

## Eugene Active Transportation Committee

Date: Thursday, September 9, 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  
[eugene-or.gov/atc](http://eugene-or.gov/atc)

Attendees: Allen Hancock, Andrea Plesnarski, Anne Brown, Daniel Wilson, Josh Kashinsky, Julie Daniel, Mary Christensen, Papa Awori, Pete Knox, Steve Abbott, Sue Wolling

Absent: Grace Kaplowitz, Hilary Mankofsky, Andrew Martin, Josh Mendez

Staff: Karen Mason, Shane Rhodes, Cas Casados

Public: Vicky Mello, Branden Johnson, Cynthia Black, Claire Roth, Theresa Brand, John Quetzalcoatl Murray

### Agenda

#### 1. Open Meeting (5:30-5:35)

Karen Mason

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

**Vicky Mello, Ward 4**, Thanks committee and staff for work. Commenting on bike path speeds. Participated in COE & COS Riverfest events. People came up to tables to comment on speed. Possibility for Transportation Planning & Parks and Open Space to find funding for path enforcement? Some paths have gasoline powered vehicles. People Vicky spoke with on bikes are intimidated. Hoping for more than enforcement. Hoping for better handle on situation sooner rather than later.

Shane Rhodes spoke to Vicky's comment: Transportation Planning conducted a path etiquette campaign this past summer. Planning more projects in September, including speed monitoring data collection. Agrees that more education outreach and soft enforcement is needed to spread word about what is and is not allowed on paths. Recognize this is an issue and working to make improvement. Press release went out today (Sept 9, 2021) on campaign. Also doing social media outreach for it, coupled with Every Corner is a Crosswalk, 20 is Plenty, Eye to Eye, and Vision Zero campaigns.

#### 3. Approve August 12, 2021, Meeting Summary Notes (5:45-5:50)

Action Requested: Approve Meeting Notes

Moved by Sue Wolling, Seconded by Julie Daniel. Approved by all.

#### 4. **Committee Self-Reflection and Big Picture Discussion (5:50-7:00)**

*Action Requested: Facilitated Discussion*

Presenter: All

- **Framing History, Purpose, Background (10min)**

Overview presentation given by Shane covering:

- Where ATC came from & why
- Change in the landscape for non-profits
- Change in the landscape around infrastructure
- Change in the landscape around staffing
- Time of renewal and reevaluation

- **Lightning Round (10 min)**

- Each committee member states one sentence for each. **Under 30 second comment**
  - One thing you're proud of that ATC has done
  - One hope you have for the ATC moving forward into the future

Allen Hancock: A number of years ago when former traffic engineer left post, ATC wanted to ensure new hire would understand city commitment to active transportation, so wrote letter to staff emphasizing that type of candidate. The City ended up with great engineer. Would like to see more connection of major infrastructure for active transportation so we have viable all ages, all abilities network.

Andrea Plesnarski: Ride and Seek Ride was a great accomplishment and would like to see more Walking School Bus work with Safe Routes to School.

Anne Brown: Everyone on committee asks so many Qs and pushes/supports staff. Can ATC evaluate projects of what's working and what's not?

Daniel Wilson: What's worked best have been the points of connection between interest groups (City is at the center). With 13th avenue there was a good group process. Having ATC as the center point of connection is good. Lots of different voices. Very valuable.

Josh Kashinsky: Serving as a resource where people can express what they like. ATC is a group of people who have become very educated. Hope is to see more focused aspect of that. High Street bikeway almost didn't happen – are there ways that ATC could have been more helpful in that roll out?

Julie Daniel: When first joined the ATC, there is a good learning curve on how stuff gets built and how things get done. The most fun was getting the reduction of parking at Camas Ridge – going to 4J and bringing things to an organization outside of the City and having City staff support on information for that. Would

like to see more advocacy to City Council and others to make the big hard things happen. More activism. More pressure on City Council and connecting dots with CAP 2.0 to make hard decisions that help triple active transportation.

Mary Christensen: Has liked the subcommittee work. What Mary would like is for it to be more than a sounding board for staff. There has been some give and take with 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. A bit of pushing and challenging is good, and she feels good about how that has been done. Healthy to push and challenge city staff and that they're not defensive. Would like to keep track of projects better – keep those threads together better and be better at closing those loops.

Papa Awori: When volunteered for FreeBikes4 Kids. Later got feedback from kids and parents who went there. Main interest would be to try and create paths in areas where people don't have them – put bicycle transportation areas there. Encouragement of biking for low income areas.

Pete Knox: The Committee is great at advocating for bike infrastructure and bike issues and promoting bikes. What they could do better is Pedestrian safety. More promotion of that so Pedestrians aren't a rare sighting (like Bigfoot).

Steve Abbot: Proud of cohesion through Zoom meetings & that ATC has taken policy position on Whilamut Natural Area and CAP 2.0. Not worried about activism. Hope ATC can participate in data driven input analysis.

Sue Wolling: Bike ride in Bethel was great – reaching out to a new part of town. Work being done on Parking Day is also great. Hopes- City is doing great work on infrastructure and programs- how do we create that behavior change to get people using them!

- **The Big Question (30 min)**

- Each committee member has **2 minutes to comment**
  - Given the landscape of where the community is at now with more organizations working on active transportation issues than ever before, what do you think the value and importance of having an advisory committee to staff is?

Sue: Lots of different groups doing different things, each has own niche though. BEST does policy and government actions. Cascadia Mobility does bikeshare and more. Need to get all those groups together. Maybe ATC could be the hub for all those spokes doing the different work (as well as bike shops and manufacturers). If ATC is hub for all the spokes, could help ATC be better aware of all that is going on, while promoting awareness, communication, and support. Also, even though we're doing all these things the active transportation rates (mode share) keeps going down... how to turn the good things into results. ATC is accessible for anyone to tune in....maybe that's the role. A very public outward facing group.

Steve: Similar lens as Sue. Looking back at the ByLaws. Liaison to community group, public facing, etc. There has been some success in that. The first three items- providing input and data and benchmarks... there has been little to give input to staff. Workplan for the ATC could be useful to look at. Recruitment – as well as bike/ped advocates recruit in behavior change management, marketing, launching new businesses, etc.

Papa: Value with staff is that can come in and talk about things, staff can get a myopia, can get outside viewpoints without such a narrowed focus. Can bring in layperson perspective to help staff do a better job at getting a final project. Fresh perspective. Relationship between staff and people in outside world is important. ATC has good responsive staff.

Julie: Value of this group is that ATC members are selected to represent the community. All the other groups are non-profit corps/private entities- they are not a ‘public forum’. They all have their niche. But this committee could build on being more outward facing. Have a great relationship with staff and could utilize ATC more to ‘provide cover’ for staff when there is public pushback to a project. Go and speak to that. (Shane side note- see history of this role in early Bike Committee).

Josh: This is a fair question. Been here since 2013. Has been frustrated by what was or wasn’t happening. With year as chair - didn’t feel like ATC did what it could. Work plan suggestion could be a big help. City Council often doesn’t trust staff and on controversial issues we have a long way to go. ATC can act as a buffer. Second Julie on the non-profit section and the need for a non-non-profit organization (double ‘non’ is intentional).

Mary: Would hope that using the committee as a lens would add clarity to the staff. Can go out and be ambassadors for active transportation. Mary has made a lot of connections and worked with different organizations. Feels a little bit like a rubber stamp- interactions between staff and ATC are not always as dynamic as would like. Facilitators to be more active in agenda setting. There are some things staff might want to run things by ATC but doesn’t want to feel like that rubber stamp. More strength needed in “what are we going to work on and where are we going.”

Daniel: If you’re City staff you want to implement programs and you want to do that informed by the public. There is no other group as well positioned to go and gather that data. Maybe do more outreach as a group. Disagree that we just rubber stamp- there has been some push back on projects like 13<sup>th</sup> Ave, Franklin, etc. Are an engaged group who care about where they live Being as representative as possible and dealing with the issues as they come up so when there’s people running reds on 13<sup>th</sup>, can better assess and think deeply and not just throw out gut reactions. Have people willing to think deeply on the issue is important. Reliance on social media purely is setting up to fail.

Anne: Gather data and voices. Forum of groups like BEST and other transportation advocates, including the public. If we hear issues and identify the big questions? Can we use that information to help advise staff? If we want more mode split, more people using active transportation- the Camas Ridge project (parking lot) is a good example that might not be a walking/biking but has an impact on it. Can ATC play more roles in things like that? And can the ATC play a role with regard to the City Council?

Andrea: After living somewhere very urban the ability to join a committee and be a part of a committee where you can make a difference. Being part of the voice that makes change is powerful experience and able to provide feedback to staff, while also talking to community members. Able to educate neighbors and others about why things are happening where its happening, such as South Willamette or new bike lanes, etc. Trying to be an ambassador and advocate. It's small scale but it helps. What are there things that people are frustrated about? ATC is unique in that its members not hired. They are ambassadors and advocates.

Allen: Echo Julie's comments- what staff has done historically is that the ATC represents a balance (gender, neighborhoods, ethnic, mode, etc.). The value of feedback on the committee is important, like on the bond measure. Shout out to Reed Dunbar who has brought numerous feedback items to the committee. Those get taken to heart and implemented. Has seen the results of that feedback. That's appreciated. Regarding the Transportation System Plan- ATC looked at that pretty deeply, more than at public events. Ways the way committee could be more valuable- include other members of staff- having engineering staff, EPD, other agencies and departments. We could do better on giving feedback or follow up to public comments.

- **General Discussion (15 min)**

- **Open Forum.** Committee members will be asked to raise hand to be called upon by staff
  - Hearing from everyone, are there further thoughts about ATC moving into the future?

Sue: A good thing to do would be to have more time to have some response to public comment *at* the meeting. Close the loop.

What would be helpful is which staff person is the best person to talk to about certain projects or topics? Make that more clear.

When you talk to people on the street, the default position they take if they don't like something is that "those people are idiots"- I don't get it so obviously these people are wrong. If ATC could have talking points to explain why things are done in a certain way to meet certain needs. ATC can be a voice of rationale when people don't trust the government.

Julie: Would like to hear from staff of what is useful to them. Feel like is pestering staff and asking for information. What is useful to staff beyond ATC just asking questions.

Shane's Response to Julie: Important part of ATC is we're educating ATC while ATC is educating staff. We're creating informed citizens who go out into the world and are a voice. No ATC member is pestering us when asking for more info or trying to figure out how to get something done. It's our job to respond with info and resources we might have or pass it on to someone else who can answer those Qs. You're helping us achieve our goals, set forth by city goals and leadership.

Josh: Want to note that City of Springfield has one Transportation Planning staff and they still support a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). City of Eugene has more staff than that and has capacity to support ATC. One thing Josh heard was around being advisory to Staff and maybe ATC should advocate about being advisory to Council. Also, regarding the aforementioned hub and spoke idea... should we formally recognize some organizations and have them have seats on this committee? Maybe this is a time to reevaluate that.

Shane: Just trying to maximize effectiveness! Not that you are too much!

Steve: BPAC- those members are appointed by City Council and not staff. Maybe look at that. Every organization should look at charter and revamp.

Mary: Can flex on subcommittees. But a bit restricted. In by-laws. Would love to be more of the hub, and more advocacy or being more active with City Council. Might be worth it to look at by-laws. Need to say more of, "This is what we want to work on and spend time on." ATC should be able to set the agenda more.

Daniel: To the Agenda, staff presents a draft to chairs... there is some discussion of what is on there and if Chairs want to add things that has happened.

Allen: Question of who ATC reports to or advises is one that's been encountered numerous times. By-laws say staff, but many times have wanted to go straight to Council. Communications subcommittee has been talking about going to Council to keep up to date about concerns and issues, and perhaps want to fold what works and doesn't into that. Add city council member(s) to ATC?

Daniel: BPAC Springfield has one council member attend.

## **Review and Wrap-Up (5 min)**

### **5. Subcommittee Reports (7:00-7:15)**

Action Requested: *Information Share*

Infrastructure: Meeting next week.

Programs: All about Park(ing) Day. A week from tomorrow (17<sup>th</sup>). Set up in front of Palace Bakery at 842 Pearl. Taking over a parking space or two. Artwork, free snack,

engage people in “This Land is Your Land.” Is automobile storage the best use of public space? Idea of walk audit at North Eugene High School.

Communications: Lack of motivation at Council level to make some things we desire happen. Started formulating a plan to give testimony to Council to keep ball moving and that things are front and center. Keeping active tabs about what’s on City Council agendas. Bring in more community members, so not just ATC members always showing up. Fighting mis-info on social media platforms. More ways to get feedback from diverse citizens, from regions don’t normally hear from.

## **6. Information Share/Project Updates (7:15-7:30)**

Presenter: All

Shane: Safe Routes to School Bethel project in coming year. Howard Avenue project next year, but project outreach this fall. Beltline Bridge report from consultant in October. Meeting with EWEB. Late fall opening for Riverfront park opening, along with South Bank Path. 60% drawing for High Street between 16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Aves. 90% drawing will go all the way to 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Two-way of Willamette striping is down. Not open yet due to need for traffic signal on 18<sup>th</sup> that should go in soon. Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, staff from Corvallis and OSU coming down, especially from Engineering team, to look at our infrastructure: neighborhood greenways, connections to paths, 13<sup>th</sup> Ave two-way bike lanes.

Sue: County is creating new bike path along Beaver-Hunsaker. It’s a great connection.

Karen: 8 responses to scooter share RFI. Currently under review. More formal report in future.

Josh: There is hiring going on. LCOG is doing more regional work and has new staff (Julia from LTD)

Mary: Climate Revolutions has a bike ride on Sunday- “Kidsports Got It Right” tribute ride. Great throughway from Willamette to Amazon- you can go straight through, with a lot of bike parking. Looks like they are building for good active transportation. Route starts at Monroe Park, then to 13<sup>th</sup> Ave, to Willamette, to Kidsports, to Alder. Bev Smith has it on her calendar.

**Adjourn 7:30**

### **Future Agenda Topics**

- ATC 2021 EUG Strategic Plan Work Items
- Bicycle Parking Code Adoption
- EUG 2022 and Active Transportation Coordination
- Shared Use Path Etiquette Campaign
- Safe Lane Tactical Urbanization
- Driver Education; Oregon Friendly Drivers; Safe Lane Coalition

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