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Multnomah County Bicycle and Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - May 13, 2020

Remote/Webinar Meeting 6:30-8:30pm

Members	Members Absent	Guests	Staff and
Attending			Presenters
Clint Culpepper	Carolyn Briggs - excused	Brittany Morris	MaryJo Andersen
Tim Roth	Greg Olson - excused	Ryan Ross	Oscar Rincones
Sarah Erlund	Gary Purvine – excused		Andrew Campbell
Art Graves	Michael Rubenstein -		Graham Martin
Joel Huffman	excused		Mike Pullen
Andrew Holtz	Ken Lanteigne – unexcused		Kelsey Copley
AJ Zelada	Caroline Crisp – unexcused		Emily Miletich
John Russell	David Hoang – unexcused		Steve Litchfield
Dean Derek	Jim Slebos – unexcused		
Susan Watt			

Welcome & Introductions

Members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

Approve April 2020 Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were reviewed and Joel Huffman moved to approve the minutes, AJ Zelada seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

Public Comment

No public comment

Chair Report

Andrew reported that City of Portland now has streets and traffic ways with signs to reduce traffic and asked if anyone familiar with east county managed roadways are doing anything similar. He also suggested an agenda item for the future might be how increased traffic will be managed once commuting picks back up so that bikers and pedestrians can comfortably manage commuting as well.

He also reported that the section of Cornell Road managed by the county still has a speed limit of 45mph, which is too fast.

Mike Pullen explained that the City of Portland had legislative authority to reduce the speed of their roads without ODOT permission and there may have been a recent change that makes it easier for other jurisdictions to do that, although it may still need to go through ODOT. He suggested someone with the county could check on this and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Emily Miletich, Engineering Services Manager with the Transportation Division, explained that the county is currently looking at changing speed limits on the bridges and taking a comprehensive look at this issue. The goal will be to set a speed of 30mph.

Andrew Holtz suggested that we find out if this is the case and that committee members begin collecting a list of county road locations where they suggest the speed be changed to submit to ODOT in an appeal. Members should forward those suggestions to MaryJo.

Andrew also reported that Metro recently communicated via an email that they will be filling a gap in the Cazadero Trail in east county with some land they recently purchased.

County Project Updates Summer 2020 Cornelius Pass, Mike Pullen, Multnomah County Morrison Bridge painting, Steve Litchfield, Jacobs Consulting

Mike Pullen and Emily Miletich provided the group with a presentation on Cornelius Pass and the work this year between Highway 30 and Skyline Boulevard, and the issues for bicyclists and pedestrians and then took questions and comments.

There was a short discussion about the viability of adding rumble strips to a portion of the road. The rumble strips could be placed across the road at trail crossing locations where there is bike-ped cross traffic. There was also a suggestion for adding signage or other temporary road treatment to make drivers aware that there might be areas where people cross the road.

There was an additional suggestion for signage near Rocky Point Road, near the off road bike area. Mike will look into that.

Steve Litchfield then joined Mike Pullen in giving a presentation following an introduction by Mike Pullen. Mike started by communicating that the Morrison Bridge is 62 years old and has never been repainted. In addition, he explained, the portions that will need repainting are underneath the bridge except for the railings and a few other locations and will impact users less than past bridge maintenance projects on other bridges.

Mike went on to explain that it is the goal for the county is to complete projects that would affect traffic flow before the start of the Burnside Bridge Earthquake Ready project, which will begin in about 4 years.

There were questions about the color that the bridge will be painted and if the installation of the light sockets to paint the bridge with light on holidays will remain in place.

Mike explained that there is not enough money to paint the approaches to the bridge and to avoid a two-tone look, the decision was made to go with a silver that has a little more sparkle. He went on to explain that the non-profit group, The Light Brigade, will be replacing the old fixtures which are no longer working due to wear and tear. The new lights will be more powerful and should be in working order in few months.

MaryJo asked Mike to explain to the group how Covid 19 incident may possibly alter funding for transportation projects moving forward. Mike explained that several construction projects may be delayed because a majority of the transportation department's funding comes from a gas tax and that is used to match funding for some of these projects. He cited the Stark Street Project as an example of a project that might be delayed due to the pandemic and shared that the Morrison Bridge and Cornelius Pass projects are likely to not be affected.

East County ADA Program Updates – Kelsey Copley, Multnomah County Engineer

Kelsey Copley introduced herself and shared a presentation with the committee members on the impending program upgrades.

There was a question from Tim Roth asking if the designs are related to or concerned with traffic calming. Kelsey explained that there are a few areas along Buxton with a steep incline and the curb extensions stick out into the road more and thus have a traffic calming effect as well as allowing pedestrians to see more clearly.

Kelsey also explained that the more of the ADA ramps that are reconstructed, the less wheelchair use there will be in the bike lanes.

Staff Report – MaryJo Andersen, Multnomah County Policy and Procedures Update for Attendance Policies

MaryJo communicated with members that she has been working on the committee's modernization plan beginning with having policies and procedures, which she said will then roll into being updated bylaws. She has been working through the various sections of this.

She then went on to the topic of membership attendance expectations. She communicated that it needs to be clear to committee members that there are some basic expectations including attendance at meetings on a monthly basis, and reviewing minutes and agendas before each meeting.

MaryJo reminded everyone that the review of the committee policies is also coming around again as it is a yearly action item.

MaryJo also reminded committee members that they should let her know by email, before each meeting, whether they will be able to attend or not. A notification from a member that cannot attend equals an excused absence.

She then asked for feedback regarding what members feel is a reasonable number of absences, unexcused absences, or leave of absence. MaryJo asked AJ to share his thoughts on the matter.

AJ shared that his thinking is that 3 absences in a row without notification to the committee should be the bar the committee sets. He went on to communicate that allowances should be considered for people who get transferred or are ill. His suggestion is that after 3 absences or 6 during a year the would trigger the question on whether a member is able to commit the necessary time to fully participate in the committee.

In addition, member feedback suggested using a more regulatory language rather than a presumed status taking effect (ie "if this occurs, then that ends your participation on the committee", or "membership is revoked after 3 consecutive absences").

Also shared was that if the committee continues to make virtual attendance an option, there is less of a chance of not being able to participate in meetings.

MaryJo responded that her concern is mostly with people who do not communicate an inability to attend and then continue to not communicate or respond to emails or requests for information on their inability to continue to participate in the committee.

It was agreed that MaryJo will take submissions and suggestions on the policy, and then type up a draft attendance policy to vote on for the next meeting. If there is more than one popular suggestion the committee can vote on the most popular submissions or suggestions.

Also discussed was who has the authority to discuss or decide upon a resignation or to revoke appointment. MaryJo explained that this would be a staff decision.

Open Share / Project Updates / Other Business (All)

There was a short discussion about Garmin Varia Ride with GPS application now available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

The next BPCAC meeting is Wednesday, June 10, 2020 and will be a remote/webinar meeting.

Meeting agendas and minutes are available at:

https://multco.us/transportation-planning/bpcac-meeting-agendas-and-minutes

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