

To: Chair Butler and Planning Commissioners
From: Brian Martin, Senior Comprehensive Planner, 503-618-2266
Memo Date: Sept. 15, 2016
Meeting Date: Sept. 26, 2016
Subject: Active Transportation Plan

This work session's purpose is to:

- Provide an update regarding [Active Transportation Plan](#) public engagement results.
- Allow community liaisons hired by the City's consultant to present their engagement results.
- Describe next steps and where the project is headed, including an invitation to the Oct. 15 Walk, Talk and Eat community engagement walk and food event.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Active transportation is any human-powered way to move through the city, such as walking or bicycling. (Active transportation supports transit.)

This citywide project will provide a detailed plan for active transportation to guide future improvements, such as adding sidewalks, more safe crosswalks, bike lanes, trails and paths. These improvement can make safer, more comfortable places to ride a bicycle and walk.

This project will:

- Inventory the City's active transportation network, including bike lanes, shared streets, trails, paths and amenities such as wayfinding and safety signs.
- Update the existing bike network (from the Transportation System Plan) and create a draft pedestrian network that are comfortable and encourage people to choose active transportation to get to important destinations, including healthful food options, recreational opportunities, jobs and schools.
- Identify gaps in those networks and a list of projects to address those gaps and complete the active transportation network.
- Establish criteria for how the City prioritizes bicycle and pedestrian projects to improve active transportation networks.
- Update the vision and goals for City programs related to Active Transportation, such as Safe Routes to School and bike safety programs.
- Create a toolbox of feasible design options, including new design and engineering ideas.
- Feature inclusive public engagement to ensure a wide variety of people are involved in its creation, including people of color, people with low incomes and people of different ages and abilities.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The City and its consultant, Alta Planning & Design, completed an initial inventory and condition of walking and bicycling routes in Gresham. Then we asked the community stakeholders the following questions:

- What are important places you need to go (jobs, stores, places of worship, locations where fresh, healthful food is available)?
- What makes it hard to get there on foot or on a bicycle (wide streets with fast traffic; lack of sidewalks, other reasons)?
- How should we choose the most important projects to improve walking and bicycling?

This project is partially funded by a Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant, which was awarded to Multnomah County by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The REACH grant will support integration of health and equity into the plan as well as culturally relevant community engagement and development of culturally specific maps and educational materials.

The REACH funding was used to hire Design + Culture Lab, a Portland-based firm that is helping the City connect with underrepresented community members. The firm has hired community liaisons to conduct engagement with the African American/Black community; other communities of color; people with limited English proficiency; low-income communities; renters and others.

Design + Culture Lab has trained the community liaisons about city government, outreach methods, transportation planning and how to report engagement findings. The community liaison efforts are being conducted in conjunction with the Rockwood Rising project to develop the catalyst site.

For the Active Transportation Plan, the initial engagement focus is understanding what destinations are important to people and what obstacles they experience when they walk and bike in Gresham. That will inform work on the draft networks and initial lists of improvement projects. Next, engagement will focus on walking and bicycling networks and projects.

The Sept. 26 meeting will include a summary of the public engagement results to date.

City staff members have received 48 comments about destinations that are important to people who travel in Gresham, including schools, grocery stores, places of work, places of worship, parks and libraries.

In addition, engagement participants provided 186 concerns that had a specific geographic location associated with them.

Table 1: Number of walking and biking concerns by type

Concern	Number
Missing or inadequate sidewalk	46
Lack of safe pedestrian crossing	44
Lack of safe bike infrastructure	38
Personal safety	25
Quantity/speed of auto traffic	20
Other	13
Total	186

Engagement events included:

- Gresham Arts Festival
- National Night Out
- Online survey
- Planning Commission
- Nadaka Community Festival

Additional results of the engagement will be provided during the Planning Commission meeting.

NEXT STEPS

The next phase of the project will involve development of draft walking and biking networks. Through additional public engagement, we will be asking people if those networks help them get to important destinations and where walking and biking infrastructure might be needed to make those networks usable and safe.

A community "Walk, Talk and Eat" event will occur on Oct. 15 to solicit input on the Active Transportation Plan draft networks and the Rockwood Rising project.