



Land Use and Transportation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 4th, 2013, 7:00 – 8:30pm
NECN Office – Conference Room
DRAFT Minutes

Meeting Attendees

Committee Members

Carol Gossett, Sullivan's Gulch, Co-Chair
Ed Abrahamson, Irvington, Co-Chair
Jim Brown, Alameda
George Bruender, Concordia,
Steve Cole, Irvington
Anjala Ehelebe, Woodlawn
Stephen Gomez, Boise
Ken Peterson, Grant Park
Leigh Rappaport, King
Don Rouzie, Sabin
Garlynn Woodsong, Concordia

Mike Turaski, King Neighbor
Margaret Tallmadge, NW/Cully Neighbor
Cristy Splitt, Woodlawn Neighbor
Clay Veka, Sabin Neighbor
Daryl Garner, Woodlawn/ NNEBA
Katie Ugolini, Concordia Neighbor
Elizabeth Wren Shiffler, Woodlawn Neighbor
Steve Elder, Concordia Neighbor
Joshua Curtis, Sabin Neighbor
Rick Reynolds, Woodlawn Neighbor
Jim Howell, Woodlawn Neighbor
Rene Corbin, King Neighbor
Chris Lopez, NECN Board Chair
Shoshana Cohen, NECN Executive Director
Claire Adamsick, NECN Committees
Coordinator

Additional Participants

Mike Warwick, Eliot LUTC
Alex Walker, Irvington Neighbor
A. Sarani, Woodlawn Neighbor
Andrew Clarke, King Neighbor
Lynne Coward, Sullivan's Gulch Neighbor

Guest Presenters

Commissioner Steve Novick
Leah Treat, Director, PBOT
Dan Bower, Division Manager, Active
Transportation, PBOT

Meeting called to order by Ed Abrahamson at 7:04 p.m.

Introductions

NECN Transportation Priorities: Discussion with Commissioner Steve Novick and Leah Treat, Director, Portland Bureau of Transportation

NECN collected feedback from 12 neighborhoods on transportation priorities leading up to this meeting; safety was the overarching concern that was identified – how can small projects address these concerns?

Transportation Commissioner Steve Novick shared his interest in serving as transportation commissioner, particularly meeting the needs of youth, addressing transit issues, wear and tear on roads (double-axel buses as example).

Current focus: high-crash corridor projects (budget only \$250,000 for the whole city, where 10 corridors have been designated as high-crash. To really bring streets up to snuff, we would need an additional 90 million dollars. Other immediate-term improvements include: placards for safety projects, PBOT working with water and sewer bureau, replacing street lights with LED lights to save 2.3 million dollars in electricity.

PBOT Director Leah Treat shared her background in transportation work in Chicago and DC. As a recent Portland transplant, one of her main concerns is that kids are able to bike/walk to school – the public rightaway is undervalued here. 150,000 new residents are projected in Portland in the next 20 years. The City has 59 Miles of unpaved roadways, and it would cost upwards of 600 Million dollars to pave those roadways.

LUTC Committee Q & A with Commissioner Novick and Leah Treat

Revenue sources for transportation packages: Commissioner Novick said that nothing has been ruled out at this point. Extensive community input in identifying top projects/priorities can help inform broader (national) efforts.

Transport of coal/oil through neighborhoods (specifically Woodlawn): PBOT does not have any authority, it is a federal issue. The train noise issue has been raised in numerous settings

North Williams Traffic Safety project: is the project accounting for the massive development that is taking place? This project is a model that can be used city-wide; doubling outreach and education is essential in understanding the impacts of this change. The Land Use and Transportation project has growth projections that exceed the current development on Williams. Dan Bower, said that additional traffic signals can help with traffic flow.

Bikes: ridership has gone up by 200% since 2003; Leah Treat noted that the gender makeup in this change is exclusively male and that gender equity issues exist in bicycle transportation infrastructure. Protected Cycletracks are what women say prevents them from riding (Copenhagen is a model for this). In PBOT's 2030 bicycle plan, the message focuses on investments to reduce bicycle-car conflict" versus simply developing new bikeways. One committee member stressed the need for increased education about bikeways, on rules, regulations and rights.

Public transit: Commissioner Novick responded to a question about restoring TriMet frequent service to certain parts of the city by saying TriMet's expanded services is connected to revenue generation via economic development; he suggested that reducing health care costs for employees would free up more dollars for capacity-building projects. A Woodlawn neighbor raised the issue of TriMet accountability regarding bus layovers in Woodlawn; Leah Treat mentioned that at Woodlawn Elementary PBOT is interested in safe routes for school; PPS bond measure funds might be able to help with this improvement.

System Development Charges (SDCs): How can SDCs be used to address safety and accessibility (e.g. parking and crosswalk) issues when new developments go up? Commissioner Novick explained that SDC funds are used to address citywide priorities, not necessarily specific to the area in which a new development occurs. Sidewalk repair – developers are charged a fee for public inconvenience.

Portland Plan/Portland Climate Action Plan: Does the city manage funding decisions against meeting the goals laid out in this plan? The Transportation Plan for 2014 will be in line with the Portland Plan and Portland Climate Action Plan.

An Irvington neighbor shared NECN's position on the CRC, and asked why the City has not gone on record in saying "don't build this bridge." Leah Treat noted that PBOT's authority is limited to cost (budgeting) authority.

Communicating with PBOT: Art Pierce is starting in December as PBOT's new planning manager; PBOT is planning on identifying district-specific contacts and will designate a contact for NECN in the near future.

Approval of October meeting minutes

Carol Gossett moves to approve the agenda and minutes as written. Steve Cole seconds. Motion approved unanimously.

Advisory Committee Updates (PBOT BAC, Parks BAC, Passenger Rail, Washington Park)

PBOT budget advisory committee meeting focused on equity, specifically racial diversity and disability. In-house city staffing; next meeting in early February.

Parks BAC: Paul Anthony, Humboldt, has attended several Parks BAC meetings. The \$8 million in additional SDC funds has not been designated to a specific area but the Parks Board will likely make its decisions in early January.

Passenger Rail Advisory Committee: Currently discussing the rail line that travels along I-5.

Washington Park TMA: Steve Cole has just started attending monthly advisory committee meetings; parking meters will be added for the total of 1,500 spaces in the park.

Subcommittee Updates

The Infrastructure Subcommittee meets at 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 5; Kerry Ayres-Palanuk, Service Planning Manager at TriMet, will be attending to discuss service routes in our neighborhoods. Subsequent meetings are on the fourth Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. (the Thursday following each LUTC meeting).

The Parks Subcommittee will hold its next meeting on Thursday, December 19 at 1 p.m. Parks Zone Manager Sue Glenn will provide additional information on Capital Improvement Projects in parks designated priority service areas in the immediate term: Grant Park, Alberta Park, Fernhill Park and Sullivan's Gulch Trail.

Neighborhood LUTC Updates

Paul Anthony and Leigh Rappaport serve on the community committee that PDC formed in connection with the MLK/Alberta development project. Questions that came up at the meeting included traffic flow and how the entrance/exit will impact Garfield/Alberta. Other concerns included neighborhood affordability, affordable housing, and the economics behind URAs.

The King NA has not had an opportunity to address the issue and is considering forming a Land Use committee. The NECN board agreed on a wait-and-see approach in supporting any kind of formal position. NECN's CEDC may also play a role and is interested in talking with PAALF (Portland African American Leadership Forum), who is releasing a study on Urban Renewal Areas and gentrification sometime in January.

NECN is figuring out how to gain ground and establish a working relationship with PDC a King LUTC representative (Andrew Clarke) mentioned focusing on the process is essential. Garlynn, Concordia LUTC chair, mentioned that NECN could consider sending a general letter about the lack of public process/engagement in development stages (actions of land transaction – e.g. 2000 was a very different time than now). There is some interest in the group in inviting PDC to an upcoming LUTC meeting.



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Paul Anthony motioned that the NECN-LUTC recommend to the executive committee that it develop a general letter about the lack of public process/engagement in development stages; Stephen Gomez seconds. Motion approved with Ken Peterson abstaining.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 22nd

