

## Eugene Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee



Public Works  
Engineering

---

City of Eugene  
99 E Broadway Ste 400  
Eugene, Oregon 97401  
(541) 682-5291  
(541) 682-5598 FAX  
[www.eugene-or.gov/bpac](http://www.eugene-or.gov/bpac)

Date: Thursday, September 13, 2012  
Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Sloat Conference Room  
Atrium Building, 99 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave (**Enter from the back alley off 10<sup>th</sup> Ave**)  
Eugene, OR 97401

**BPAC Members Present:** Sasha Luftig, Judi Horstman, Harriet Behm, Edem Gomez, Rex Fox, Rex Redmond, Anya Dowbrowolski, David Gizara, Holly McRae, Jennifer Smith

**BPAC Members Absent:** Shane MacRhodes, Harriett Behm, Fred Tepfer, Jim Patterson

**Staff:** Lee Shoemaker, Tom Larsen

**Members of the Public:** Vicky Mello, Carlos Barrera, Charles Hirsch, Chris Watchie, Susan Stumpf

### Agenda

- **Open Meeting**
- **Public Comment**
  - Carlos Berrera presented ideas for BPAC consideration on bike access for South Willamette. He said there are multiple needs for the design:
    - Fast, fluid design for through bicyclists
    - Access to shopping areas
    - Access to Amazon neighborhood
    - The design should provide a design for bicyclists but not necessarily bike lanes. He said some area neighbors are working to ban bicycles and skateboards on Willamette Street sidewalks.
    - A bike-pedestrian bridge across Amazon Parkway would provide better access for the Amazon neighborhood.
    - Carlos suggested that BPAC form a subcommittee to review these issues and encouraged BPAC to look for other solutions than just bike lanes
  - Lewis Luchs said it is scary to cross Willamette Street at night. He said bike lanes can be installed on Willamette Street now. Auto speeds are too high. Bicyclists ride on sidewalks and it is dangerous. There needs to be good access for bicyclists to get to destinations to the south outside the city limits. A letter from Lewis was submitted to BPAC via e-mail.
  - Vicky Mello said she has encountered several construction sites around town which has impeded walking and biking. Better construction sign placement is needed. Vicky said there the naming ceremony for the

Whilamut Passage Bridge will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. in the Whilamut Natural Area, northwest of the Knickerbocker Bridge in Alton Baker Park. Lee Shoemaker said he would forward the ODOT invitation to BPAC members.

- **Approve August 9 Meeting Summary Notes**

- Meeting notes approved.

- **South Willamette Street Improvement Plan**

- Chris Henry provided an overview of the South Willamette Street study (<http://www.eugene-or.gov/SWillametteStreet>) and the coordination of this project with several other city studies.
  - Central Area Transportation Study (CATS) – Converting Willamette from one-way south to two-way. 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Avenues already converted but not 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Avenues.
  - 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue pavement preservation project. One public meeting already held. We can also consider the section between 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
  - South Willamette Area Concept Plan (land use study), <http://www.eugene-or.gov/SWillamette>. Part of Envision Eugene. Looking at potential housing and business improvements in the area.
- Chris Henry said that the study will look for equitable access for all users of Willamette Street between 24<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenues. The goal is to come up with a design concept. Building the project will require an additional funding source. The design concept may be built in phases, with the first phase potentially just from curb to curb. Chris said that we need the public well-informed about all of the issues with good information so good decisions can be made.
- Chris Watchie, from Cogito, provided an overview of the public involvement process. She distributed a timeline to the members that showed a timeline from summer 2012 to the fall of 2013. Chris said that the public involvement program for the Willamette Street project is designed for broad participation. The first phase has focused on stakeholder interviews. Transit representatives, senior groups, neighborhood groups, bicycle and pedestrian interests, and businesses among others were interviewed. Phase 2 will include focus groups which will look at topics based on outcomes of interviews. Chris Watchie said she will be a regular attendee at BPAC to keep the group informed about the progress of the study. She expects to be back at the January 2013 BPAC meeting.
- There will be a community forum to explore alternatives on November 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm at Roosevelt Middle School. Project website information at: <http://www.eugene-or.gov/SWillametteStreet>.
- Anya Dowbrowolski suggested showing aesthetic improvements with potential road designs with good graphics for public review.

- Rex Redmon suggested cross section graphics and not just plan view displays. Utilities should be underground. Rex said there is a need to look at the entire section of Willamette Street between 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue otherwise it won't work as a system.
  - Sasha Luftig said adding sharrows on Willamette won't be adequate for bicyclists on the roadway due to automobile speed. Chris Henry replied that other treatments would be added with any sharrow design consideration. Sasha said a multi-modal level of service should be part of the planning process.
  - David Gizara said Willamette Street is used as a commuter route for all of south Eugene. This project is not dealing with all the cars that use this street. He said we need to limit the number of cars on Willamette Street to make the system work.
  - Jennifer Smith said that people go through here because it's easy to drive through this area.
  - Holly McRae said the City of Eugene could do a pilot striping project to see if the new design would work.
  - Tom Schneider stated that there are different needs for through cyclists versus bicyclists that are going into the area. We need to consider all points of view as we conduct the public process.
  - In response from a question from Judi Horstmann, Chris Henry said we would look for opportunities to consolidate driveways.
- **2012 Transportation Project Update**
    - Path Connector Project
      - Fir Lane sidewalk, Razor Park path, and Amazon Path connector substantially complete. Merry Lane has not been installed.
    - North Bank Path
      - Under construction. Path closed between DeFazio Bridge and picnic pavilion area. This phase will last three weeks. The portion of the path between the boat ramp and Leisure Lane will be under construction in three weeks. The project will be complete by the end of October. Detour signs and maps in place.
    - West Bank Path
      - Under construction between Stults Avenue and the halfway point to Greenway Bike-Ped Bridge. Should be completed this week. The section between halfway point and Greenway Bridge will start next week and last for three weeks. Detour signs and maps in place.
    - Fern Ridge Path
      - Substantially complete. Safety fencing added. Lighting under roadway and permanent bike counter have not been installed.
- **Information Share**
    - September 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday Streets – BPAC members agreed that it was a great event but offered several suggestions for improvement next year.

- David Gizara said the route was too large. The event except for City of Eugene staff should be managed by volunteers with no paid event staff such as the traffic control people who participated.
  - Anya Dowbrowolski said she liked Marc Schlossberg's idea of a route connecting downtown to campus and held when students are in town. The figure 8 design was confusing to drivers trying to get around the event. More map training for volunteers is needed. Some neighborhoods may be more open to closing streets for events of this type.
  - Judi Horstmann said the intersection heroes needed more information on alternative routes for drivers. Some business owners were confused about where customers could park to access their business.
  - Rex Redman said he liked to length of the route so families can learn to ride in the street.
  - Edem Gomez said volunteers should be trained better. He met a family who bought bikes for their children so they could participant at this event.
  - Susan Stumpf, member of the public, suggested that future Sunday Streets routes not be condensed too much.
  - Accessibility Advisory Group – Holly McRae said that no BPAC member has volunteered to be a liaison to the AAG committee and asked for any interested member to contact her.
  - City Council Vote on West Eugene EmX – Sasha Luftig said the city council most likely will vote on the West Eugene EmX extension on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The last opportunity to provide direct testimony will be at the September 24<sup>th</sup> city council meeting.
  - Capstone Construction – Judi Horstmann said detour signs are needed to guide pedestrians and bicyclists around the construction site. Tom Larsen said his understanding is that detour signs will be installed. Sasha Luftig said that some of the sidewalks that are currently closed should be opened.
  - Anya Dowbrowolski said that the bike loop on south bound Alder Street at 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She added that the bike box at 13<sup>th</sup> and Alder is very dirty and needs to be power washed. Tom Larsen took note to follow-up.
  - Judi Horstmann said she met two bicyclists using the TransAmerica bike route and they felt that they had the right to be on the road in Eugene.
- **Adjourn**