

Eugene Active Transportation Committee



City of Eugene
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Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021
Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Location: Virtual

Attendees: Allen Hancock, Andrea Plesnarski, Grace Kaplowitz, Josh Kashinsky, Julie Daniel, Pete Knox, Steve Abbott, Daniel Wilson, Andrew Martin, Anne Brown, Josh Mendez, Papa Awori, Hilary Mankofsky, Mary Christensen, Sue Wolling
Absent: None
Staff: Reed Dunbar, Shane Rhodes, Lee Shoemaker, Ellen Currier, Syd Shoaf
Public: Vicky Mello, Duncan Rhodes, Sophie McGinley, Christopher Jones, Peter Boland, Alpha Wilson, Robbie Dow, Cynthia Black, Claire Roth

Notes

1. Open Meeting - Meeting Coordination

Shane Rhodes

Shane opened the meeting with rules of order and logistics for electronic communications.

2. Public Comment

Duncan Rhodes: there's been a lot of emails today about people zooming around on the bike path. Would the city consider establishing a speed limit on the shared use path? (COE reply: the issue is enforcement of speed limits especially since not everyone has a speedometer on their bicycle. COE prefers to lead with encouraging proper shared use path etiquette. We're working on a sign campaign).

3. Approve December 10, 2020 Meeting Summary Notes

Action Requested: Approve Meeting Notes

Approved.

4. Committee Member Introductions

Action Requested: Information Share

Presenter: Committee Chair

Dan: Co-Chair. 2nd year on committee. Mostly here because has young children and safe transportation is becoming very relevant. Want kids to be able to get to the park across the street safely.

Grace: Co-Chair. Here to see how government works. Just graduated from UO this spring. Working with City of Oak Ridge on an Americorps assignment.

Josh K: have been attending for 7 years or so, but on committee for 2 years. Active transportation coordinator at UO, but love to be here and happy to see new faces.

Pete: lives downtown, not a bicyclist. Interested in making life better for people who don't use cars.

Steve A: 2nd year on committee. Still getting used to virtual communication. Avid biker, walker, and transportation advocate.

Andrea: moved here a few years ago from large city. Wanted to live somewhere where biking and walking to shopping would be possible. Very interested in making things better. Welcome!

Julie D: 2nd year on committee. Grew up in Europe where walking, biking, and busing were a way of life. Background in nonprofit management, long-time cyclist. Concerned that few of her peers are willing to ride bikes because they feel unsafe. Here to learn how to increase bike riding for all ages and abilities. Happy to see new faces!

Allen H: been on ATC a few times over the years. Involved in bicycle advocacy for many years. Sees many benefits to walking and bicycling. Interested in connectivity and community issues (like good urban design).

Hilary M: Safe Routes to School Coordinator for Bethel SD. Represents Bethel and west Eugene. Love bikes, have a cargo bike. Would love Eugene to be a city where it's easier to use active transportation than driving for all trips.

Sue W: about to retire as an RN. Active transportation is a big chunk of the answer to myriad issues facing civilization. Bikes are often the answer. Been doing this for 35 years, sad to see bicycle mode share going down. Let's do better.

Anne B: faculty at UO. Familiar with members of the community from work in shared mobility and travel. Happy to be affecting change locally. Now makes sense because have a young child that will need effective transportation options in the near term.

Josh M: faculty/researcher at UO. From Atlanta. Felt like advocates were on one side and staff on the other in GA. Happy to see if we can come together in Eugene. Likes working on bikes. Happy to be here!

Papa A: Originally from Kenya, here for 22 years. Like walking and biking for recreation and transportation. Wants safety to improve. About 2 years ago on shared use path (Polk St) and witnessed vehicles not stopping for families trying to cross the street. Doesn't want that to happen. Wants to contribute to committee and make the system better.

Andrew M: planner at Lane Transit District (LTD). Got into active transportation because found it is a positive way of life. Active in bicycle coalitions in other cities. Like professional work but happy to do personal advocacy too. Ready to get started.

Mary C: Been in Eugene for 30 years – right after Ruth Bascom. Thought that Eugene was a progressive bike town when moving here, but it has gotten stagnant. Active transportation is a healthy lifestyle. Proud social equity advocate and environmentalist. Interested in seeing what else we can do to grow active transportation.

Lee, City of Eugene Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. Here for 16 years. Your main liaison to city staff. Puts together the agendas and happy to hear your ideas.

Reed, City of Eugene Transportation Planner. Thanks for volunteering on this committee! We love to test ideas here and want to hear from you how your experiences shape your transportation choices.

Shane, City of Eugene Transportation Options Coordinator. Delivers programs like Sunday Streets, SmartTrips, etc. Been with city for a few years and was a the SRTS Coordinator for 4j SD before that. Happy to have so many family bikers on the committee. Passionate about programs and infrastructure to make active transportation a more common choice for all folks, regardless of age or ability. Let's find ways to get more people interested in using the new infrastructure we're creating.

Conversation about how ATC Operates:

- Noticed new bike signals on High Street at 13th. Why don't I move at the same time as cars? Reed, you have a separate signal phase to prevent conflicts in the intersection. Please stop for red bicycle signal. It's a work in progress and we're trying to ensure that bike signals are more responsive.
- Procedural Comment – how does staff respond to community comments? Lee, staff takes notes and assembles responses. Those go into the meeting notes. Lee keeps a file of a list of responses. We can also address it during the meeting as time permits.

5. 2020-2045 Regional Transportation System Plan Update

Action Requested: Presentation and Discussion

Presenter: Ellen Currier, Syd Shoaf (LCOG/CLMPO)

<https://thempo.org/564/Regional-Transportation-Planning>

The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (CLMPO) updates a regional transportation plan every 4 years. MPOs are policy and planning entities comprised of staff from local and state offices. They operate in the US anywhere the population is greater than 50,000 people. Regional plans make sense for transportation because roads don't know that they are leaving Eugene and entering Springfield, for example – so the road

should be planned regionally to ensure it operates effectively regardless of jurisdiction. Also, the federal government distributes a lot of transportation funding through MPOs (65% to infrastructure; 35% to planning and programming).

thempo.org is the url for the MPO data portal. It includes bicycle counts, crash data, demographic data, etc.

Online Open House for the Regional Transportation Plan is now open (<https://thempo.org/>) Help us learn about how you envision growth in the community over the next 20 years. For example, if more people live here, and we have more constraints for building roads, where should we focus our transportation resources? Open House is open through the end of February 2021.

Comments

- Seems like a dry plan at first, but it helps to coordinate the transportation system between different jurisdictions, which makes it cool. Also, local discretionary funding amounts are informed by the projects identified in this plan.
- What is LaneACT? Heard of it but don't know it. And, how current is your data? LaneACT is a committee of ODOT and it's countywide, CLMPO is a member. LaneACT advises more on statewide issues. As for data, it depends on the data type. Unfortunately, safety/crash data is about 2 years behind.
- Think that TransPlan is a treasure trove of information! One thing that jumped out is that the plan sought to decrease automobile trips by 8%, for example. How are you tracking that? Interesting question, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is one metric that we are struggling with because there might be other metrics that better answer questions. Currently working on a strategic planning model that helps us to predict what the result of certain policies may have on mode share, VMT, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, etc.
- Question about GHG, do you account for this when planning? We are going to track it more closely in the future. No clear methodology has been identified. Because we work with federal agencies, things changed between the Obama and Trump administrations, so we are waiting for new rules.
- Is Vision Zero used for prioritizing projects? Yes. There is a regional safety plan and Eugene has their own. There is a strong safety culture at the MPO. (Eugene uses their Vision Zero plan to evaluate city projects.)
- It would be helpful to see how priorities are resolved where they conflict. For example, adding density on high-speed roads is contrary to safe walking. Local agencies decide which projects to apply for, so interpretation occurs at the local level often, but at the regional level, there is debate about projects before they receive funding so alignment of goals is often discussed.

- Thinks that the MPO helps to collaborate and lessens competition. Seems like a great asset.

6. Active Transportation Committee 2021

Action Requested: Presentation and Discussion

Presenter: Staff

Lee, every January we discuss topics that the committee will want to work on. We might do a portion of this in February and select committees then.

Three things tend to occur at ATC Meetings:

1. City/local efforts
2. Regional Agency efforts
3. Committee-driven projects

What would ATC like to work on this year?

- Communications Subcommittee.
 - Previous ATC wanted to talk more with other committees, agencies, and Council.
 - Helps get feedback.
 - Helps to advocate positions.
 - This was talked about in committee a few months ago. If folks still have information can you resend it? It would be good to look it over again. (Daniel will send.)
- Pavement Bond Measure projects.
- Programs Subcommittee. 2020 was hard for events.
 - Like the idea of the changing nature of active transportation in Eugene. 40 years ago it was creating the Riverbank Path network. Now, it's more about safety.
 - There are lots of new transportation modes emerging, how do we want to engage with this?
 - Seems like a lot of work isn't being expressed in metrics. Let's think about how we measure success.
- Last year, there was a process where we self-sorted in to 2 subcommittees. Yes, let's get further on the work plan before deciding on membership of committees.
- ATC is advisory to staff, but, we want you to be engaged in work you want to do.
- MoveEUG is the active transportation strategic plan that will be updated this year. Might want a subcommittee to focus on this.
 - There were 63 action items.
 - Behavior change is vital. Where can we get long-lasting change?
 - Let's take better advantage of creating partners and allies.
 - When are we working on this? Pretty quick. You'll hear about it over the next few months.
 - Let's give people a post-COVID habit to work on – Active Transportation.
- Quite frankly, not really helpful to advise on infrastructure, you seem to be doing that already. Can we concentrate on things that

the city can't do? Seems like the Communications Subcommittee is way to tell stories that staff can't do.

- COVID has many downsides, but it was good for the bicycle industry. How can we leverage that better?
- Let's build more collaboration. Like idea of working with other groups to achieve better outcomes. Let's write a plan.
- There's a lot less traffic right now – downtown is very quiet. What's the new normal going to be? Do people revert to old habits (like driving) or will they be motivated to try active transportation? Let's form new habits. How do we make it less convenient to drive. Seems a critical point.
- Let's not be afraid to look at new mobility devices like skateboards. It seems important that we incorporate all modes into the "active" landscape.
- Let's really think about pedestrians on this committee. Take care of the most vulnerable transportation user first – walkers.
- It would be helpful to have a repository for best practices or demonstrated ideas. Notice that the electric vehicle (EV) group has a FaceBook page where studies and research can be parked for review. Like idea of book study.
- Let's identify a bunch of community leaders (peers) to model good transportation behaviors, like riding bikes or taking the bus.
- Let's engage college students. Lots of research on travel behaviors in life cycles. Catch people when they are susceptible to change.
- Help ATC to identify best ways to reach potential active transportation users.
- Can we have a chat board?
- Let's do more Open Streets!
- Can ATC establish "safe routes to work" and work with employers to ride with interested employees?
- Need some thought about how kids return to school – if parents don't let them on buses, let's not force them into a car – let's promote walking school buses and partnerships to help lead active options.
- Let's map the route for each City Councilor to bike (or walk or bus) to Council meetings! Let them experience the network.

7. Project Updates/Information Share

Action Requested: Information Share

Presenter: All

Reed: please take a picture of poor road patches if you experience them. Send pics to Lee along with the location.

Shane: working to get a new bike share operator right now. Hopefully, have this done in April or March.

Steve A: kudos to Reed and staff for moving forward with lighting on West Bank Path.

Andrew: LTD is increasing service at the end of the month. The customer services center is open again downtown. Will start collecting fares again. February will be free for TouchPass users.

Allen: on the Street Repair Review Panel (SRRP) to review the pavement bond progress. Meets 3x per year. If you have any questions about pavement projects let Allen know. Allen curious if we can reallocate funding.

Sue: also on the Street Repair Review Panel. Can ask Sue questions too because she might know.

Daniel: disappointed in the media release about a recent pedestrian fatality that seemed to victim blame.

8. Chat Notes

Shane Rhodes: I noticed a few people came on as attendees later so wanted to make sure you had a chance to make a public comment if you wanted to. we can try to get those in at the end. Otherwise you are welcome to use the chat for some discussion as well.

Shane Rhodes: There are some great FAQs on the 13th Ave page we have: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4566/Shift-Lanes-13th-Ave>

Shane Rhodes: I'll also note that one of my projects currently is a "Path Etiquette Campaign"...ah Reed just called it out :-)

Andrew Martin: I might be an oddball on the topic, but I appreciate that staff took the safest approach on 13th. I have seen 2-way protected lanes in other communities that allow car and bike movements at the same time. It might be more convenient, but there is greater opportunity for bike/car conflicts. I think infrastructure that feels very safe is necessary for us to move the needle on who and how many are cycling

Syd Shoaf, LCOG: Central Lane MPO Data Portal:
<https://thempo.org/887/Data>

Syd Shoaf, LCOG: 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update Project's online open house

English: <https://openhouse.jla.us.com/lcog-rtp#>
Spanish: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V3HHM7V>

Daniel Wilson: @Andrew I agree! I'm glad we started from a safer place and then can have a conversation about making it more usable from there.

Sue Wolling: Do the chat comments get saved, or do I need to write down information that I see in the chat?

Daniel Wilson: @Sue I'm pretty sure you'll need to write it down. I've lost interesting comments before...

Shane Rhodes: The Chat will be saved

Sue Wolling: (with a nod to President Biden) Build Back Better by Bike!

Syd Shoaf, LCOG: This is a great read-
<https://www.amazon.com/Walkable-City-Downtown-Save-America/dp/0865477728>

Andrew Martin: A number of researchers at UO are looking at COVID related travel patterns... Anne are you involved in that or do you know where they are at with their work?

Daniel Wilson: @Syd all I want is a useful walk

Daniel Wilson: I'll throw in this one: <https://thehappy.city.com/the-book/>

Claire Roth: How about videos of cyclists trying to ride over the sloppy fills?

Daniel Wilson: @Duncan that's a great idea, especially given how subsidized fares already are

Claire Roth: Whiteaker streets are ripe for the bumpy rides.

Andrew Martin: @Claire: at least on my street it helps slow the cars - I like bigger tires on my bikes anyway. Bad roads are unfortunately one way to make people drive reasonable speeds. Probably not a good policy though

Claire Roth: @Andrew, true!

Claire Roth: Police reports need to stop victim blaming. Irene Ferguson was hit and killed by the driver of a car almost two years ago (1/17/19) and similar language blaming dark clothing, dark conditions, were used.

Sue Wolling: Daniel et al, Sarah Mazze (of SRTS) is very actively pursuing a more effective way of responding to yet another tragic death along River Road. She'd love to talk with you about it.

Shane Rhodes: Thanks everyone. Have a great evening.

Ellen Currier (she/her), LCOG: Thank you!

9. Adjourn 7:30

Future Agenda Topics

- ATC 2021 EUG Strategic Plan Work Items
- 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/Traffic Impact Analysis - February
- Periodic Updates – Vision Zero; Moving Ahead; Bond Measure Projects;

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