



Land Use and Transportation Committee
Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 7:00pm–8:30pm
Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods Office
4815 NE 7th Avenue, Portland, OR
Minutes

Meeting Attendees

Committee Members

Carol Gossett, Sullivan's Gulch, Co-Chair
Ed Abrahamson, Irvington, Co-Chair
Jim Brown, Alameda
Anjala Ehelebe, Woodlawn
Garlynn Woodsong, Concordia
Paul Anthony, Humboldt
Ken Peterson, Grant Park
Allan Rudwick, Eliot

Additional Participants

Dan Lerch-Walters, Sullivan's Gulch Neighbor
Emrys Morius, PSU Student
Nan Stark, District Liaison, BPS
Claire Adamsick, NECN Committees Coordinator

Transportation Subcommittee Update: Metro's Draft Regional Transportation Plan

The transportation subcommittee of LUTC is meeting on Thursday, February 27 to review a project list of Metro's Draft Regional Transportation Plan. In compliance with federal requirements, Metro updates the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every 4 years. The regional projects developed under the RTP are eligible to receive federal funding. Included in RTP is an Active Transportation Plan which will contain updated regional bike and ped policies.

The subcommittee will review a project list shared with Carol Gossett, a member of Metro's TPAC (Transportation Policy Advisory Committee). The public comment period is March 21 – May 5, so the subcommittee will make recommendations for projects that the LUTC could support (or potentially oppose) for funding allocation. The group raised questions about some of the bigger-ticket projects such as building out Highway 217, and wondered about investments on the edges of the region – why should we make new investments if we are struggling maintain the infrastructure we have? Also, could projects like congestion tolling on I-84 or I-5 help raise funds for other projects?

Introductions and approval of January meeting minutes

Allan Rudwick motions to approve the January meeting minutes, seconded by Anjala Ehelebe. Motion approved unanimously.

Sullivan's Gulch Trail proposal and initial Parks Subcommittee input for Commissioner Fritz

Carol Gossett, LUTC Co-Chair and Sullivan's Gulch Neighbor, presented a proposal she had developed in seeking support for an education and ecology project on the Sullivan's Gulch Trail. The project would partner with groups including PSU, OSU and Benson High School to use the Gulch as a "laboratory" for ecology study. With NECN's support, Carol applied for a Nature in Neighborhoods grant from Metro, but was not selected for the most recent round of funding. She is seeking future investment in this transit corridor from the City and is approaching Amanda Fritz to share this project idea on March 24. Neighbors



Steve Cole (Irvington), Ken Peterson (Grant Park) and Paul Anthony (Humboldt) will be joining Carol at the meeting to share additional input on PPR's Capitol Improvement Projects list – this input was generated at November and December NECN Parks Subcommittee Meetings. The next larger Parks-specific discussion will take place at the May 28 LUTC meeting; Commissioner Fritz's staff will be invited to this meeting.

Metro has encouraged SGNA to submit a proposal for the next round of funding. There was a Sullivan's Gulch Corridor committee in the past; this effort to bring together stakeholders (City, Neighbors, Metro, etc.) PSU has three groups looking at Sullivan's Gulch Trail; a local chapter of Engineers Without Borders would be helpful as would Scott Burns, a retired Geology Professor at PSU. Even though SGNA did not get the Nature in Neighborhoods grant from Metro, there are numerous groups (including PBOT, BES and Parks) who have the Gulch in their portfolio.

Advisory Committee Updates

- PBOT (Ed Abrahamson) no updates
- Mixed Use Zoning, Passenger Rail (Carol Gossett)

Carol is a new member of the Mixed Use Zoning project committee and attended its first meeting, would like Broadway to be an area of focus.

- Passenger Rail: rail option along Sullivan's Gulch has been dropped, meeting Tuesday 7 p.m., Holladay Park Plaza

CRC Legislative Hearing Update

In Steve Cole's absence, Claire reported that earlier in February, Steve attended a legislative hearing in the House Economic Development Committee which discussed the CRC. Prior to the meeting, Steve attended a meeting with CLF, 1000 Friends and some other interested parties. He subsequently testified in Salem against the bridge. Ted Wheeler provided testimony in support of the Oregon only option. It was carefully worded, but supportive nonetheless. Steve spoke to Michael Dembrow and told him of our concerns. He was non-committal. Since that time, it passed through that committee (a transportation committee) and is now in front of the Ways and Means Committee. Steve also reported that Governor Kitzhaber, contrary to his many earlier remarks, asked for an extension on the bill into March.

NECN still has a lawsuit in federal court; and the NECN board sent a letter to elected officials on Friday, February 21, calling for opposition to the CRC. Three elected officials responded: Senator Chuck Thompson indicated he would continue to vote "no," Commissioner Fritz said she continues to oppose the CRC but is not a factor in the decision-making; and Senator Chip Shield's staffer Amanda Hess said that Senator Shields is leaning no on the Oregon only project but that he did not anticipate that the project would come to a vote on the Senate floor.

Nan Stark, BPS, added that the Sumner Neighborhood is opposed to the Oregon Plan as they border I-205 – concern being that more people will use I-205 if I-5 becomes a toll bridge.

Comp Plan update and preserving historic character of residential neighborhoods



Nan Stark reported that BPS is processing input from neighbors and coalitions on the Comp Plan, concentrated on centers and corridors. The Comp Plan Draft (both goals and policies and maps) will come out in early summer, likely July. There will be subsequent open houses to give people a glimpse of what it all entails and what the next steps are on the Planning and Sustainability side.

Preserving historic character of residential neighborhoods: Eliot forwarded a proposal from the neighborhood regarding preservation of single-family character in neighborhoods – move from multi-dwelling to single-dwelling zoning. Nan and her colleagues are paying close attention to this proposal. Eliot is one of the closest-in neighborhoods to the central city, so there is increasing pressure in terms of attractiveness of the neighborhood related to its proximity.

Allan Rudwick, Eliot's Land Use rep, reported that zoning to R2.5 would allow for a yard and fewer units built on a single-family property. The zoning that is currently there appears to encourage tearing down less well-kept houses. Eliot has advocated for a new mixed-use zone along MLK. Allan doesn't think that houses need to be removed to increase the density in the next 20 years. Most of the focus is on local streets.

A good example of neighborhood advocacy around design came out of Stephen Gomez and Boise via the neighborhood's Boise Design Guidelines. This could be a helpful reference for other NECN neighbors.

Neighborhood Updates

While Sabin neighbors could not be in attendance, Shoshana reported that Sabin is interested in focusing on issues related to demolition, including environmental ramifications, proper notification and the idea that larger tear-downs are being masked as "remodels" by leaving a single wall standing on a property. Sabin Neighbors are interested in taking with other NAs about advocacy work around this topic.

Garlynn Woodson mentioned that Concordia is interested in single-family dwelling guidelines, where new houses are alley-loaded. Each new house should try to blend into the neighborhood. Size isn't necessarily as much as an issue for Concordia neighbors.

Jim Brown, Alameda, presented a statement on Chapter 5 in the Comprehensive Plan, which discusses neighborhood-compatible development. Jim encouraged neighborhood associations to work with each other to get decision-makers to keep neighborhood compatibility on their radar. We need to bring about regulations that support and strengthen local streets and neighborhoods.

LUTC agreed to discuss housing and neighborhood-compatible development at its March meeting and beyond; having Stephen Gomez talk about the Boise Design Guidelines at a future meeting would be helpful, too.

Vanport Development

Committee members shared what they knew in terms of recent developments on the Vanport development site at the intersection of NE MLK Jr. Blvd. & Alberta. The National Association of Minority



Contractors, with leadership from Andrew Colas, developed a petition to bring Trader Joe's back and is seeking broad support.

LUTC members were curious about what type of structure could actually be built on the site. They are aware of a sewer line which, according to John Jackley of the PDC, could cost 5-7 million dollars to move.

Could Secretary of State do an audit of the PDC on its process? The problem is not Trader Joe's, it's the process (or lack thereof). PDC is a funding mechanism to get infrastructure projects built. Reform may be better solution. The Vanport area is one of the City's new centers per the comp plan; you would want something attractive to the community in this location.

NECN staff has continued to work with the King Neighborhood Association, which has found itself at the center of the conflict. NECN board has agreed to support staff in convening a group of stakeholders to help facilitate a more collaborative conversation. Garlynn suggested that local developers should be at the table in this discussion.

Is this location a food desert? 10 years ago, when the initial discussions were happening, this was the case. Now, this area is not as much of a food desert. Development needs to anticipate community changes further out.

2014 LUTC topics and advocacy efforts

LUTC members are asked to consider the following questions and bring topics/ideas to the March 26 meeting:

- What land use and transportation issues are most pressing in your neighborhood that you feel should be explored or addressed at the District Coalition level?
- Who could better inform us on these particular issues (speakers, organizations, etc.)?

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 26th, 7:00 p.m.

