

Eugene Active Transportation Committee

Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020
Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Location: Virtual



City of Eugene
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Attendees: Allen Hancock, Andrea Plesnarski, Bob Blyth, Grace Kaplowitz, Josh Kashinsky, Julie Daniel, Pete Knox, Robert Dow, Steve Abbott, Daniel Wilson, Marina Herrera, Nick Alviani
Absent: None
Staff: Reed Dunbar, Shane Rhodes, Lee Shoemaker
Public: Kevin Campbell, Harry Sanger, Aaron Montoya, Christopher Jones, Mary Christensen, Alpha Wilson, Cynthia Black, Charlie Loeb, Joshua Gordon, Clair Roth, Andrew Martin, Branden Johnson, Tomoko Sekiguchi, Bill Randall, Jeffrey Mack, Thomas Gotschi

Notes

1. Open Meeting - Meeting Coordination

Shane Rhodes, welcome and introductions

2. Public Comment

Sue Wolling submitted an email complaining about the 13th Avenue Bikeway which was read aloud by Bob Blyth. Says she “hasn’t heard of anyone that finds it rideable” and called it a “disaster”. Wants it fixed. Let’s try to do better on High Street. (Shane responded that we have heard about the signals. Traffic operations staff was out there just this week to try to make it better for cycling. Please consider the signals a work in progress. Andrea said she wanted to know about the elevated crosswalk – why isn’t there a signal here? Not sure what problem that would solve. Why ped signals run with cars? Because car signal is long enough, bike signal isn’t. Steve said that advanced warning before Lincoln would be important.)

Alpha Wilson: agrees with Sue’s letter. Was excited to try the bikeway. Like that there isn’t a worry about getting hooked at signals. Wants more warning before Lincoln Street to switch sides.

3. Approve November 12, 2020 Meeting Summary Notes

Action Requested: Approve Meeting Notes

Notes were approved unanimously.

4. Officer Elections

Action Requested: Debrief Opening and Outreach

Presenter: Bob Blyth/Robbie Dow

Officers help to develop the agenda, also facilitates meetings. Josh said that last time he served he was only on the committee for 6 months so feel free to nominate yourself even if you haven't been on the committee long. It's also possible to have a Chair and a Vice-Chair co-facilitate the meetings.

Dan said he would serve but would rather a non-white male volunteered. Robbie said that it's always been a white dude and that should change, if possible.

Grace willing to be chair or vice-chair. Dan willing to co-chair. Motion passes (Grace and Dan abstained).

5. Thanks to Departing Committee Members – Robbie Dow, Bob Blyth, Marina Herrera, and Nick Alviani

Presenter: Bob Blyth/Robbie Dow

Members were given the chance to speak about their time on the committee.

Nick: liked the application process and meeting city staff first. Liked the meeting structure to learn about city process. Learned about individual differences and liked meeting people. Personally, attending the meetings via computer was not the best, but hope to participate in person in the future. Like that there is a common goal to make walking and biking better. Recommends that you attend a community ride (like SRTS) because there is a lot to learn from it. And volunteer for Sunday Streets!

Robbie: would prefer to be meeting in person as well, but still happy with committee progress. But, there are some things that we talked about and we never did. Be more deliberate with committee purpose and tasks. Make sure that new members know what committee has already committed to doing. Likes the idea of an annual ATC report. Happy to be talking to people that care about active transportation. Advise that you may want to choose to ruffle some feathers – let folks know what your opinion is, don't be afraid to provide negative feedback, if necessary. Thanks for letting me be a part of it.

Blyth: enjoyed being on the committee and happy with staff's responsiveness to issues. Have seen things happen on city streets in a relatively quick timeframe, given the usual speed of government. Happy with the effort staff puts into this committee. Bicycled entire life, but happy to hear opinions from people who are not like him, or that need different facilities than he does. Wishes that there was more engagement with City Council. This has been discussed in the past, but it's still important. We still have a lot of needs and Council should hear from us what to prioritize for active transportation to be successful.

Marina: it was a pleasure to serve on this committee. Feels like she was not as productive as would like, lots of competing interests at the moment. It's very important to improve traffic safety. Plan to volunteer for city

events in the future. Thank you everyone, this was a great learning experience.

Reed: want to continue to hear directly from the community so we know we are working on the right projects. Thanks for sharing your time and your thoughts. Please let us know if we need to do something better. Thanks Nick for representing Bethel, thanks to Robbie and Bob for their leadership and for stepping up and co-chairing, and thanks to Marina for all she does in the community around transportation and education.

Shane: it's valuable to hear directly from the committee and thank you for your efforts. We are grateful for your efforts and interest in what we do including what's happening outside of our meeting time. Your time is valuable and we appreciate your commitment.

6. Committee Recruitment Update

Presenter: Lee Shoemaker

We have received 23 applications so far – recruitment ends tomorrow. Our goal is to have a diverse committee with a variety of interests from all neighborhoods in Eugene. Can recruit up to 7 new members that you'll meet at the January meeting.

In the future we hope to make it easier for you to help share the recruitment process. If you have any thoughts on how to make recruitment even more successful, please share your thoughts with us.

We'd love more representation from Harlow, Far West, Bethel, and other neighborhoods but we also want a variety of user types.

What's the selection process?

- Review each application
- Record neighborhoods, interests, gender identity, race, and age
- Discuss strength of each applicant
- Invite a number of recruits to talk to staff during an interview
- Staff selects new members (Reed, Lee, Shane, Cas, Kelsey)
- Members receive a training with staff before the first meeting.

7. Bike Share Request for Proposal

Action Requested: Information Share

Presenter: Shane Rhodes

RFP process for new bike share operators closed this afternoon. Next week, city and partner agencies will meet to discuss the proposals. We are excited to review the proposals.

City of Eugene, University of Oregon, Lane Transit District, and PeaceHealth will review the proposals and recommend a preferred vendor. That recommendation will go to city management for approval.

Goal is to have new operator running the bike share system by March 2021. Plan to update ATC in January.

Parallel to the City of Eugene process, the State of Oregon has acquired some of the BIKETOWN (from Portland) fleet for possible implementation of a statewide system. City of Eugene has not asked for any of those bikes because they are not the same bikes as our current system.

Eugene is applying for grant funding for upgrade of the PeaceHealth rides fleet (new controllers, etc.). PeaceHealth field techs are currently testing new microcontrollers that eliminate the pushbutton keypad which is a big point of failure. Also looking at state funds for equity programs, expanding the bike share fleet and service area, and potentially lowering the minimum age limit (currently 18 years of age).

Comments

- Are you expanding to Springfield? This will be based on the operator that the City of Eugene selects.
- Are the cards for the new controllers compatible with LTD's new TouchPass? We'll find out.
- Will you share more with ATC before the decision is made? Maybe. We don't have a timeline established. But City would like to contract ASAP.
- Thanks for all the hardwork! Happy to see there are operators willing to take this on. There had been conversations about choosing operators that may take on more of a statewide role. Still the case? Also, where to ebikes fit in? Our contractor selection process prioritizes non-profits which reflects the proposal for the statewide system, but there are many factors to consider. Also, ebikes are subject to the business case. They may or may not pencil out for us (maintenance cost is much higher as are user fees).
- Capital and maintenance costs for ebikes do need to be considered, but if it's possible, some ebike testing may make sense given the growing popularity of ebikes.
- Curious if ATC supports a system that can expand into Springfield.
- ATC has already supported the statewide system.
- Our comments here are available for staff consideration.
- In favor of growing the system.
- Something previously discussed was how to support the financial health of bike share. Shouldn't be totally supported by ridership. Bike share provides benefits that need financial support.
- Is there room in the contracting to provide some of these objectives?
- Motion for city to prioritize an operator who focuses on geographic expansion and equity. (Check on language from previous motion.) Second. Discussion: there may be other factors to consider; do we want Springfield mentioned specifically?; there may be value in emphasizing expansion but dollars are limited; would like staff to

make decisions on how best to keep bike share alive in Eugene. Vote 1: 6 Yes, 2 No, Further Discussion 2. Consensus vote requires “No” votes to work for resolution, it’s a “block”. Vote 2: Allen votes for Further Discussion, thinks there are many concerns left to be addressed. Pete chose not to vote. Steve would rather the wording was “give consideration of...” rather than to simply “prioritize”. New Motion, “**give consideration to prioritizing an operator who focuses on geographic expansion and equity**”. Motion passes.

8. MoveEUG Survey

Action Requested: Discussion

Presenter: Shane Rhodes

About 20 people took the survey, it was a long one, thanks for participating if you did! There are currently 63 action items and it’s helpful to get survey responses to help evaluate the importance of each. The MoveEUG report is being evaluated based on the 5 years it’s been in place, and to determine if priorities have changed.

Big conversations are taking place. For instance, is Eugene Sunday Streets moving the needle on mode shift? What programming would accomplish that best? This plan will identify the new strategies.

Comments

- Who has access to this survey? Can community take it? No, it takes about 30 minutes and probably is best taken by folks who implement the plan.
- Staff intends to explain why projects are added or deleted in the new plan.
- Interested in having a longer conversation about what happens in the new plan. Please bring this back after you’ve crunched the numbers.
- Took the survey and there are so many projects. There are a lot of things to do, so it seems like procuring more community partners should be primary for implementation.

9. Subcommittee Reports

Action Requested: Information Share

Presenter: Subcommittee

Programs – had a meeting about what programming is not happening now. It seems philosophical, in a way. Talked about communications and outreach. Daniel developed a GoogleDrive where folks can store their thoughts. Also, talked about MoveEUG update and just how many activities it contains. Might need to think about projects with end dates versus ongoing programs to make it more palatable. Focus on Open Streets programs and Streateries during COVID.

Infrastructure – did not meet. Allen talked about participating in a shared use path lighting evaluation ride – he’ll send a followup email.

10. Project Updates/Information Share

Action Requested: Information Share

Presenter: All

West Bank Path: Bob shared his experience. The path is supposed to be open and the trucks out of the way. He said it's up to the path users to figure out how to go around the workzones. (City said there should be signs and a 4' accessway.) Please take photos if you encounter the trucks. The pavement patches (and trenches) are well marked for visibility at night; concerned about how it will hold up this winter.

Central Eugene in Motion: it has been decided that the High Street 2-Way Protected Bikeway will be moving forward. Design in 2021, build in 2022.

Josh: wants to thank committee members – thanks for sticking with it through 2020! Thanks staff too, likes that we have more than 1 staff member. Also, Josh is on the STIF Advisory Committee, it's important to pay attention to the work of this committee because a lot of cool projects get funded with this money.

Reed: said 8th Avenue protected bike lanes are on schedule for 2021, hopefully. And High Street in 2022.

Marina: is there any way that the City reminds people about biking safety during rains? (Yes.) Saw 2 people on River Road riding erratically and one fell down. Worried about dangerous habits. Use lights, extra time to stop, etc.

11. Adjourn 7:30

Future Agenda Topics

- ATC 2020 EUG Strategic Plan Work Items
- 2045 Regional Transportation Plan
- Transit Tomorrow
- Transportation Options 2021 Events
- Bicycle Parking Code Adoption
- Difficult Intersections
- Biking-Walking System Gaps
- Scooters/Micromobility
- EUG 2021 and Active Transportation Coordination
- Shared Use Path Safety
- Tactical Urbanization
- Driver Education; Oregon Friendly Drivers; Safe Lane Coalition
- Temporary Pedestrian Access Routes
- Roundabout Strategy
- Transportation Demand Management Requirements
- Periodic Updates – Vision Zero; Moving Ahead; Bond Measure Projects;

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[Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 1.4 (Revised 05/14/04)]