

Eugene Active Transportation Committee

Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021
Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Location: Virtual



City of Eugene
99 E Broadway Ste 400
Eugene, Oregon 97401
(541) 682-5291
(541) 682-5032 FAX
www.eugene-or.gov/atc

March 11, 2021 Active Transportation Committee Meeting Notes

Attendees: Allen Hancock, Andrea Plesnarski, Josh Kashinsky, Julie Daniel, Pete Knox, Steve Abbott, Daniel Wilson, Andrew Martin, Anne Brown, Josh Mendez, Papa Awori, Hilary Mankofsky, Mary Christensen, Sue Wolling, Grace Kaplowitz, Bryce Mayall (Springfield BPAC)

Absent: None

Staff: Shane Rhodes, Lee Shoemaker, Rob Inerfeld, Karen Mason. Cas Casados, Logan Telles

Public: Vicky Mello, Branden Johnson, Alpha Wilson, Peter Bolander, Harry Sanger, Theresa Brand

Meeting Summary Note

1. Open Meeting - Meeting Coordination (5:30-5:35) Lee Shoemaker

2. Public Comment (5:35-5:45)

Vicky Mello lives in Ward 4 in Eugene. Concerned about access for pedestrians at construction sites, specifically around 4th Avenue in the EWEB area. Also for people biking who have to merge with traffic. Would like changes to allow people to walking and biking to get around safely.

Rob said 4th Avenue will be repaved this year with a new protected bikeway. He acknowledged that the City of Eugene needs to do a better job traffic control around construction sites. He said the City has made improvements by reducing speed limits at construction sites but all institutionalized a complete new process. Staff has started improved traffic control at city construction projects but not as much with private developer projects. We will focus more on Americans with Disabilities requirements. Rob said we can come back to the committee with more information on the City's effort to improve access for people walking and biking.

In response from a chat question, staff confirmed that Q & A comments are added to meeting notes. In response from another chat comment, staff will fix the Zoom link to the ATC meeting in the City Calendar

Vicky Mello said that she will no longer ride on Hilyard by the Elkhorn Brewery due to the construction detour.

3. Approve February 11, 2021 Meeting Summary Notes (5:45-5:50)

Action Requested: Approve Meeting Notes

Meeting notes approved.

4. Transportation Funding (5:50-6:30)

Action Requested: Presentation and Discussion

Presenter: Rob Inerfeld

Rob provided an overview of the transportation funds that are used in Eugene. He said that Eugene has been very successful in getting transportation grants from the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization and ODOT. Local funds are used to match the grant funding. Larger transportation projects use multiple sources of funding. As an example, the 13th Avenue protected bikeway projection used system development charges, ODOT All Roads Transportation Safety, and the Central Lane MPO.

Rob said the transportation system plan contains most of the active transportation projects but not all. Examples of projects not included are path rehabilitation projects, path lighting projects, smaller projects like crossing improvements, and streetscape enhancements.

Rob said the primary sources of transportation funding for active transportation are City, Central Lane MPO, State, and Federal dollars.

City funds include local gas tax, street bond measure, systems development charges, State Highway Funds, Parks Bond. Rob said that the State Highway Funds are used for traffic operations, surface operations, and transportation planning. The Parks Bond includes funds for path lighting. The West Bank Path in Eugene just got new path lighting and in the future the Fern Ridge Path Amazon Path, and South Bank Path will receive new lighting. In response from a question from Sue, Rob said the State Highway Funds must be spent in the road right of way.

Central Lane MPO funds are programmed on a three-year cycle. These are federal funds from several programs:

- Surface Transportation Block Grant
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality
- Transportation Alternatives Program
- COVID relief funding

Most of the Transportation Alternatives Program funds will mostly be used to pay for the Safe Routes to School program coordinators.

Rob said staff from local agencies made recommendations on which projects should receive MPO funds to the Metropolitan Policy Committee MPC). MPC is the decision-making body for the MPO.

Rob described the various grant programs that Eugene applies for funding

State

- Safe Routes to School
- All Roads Transportation Safety (ARTS)
- Oregon Community Paths

Rob said Eugene has been successful in receive ARTS. Rob said Eugene applied for two Oregon Community Paths project, on for a path along North Delta Road and from the Fern Ridge Path through Berkeley Park. He said that ODOT will be doubling the amount of grant funds for active transportation.

Federal

- Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)
- Small Starts
- Bus and bus facility

Rob said the Eugene applied for BUILD grants to fund the Franklin Blvd. project but didn't receive funding. The project did get good reviews so Eugene will apply again in the next grant round.

LTD gets funding from FTA Small Grants and Bus and Facility Grants.

Rob said Congress may bring back earmarks as part of the federal transportation bill and staff is compiling a list.

Rob said there are challenges with getting funding for sidewalk infill and sidewalk repair. He said that staff could come back at a future meeting to talk about the issues.

Rob said that much of the transportation funds have been programmed out for the next few years. Systems development funds have the most flexibility. Pavement bond funds for active transportation are also very flexibility.

Anne said she would like to have staff come to ATC to talk about sidewalk repair and infill. She asked if staff has considered a point of sale provision to require sidewalk improvements. Rob said he would discuss that idea with colleagues and more policy discussion needs to take place.

Mary asked how Eugene compares with compare with other cities in receiving transportation funding. Rob said the staff could do more research but Eugene's Transportation Planning staff focuses most of their time on active transportation. He thought if you looked at active transportation funding

around Oregon, you would find we do very well. Mary asked about the gap between the number of active transportation projects in the transportation system plan and the funding allocated for those projects. Rob said that staff could look at that and come back to a future meeting.

Julie asked what would it cost to meeting the transportation system plan goals and the climate goals on an annual basis and if we aren't receiving the need amount, what additional funds could be added from various sources. She also asked how staff are advocating for additional funds. Rob gave SB395 which would raise the minimum amount of the Highway Trust Funds dedicated to walking and biking as an example of where increased funds could be provided. Rob said there may be a future bond measure that could provide additional funds for active transportation. He said there could be more additional funds for active transportation in the next federal transportation bill.

Allen asked if project delay is due to staffing or funding constraints. Rob said it's mostly funding related. He said staff is trying to keep projects on track.

Steve said the UO is very successful in getting funds for strategic planning and has the City considered using that resource to look at achieving CAP 2.0, electrification needs, measuring greenhouse gases, or bicycle and pedestrian counts. Rob said that Eugene may have to provide the funding to do these studies.

Josh asked if staff is hindered in innovative projects by FHWA. Rob said no but staff has to request to use devices not fully approved like bike signals.

Brandon asked a question in chat about will the Martin Luther King, Jr. project address the issue of biking needs sharing the sidewalk with pedestrians and no bike lanes. Rob said there needs to be more public involvement to address the need of people biking. Andrew said that the Moving Ahead project is a good opportunity for public engagement.

Andrea asked how Eugene uses funds to market new infrastructure projects and how has the City produced foundation funding. Rob said we should more promotion of new facilities like 13th Avenue bikeway but it has been challenging due to COVID. He said staff is currently rethinking how we promote transportation options.

5. Letter of Support for Sustainability Commission's "Proposal: Eugene Climate Action Fund" (6:30-6:40)

Action Requested: Approve letter of support

Presenter: Chair

Grace said that she, Daniel, and Sue met with the chair of the Sustainability Commission to talk about collaboration between the two groups and a funding proposal recommended by the Sustainability Commission to the City Council.

Grace said Sue distributed a draft letter of support for the Sustainability Commission's proposal. Grace asked the committee for a motion of support. Steve moved to accept and support the letter. Andrew seconded the motion.

Josh thanked Sue for writing the letter and he liked how she focused on active transportation. He said electric vehicles are great but they contribute to congestion.

Andrew likes that ATC is collaborating with the Sustainability Commission on the funding issue because even though Eugene spends more than comparable cities it isn't enough to achieve active transportation goals.

Mary said she echoes what Andrew said about the collaboration effort. It strengthens both groups. She said that letter is also educational.

Sue said that Allen suggested adding something about Vision Zero and Steve had some minor word changes.

Steve said he was comfortable making an amendment to the motion by approving the letter with the caveat that the subcommittee would modify the letter to incorporate the text changes suggested by Allen and himself.

Allen said it is important to mention Vision Zero because that is about safety and economic development.

Letter approved by ATC unanimously.

6. Electric Vehicle Strategy – E-Bikes (6:40-7:05)

Action Requested: Presentation and Discussion

Presenter: Logan Telles/Karen Mason

Logan provided background information about Eugene's Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy. The EV Strategy is a list of 26 action items geared toward the goal of 50% electrification by 2030 and 90% by 2050 which is an ambitious goal. The document covers everything from incentivizing developers to provide charging stations, micromobility, and education and outreach. The document was produced at the end of 2019 and 2020 was the first of implementation.

Currently, \$25,000 is available for implementation this fiscal year. The bulk of the funds will be used to develop charging stations at affordable housing sites. Eugene is partnering with EWEB, a non-profit company named Forth, and St. Vincent de Paul to develop a micro electric car sharing service at two affordable housing sites. Logan said he hopes to add electric bikes into the program in the future. One site is under development on River Road near Maynard Street. The other is likely to be Bascom Village up off Coburg Road. The pilot program will last two years. About 25% of the budget will be for education and outreach about the EV Strategy regarding electric cars, bikes and scooters.

Karen said an e-bike workshop is being planned with two iterations: one scheduled on April 22nd to coincide with earth day and another one on May 4th to coincide with May is Bike Month. People will learn about everything about e-bikes. The workshop is called Shift E-Bikes because we are partnering with the Shift Campaign which is the City's marketing campaign to shift minor behaviors that over time have a big impact climate wise. Examples would be shifting from using a gasoline powered motor vehicle to an e-bike. Partnering with three local bike retailers to be present during the workshop to help with technical questions and they will also offer incentives to attendees. Topics will include what is an e-bike, does it have a throttle, how does it help going up hills, range of the battery, why should I choose an e-bike, laws using e-bikes, etc. Karen said staff is still building the workshop web page.

Karen provided the committee an update on scooter share. She said the draft administrative order is working its way through the administrative review process. It should be ready for review by ATC and the public by early April. The next step would be to release a request for information to interested scooter operators. Transportation planning has been directed by city leadership to keep moving ahead with e-scooter launch. City staff will work with the selected scooter operator to determine the best date to launch service. Other factors on a launch date will be COVID conditions and the operation of Peace Health Rides. The consensus of the committee was for Karen to come back to ATC with an informal update on scooter share.

Daniel said that given the limited funding for electric car share, siting vehicles at affordable housing sites is a fantastic idea. Daniel asked what incentives will be in place to encourage people to not use the vehicles and not private gas-powered vehicles. Logan said the use of the electric vehicles will be extremely low cost, possibly free. Logan said equity is part of the EV Strategy and the up-front cost to get an electric vehicle is prohibitive to many low-income people and one of the reasons to place the vehicles at affordable housing sites. There will be tenant outreach at the housing sites including safe practices during COVID, benefits of electric vehicles, and how to use the service.

Steve said he's very excited about the e-bike workshops. He said there will be a big wave of e-bike use so we should be ready for it.

Pete asked what is being planned for e-bike charging stations. Logan said staff is still brainstorming e-bike charging but discussions have been made about e-bike charging corrals or possibly charging at street light locations.

Mary said that electric car sharing is great but e-bikes are much cheaper and helps achieve our goals to triple the number of people who bike, She asked if e-bikes were considered along with the electric cars. Daniel asked what kind of secure infrastructure would be provided for e-bikes. Logan said the contribution that Forth could make to the program was

electric cars. Staff is actively looking for additional funds to add e-bikes. He will look into what kind of bike parking is planned at the sites.

Logan said there will be three to four cars. Possibly, there could be one car for general public use, possibly downtown in a parking garage or near the transit station.

Anne if there is a model for people that don't have a driver's license or can't drive, to have someone at the housing site to drive others around. She asked if an e-bike lending library program is being considered. Anne said that a UO grad student is working on a thesis regarding this type of program. Logan said the idea of having a sign-up program to drive others around at the housing develop but he would bring it up with the partners. Logan likes the idea of a e-bike lending library and offered to read the information. Anne said she would place the link in the chat to the Sacramento system.

Sue asked how do you attract people who would consider shifting from automobile use to e-bike use? Logan said Eugene staff asked their partners at the e-bike shops to help identify potential electric bike users and they said that customers tend to be older or had mobility issues. Staff have looped in a couple of partners through Better Eugene Springfield Transportation (BEST) who connected with AARP and Lane Independent Alliance (LILA) who will help with the workshops. Standard outreach techniques such as social media, InMotion, City Council newsletter, and we are placing ad about the workshop at an article electric mobility in the Eugene Weekly.

Andrew commended Eugene for investing in car share as research shows it can reduce the number of cars on the road. He also likes the equity aspect of providing a program at affordable housing sites. Logan said he thanks EWEB, St. Vincent de Paul, and Forth for being great partners.

In response to a question in chat, will electric adaptive trikes being considered, Logan said he would look into that.

7. Subcommittee Reports (7:05-7:20)

Action Requested: Information Share

Daniel said the Communications subcommittee met and decided that they would be most effective if they met with other groups so their first task was to develop a list of potential groups to connect with. Examples are BEST, Eugene Vision Zero, Sustainability Commission, YMCA, Citizen Planning Committee for the Whilamut Natural Area, UO Transportation, Springfield BPAC, Eugene Chamber of Commerce, and 350 Eugene.

Bryce Mayall said he would share ATC's e-bike discussion with Springfield's BPAC. Karen said more information about the e-bike workshop will go live next week including the ad in the Eugene Weekly.

Hilary said she watched an e-bike webinar which prompted her to purchase an e-bike which is great for transporting kids on your bike. She asked if benefits for family use of e-bikes will be part of the workshop program. Karen said a component of the presentation can definitely include benefits to families.

Papa said e-bikes can be larger than regular bikes and has staff considered widening the paths to accommodate increased use? Karen said staff has not considered widening the paths but is planning a path etiquette or safety campaign including social media outreach.

Josh asked if staff has discussion electric devices with the Citizen Planning Committee. Karen said staff attended their last meeting and city leadership is discussing how to proceed.

8. Project Updates/Information Share (7:20-7:30)

Action Requested: Information Share

Presenter: All

Allen said that he and Sue are members of the Street Review Panel and they recently met and discussed a report that is going to the Eugene City Council. A couple of the members said that information about active transportation funding wasn't as delineated as the pavement projects. Those members suggested more specific information be known to the public prior to a vote. Allen said if the City Council decides to go out for another bond, there is about an one year opportunity for ATC to provide comment on wording or the amount of funding for active transportation.

Julie reminded the committee about Active Transportation Advocates Facebook page that Steve put together. Steve said that this is a space for people to share ideas but it is not part of ATC or a place to conduct ATC business. Grace said the site is a great place for the public to participate and ATC is invited to join if they wish.

Sue said that Lane County is developing a new Bicycle Master Plan and they have an online workshop.

Daniel said his best friend died in a collision with a drunk driver. Members shared their condolences.

Steve said that the Emerald Valley Electric Vehicle Association hosted an event that Congressman Peter DeFazio attended. Congressman DeFazio said he was optimistic about increased funding for active transportation and rail in the next transportation bill. A recording is available on their Facebook page.

Q & A Text

Hilyard by Elkhorn brewery is very scary for bikes traveling north, a road I will not bike until the construction is complete-hard to merge with fast autos.

Is the projected MLK work going to address bikes as well as buses and pedestrian crossings? The segment from the I-5 bridge to the turn to Autzen Stadium is not good for bikes: no bike lane, have to share often narrow sidewalk with pedestrian, crossing from east sidewalk to Autzen is on a blind curve with speeding cars.

Chat

Karen Mason (she/her): Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)

Allen Hancock: Rob, do you know of any funding opportunities to reduce trips by encouraging delivery services, working from home, etc.

Daniel Wilson: It's got to be predictable and reliable

Allen Hancock: Since people with mobility challenges are interested customers, are there plans to offer e-trikes?

Daniel Wilson: They have a recumbent, I think? It might be a trike.

Daniel Wilson: Oh, and it's not electric, so nvm

Shane Rhodes: I don't believe any of the Hilyard bikes are e-bikes. Would be great to partner with them to have one in their library.

Grace Kaplowitz (she/her): Here is a link to the public "Active Transportation Advocates" Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/805744000010333/> Everyone is welcome!

Grace Kaplowitz (she/her): <https://lanecountybmp.com/>

9. Adjourn 7:30

Future Agenda Topics

- ATC 2021 EUG Strategic Plan Work Items
- 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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