborhood Greenways. Proposals are focused on low volume, low speed streets. However, this won't get VMT reduction without improving arterials. Roger thought there would be more opportunities for input into the proposed greenways beyond those proposed for 2012. At the rate of one mile/year, we'll never get to the target mode split.

Marianne asked whether we want to push for the Capitol Highway Refinement Plan since it's a major thoroughfare. Roger reported on Ashcreek's motion that this is the priority, although in his opinion Greenways are not in competition for funding with Major City Bikeways. It's a budget issue. Sandy said in South Burlingame, Hume is their priority; Capitol Highway doesn't touch them. Glenn said favors the Capitol Highway Plan and hopes to get a widened shoulder at his end (Cheltenham to Terwilliger); let's complete Capitol Highway. Linda "ditto". Karen didn't ask her neighborhood. Jim said it's a simple choice, Capitol Highway is the only N/S connection in SW and needs to be fixed; Multnomah Blvd. is opportunistic funding. BES should make a larger contribution to Capitol Highway improvements. Susan said Homestead didn't vote, but agrees that opportunistic approaches can be short sighted.

Neighborhood reports

Homestead: Susan reports on a major issue affecting how they spend their new parking meter revenue. PBOT has told them that one of the streets selected, SW 11th, needs to be reconstructed, and PBOT will not let them build sidewalks unless the city fixes the street too. That makes it unlikely that they will be able to build the sidewalks as promised although there are major traffic and parking issues that make people afraid to walk in the area.

West Portland Park: Jim reports on PBOT construction of the new crosswalk at Alfred. The final design is for a perpendicular crosswalk with an elongated island, not the diagonal one the neighborhood requested. He fears the design will in fact encourage diagonal crossings and will not be as safe as it could have been. People continue to jaywalk in this area.

Maplewood: Karen reports on a recent survey that received 170 replies; 82% of the respondents said transportation issues are their top priority so she hopes she can channel that interest. Maplewood was surprised but pleased that they are nominated as the next neighborhood greenway.

Crestwood: Linda asked if there was any additional information about the rumored Walgreens at Taylors Ferry and Capitol; Crestwood would like to push for streetside improvements.

South Burlingame: Sandy commented on the new speed readerboard in the Markham neighborhood.

Ashcreek: Roger reported on a recent issue of cars parking in a recent “ditch to swales” project and that neighbors convinced PBOT to place No Parking signs in the area. He is advocating for PBOT/BES to develop policies for no parking in the swales for safety reasons.

Sandy asked whether the Transportation Committee/Trails Workplan overlaps had been resolved. Marianne reported that she and Don met with Brian and Leonard, but nothing was resolved. Sandy and others offered to work with Marianne on this.

End (notes prepared by Marianne Fitzgerald)