

**Planning Commission Meeting
Springwater Trail Conference Room
Gresham City Hall
January 23, 2017 - 6:30 p.m.**

I. Opening/Citizen Comments

A regular session of the Gresham Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Stephen Butler on the 23rd of January 2017, at 6:30 PM in the Springwater Trail Conference Room at Gresham City Hall located at 1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham Oregon. Minutes were prepared by Tammy Richardson.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Richard Anderson
Stephen Butler, Chair
Hermann Colas, Jr.
Paul Drechsler
Jef Kaiser, Vice-Chair
Laura Pramuk
Sue Ruonala
Phil Wich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Jay Higgins, Urban Design & Planning
Katherine Kelly, Urban Design & Planning
Ann Pytynia, Urban Design & Planning

COUNCIL LIAISONS PRESENT: Councilor French

II. Open Meeting / General Comment Period

Commissioner Butler informed the Commission that there is a new appointment to the Planning Commission. Alison Wood will be joining the Commission at the next meeting.

No one wished to speak during the general comment period.

Ann Pytynia introduced Jay Higgins who recently joined the City as a Transportation Planner. She reminded the Commission of the training session that is scheduled for February 13 at 6:30 and provided a brief description of the training.

III. Work Sessions

Active Transportation Plan

Jay Higgins provided an update on the Active Transportation Plan. He said Gresham was awarded funding to help develop the plan. He summarized activity and progress on the project since the Commission's last discussion back in September. Mr. Higgins shared draft maps of areas needing pedestrian and bicycle improvements, described criteria used to prioritize the identified pedestrian and bike improvements, and summarized the draft prioritized projects list.

Jay showed the Commission the projects staff has been starting to outline in the plan. Funding has not been obtained for them yet, but the goal is to seek grants and other funding opportunities at a later date. He reviewed the policies and spoke briefly about the public engagement results to date. The Active Transportation Plan will ultimately be an appendix to the Transportation System Plan.

Commissioner Butler asked if staff is coordinating with the Civic Neighborhood development since there seems to be common goals between the two projects.

Mr. Higgins said the staff is working very closely together on the two projects. He talked about the Pedestrian Networks map.

Commissioner Butler asked if staff is looking at the overall year around circumstances when evaluating the pedestrian crossings. He said seasonally some crossings are more dangerous during winter weather.

Jay Higgins noted that it is mostly from the community outreach; places that people have identified as difficult for them as individuals.

It was suggested that 1st Street between 257th & Burnside should be listed on the sidewalk map. The pedestrian and bicycle traffic on 1st Street is currently considerable, with major destinations close by (Oregon Trail Shopping Center, Fred Meyer, Winco). A full street improvement with bike lanes, sidewalks, etc. is recommended.

Jay indicated that the Commission would come back to that map later. He then went over the Bike Projects map, which identifies difficult crossings for bicycles as well as places where better low-stress options can be provided.

Mr. Higgins said staff created criteria that would help prioritize the projects and help understand which projects to pursue first for both Pedestrian and Bike projects. He went over those with the Commission. The top five priority projects were noted for the pedestrian and bicycle projects.

Other comments and discussion included:

- 1st and Burnside – currently there are no defined shoulders and narrow lanes, with a fair amount of traffic. Very hostile environment. 1st Street is listed as a Capital Improvement project every year but never makes priority.
- If a project is in the five-year CIP, can it be a higher priority?
- Kane Road needs additional improvements – decent right-of-way on the north side but the south side is more constrained; slope issue on south side. One solution could be curbed sidewalks and support for drainage.
- List projects that will be in conjunction with other Transportation projects.
- Other improvements might include planting of greenery/planting strips.

Mr. Higgins informed the Commission of the next steps and action items, including seeking more funding options. Final adoption is anticipated for the end of 2017.

Katherine Kelly said the lists are the result of much outreach and what was heard from the public, but there are additional projects listed in the Transportation System Plan overall that are part of when a road is built out to full build-out would include sidewalks and bike paths. Those projects are not explicitly shown on the project lists.

The Commission thanked staff for the presentation and all believe this project is very important and look forward to seeing the improvements that have been needed for many years.

IV. Other Business/Adjournment

October 24, 2016 Planning Commission Minutes

Commissioner Ruonala pointed out a couple typographical corrections on page 3.

Commissioner Wich moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Ruonala. Motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Pramuk abstaining due to her absence from that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Chairperson

Recording Assistant

Date

Date