

**City of Gresham, OR – Transportation Subcommittee**

**Zoom**

**February 3, 2022; 6:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Greg Olson, Chair  
Stephanie Summers  
Tracy Slack  
Ed Stahlman  
Kristie Bernabo  
John Andersen  
Jennea Jones

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kem Marks  
Germaine Flentroy

**STAFF:**

Jay Higgins, Transportation Planner  
Carly Rice, Transportation Planner  
Chris Strong, Transportation Division Manager

**PLANNING COMMISSION LIAISON:**

Richard Anderson

**CITY COUNCIL LIAISONS PRESENT:**

Councilor Jones-Dixon

**GUEST ATTENDEES:**

Carol Rulla, NA Coalition President

**1. Call to Order – 6:00 PM**

A regular session of the Gresham Transportation Subcommittee was called to order by Chair Greg Olson on Thursday, February 2, 6:00 PM via Zoom.

**2. Introductions**

Chair Olson had the subcommittee members, staff, planning commission liaison, and city council liaison briefly introduce themselves. A quorum was present.

**3. Minutes Adoption**

Draft minutes from the 6/24/2021 meeting and the 9/16/2021 meeting were proposed for discussion, but no changes were proposed. Minutes for 6/24/2021 were recommended for adoption by John Anderson, seconded by Stephanie Summers and were adopted. Minutes for 9/16/2021 were recommended for adoption by Tracy Slack and seconded by John Anderson and were adopted.

**4. Public Comment**

There were no public comments received in advance of the meeting, and no comments from the guest attendee at the time of public comment.

## **5. Vice Chair Elections**

Tracy Slack noted that he was at term limits for Vice Chair. Stephanie Summers volunteered to be Vice Chair. Stephanie was elected chair. Greg, Tracy, Kristie, John, Stephanie voted aye. Jennea abstained due to technical problems. Ed was not in attendance at the time.

## **6. Chair Update Items**

Chair Olson reviewed his impressions of the snow storm response. He shared that lots of plows worked in neighborhoods and got roads cleared quickly. He hoped the City noticed that on Division and Powell the bike lanes were full of plowed snow and that blocked the lanes for several days.

Chair Olson announced that the City was working on a Coordinating Committee that is part of City by-laws. This committee is the Chairs of the Subcommittees and Planning Commission Chair. The intent is to have more coordination between the Subcommittee work and Council, with coordination through the Planning Commission.

## **7. Staff Updates**

Imagine Gresham, the City's strategic plan, has begun collecting resident input. Staff forwarded an email with information. The Subcommittee will discuss at our April 7, 2022 meeting.

Transportation System Plan Phase 1 Updates has passed Council and will be enacted in March. Thank you to the Subcommittee for all the help getting the important pedestrian and bicycle updates into our TSP.

Staff are working on two grants for regional funds: A complete street on 162nd Avenue from Glisan Street to Halsey Street, will construct a 3-lane cross-section with sidewalks and buffered bike lanes. The Gresham Fairview Trail gap from Halsey Street to Sandy Blvd connecting to the new section completed on Sandy Blvd.

Staff will be using extra grant funds from the past summer's Gresham Greenway project on 188<sup>th</sup>/187<sup>th</sup> to expand the Greenway in north Gresham between 172nd & Kirk Park. This matches well with a planned crossing of 181st Avenue at Pacific Street. The crossing will be a Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon.

## **8. Back to School traffic**

Chair Olson raised the issue of vehicle congestion at schools during pick-up times. He noted traffic for Butler Creek Elementary was causing back-ups at the intersection. From his observation parents are arriving 20 mins early which causes traffic to stack up at the intersection of Butler Road and Binford Way. Councilor Jones-Dixon mentioned community meetings in this neighborhood that regularly take place and will provide staff with contact information.

This also happens at Kelly Creek Elementary on Chase Road. Staff will check in with Principals and offer Safe Routes to School support, including circulation evaluation.

#### **9. Safe Routes to School Grant Opportunities**

Staff are looking to submit grant applications for funding from ODOT's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Construction grant. Staff is reaching out to the School Districts and working on a prioritization analysis to evaluate which projects would do the most good. Staff has looked at sidewalk evaluation from the Active Transportation Plan and Metro SRTS analysis for which streets or schools might rise to the top. Safety, equity and comfort were the most relevant criteria from those evaluations that match the grant criteria.

Staff asked committee members which additional factors or situations should be considered. Committee members mentioned:

- Sidewalk gaps near schools, such as 169<sup>th</sup> and Halsey near Wilkes Elementary
- Opportunities for missing sidewalks in neighborhoods near schools
- Locations with high numbers of walkers already should be considered. Committee members asked if getting detailed counts for locations would be helpful for the grant. Staff did not feel it was necessary for this grant application but could look at pedestrian counts in the future.

Staff will work on this further with input from schools on their areas of concern.

#### **10. Transportation System Plan 2045 – scoping**

Staff is scoping out the work to be done on the next TSP update where we have a grant. The grant will cover policy work on equity, safety, climate and emerging technology. This major update will also cover details such as buffered bike lanes, define crossing projects that were not detailed enough from the ATP and compare the project list for all modes to the expected funding. Staff asked the Subcommittee what other concerns they know of and what else staff should consider for the update.

The committee members mentioned the following ideas:

- Congestion and parking issues in downtown Rockwood
- How transportation systems influence software and preparation for autonomous vehicles
- Electric Vehicle charging and what the city can do to support charging stations – such as state charging station credits
- Electric bicycles and safety on multi-use paths due to the difference in speed from other users
- Personal safety on transit and how that ties to people's choice to use transit
- Jitneys/transit are tied into technology and can serve people differently than fixed route transit
- Whether the Springwater Plan Area would work for high tech industrial, since it has some industrial zoning and how that could help Gresham develop that work sector
- Where growth projections are expected across the region and how much Gresham will grow in the 20 year plan horizon
- More updated data, more staff to deal with the data so the City can make good decisions

Staff also discussed meetings for 2022. The next Subcommittee meeting is April 7, 2022. The meeting schedule will be dependent on when a consultant for the TSP is on-board. That will allow a finalized engagement plan and Subcommittee meetings to be set based on the topics of the TSP. The hoped for work flow is new policies and ideas come to the Transportation Subcommittee, then are discussed with the community and circle back to finalize draft proposals at the subcommittee. Updates to Planning Commission and City Council happened about half-way through the project.

## 11. Multi-Use Paths

Staff described the current standards for multi-use paths and the map of multi-use paths across the City, both existing and planned. Highlights of work completed include:

- Gresham-Fairview Trail along Sandy Blvd – from 181st Avenue to 201st Avenue is complete. This is part of the gap that gets Gresham-Fairview Trail to the Marine Drive Trail.
- Hogan Rd between the PGE substation and Powell Blvd will have a new section of multi-use path combined with the sidewalk.
- The small gap at Ruby Junction across the PGE lot that connects the Gresham-Fairview Trail to the Wy'East Way will get paved this year. Finally removing the need to use sidewalk to transfer between the two paths.

Staff asked committee members what the City should consider for future multi-use path priorities. Priorities mentioned were:

- Path locations near schools
- Evaluating whether users of a new path are more likely to be commuters or recreational users.
- Neighbors love using the paths and find them an amenity.
- Don't let standards keep a path from advancing, as California has found ways to make even narrow sections of 8-foot work. Users adjust speed and courtesy to stay safe in tight areas.
- Gresham-Fairview Trail completing the route to Marine Drive
- Hogan south of Powell, as this has been talked about as a need for years

Committee members mentioned the good work the City has done addressing the houselessness issues along the multi-use paths and that it feels safer with the reduced amount of camping. Some committee members expressed interest in the City's approach. Councilor Jones-Dixon added that an update was given at the February 1, 2022 Council Business Meeting about the progress and approach if committee members were interested.

## 12. Adjournment

Chair ended the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Stephanie Summers

Chair

11/23/2022

Date

Jay Higgins, Transportation Planner

Recorder

11/28/2022

Date