

OBPAC Meeting
17 July 2008

Attendees

OBPAC: AJ, Jerry, David Lewis, Kathryn @ 1:45pm, Maureen
Staff: Rodger Gutierrez, Steve Lindland , Sheila , Pat Fischer, Basil Christopher
Visitors: Lee Shoemaker City of Eugene, Shane Rhodes – Safe Routes to School,
Kevin B – City of Eugene, Paul Moore – GEARS (Greater Eugene Area
Riders)

Intros

House Keeping

Approve Minutes: April 08 – not circulated, tabled to next meeting

Lee Shoemaker – Eugene Strategic Plan – community initiated plan for the softer activities like safety video for teen drivers, bike parking at local events, bike counts, Sunday parkways, etc.

Shane Rhodes – Blackberry Jamboree & Blackberry Ramble are local bike events in August. Both a family bike ride and century ride are included .

Q – What’s the issue with the pot hole fund? Lee – backlog on road maintenance. \$81 Million bond measure for road maintenance. \$350K per year for 10 years for off street path maintenance is included. Currently off street paths are maintained with general fund money.

Paul Moore – Crest Drive street design was a two year community conversation about how to provide for bicycling. Residents wanted a narrow street, bike lanes were not included. City council decided to accept neighborhood design – 2 – 9’ travel lanes. May be challenged using Bike Bill.

Shane Rhodes – Safe Routes to School Coordinator. Shane got an initial 1 year grant Sept ’07 to Oct ’08, and applied for another two years. Classes are offered to the general public, including a parent bike-ed course. The bike education program in Eugene is growing. Currently there is one part time staffer. They are hoping for a full time position for bike safety education. Roosevelt Middle School is the Safe Routes to School pilot school with a Frequent Rider program. Cost? About \$350/mo. Looking to have it be self funding thru pledges. Kiddikel Mass Ride will be this Friday – 6pm Monroe Park.

BTA – Legislative Agenda – Scott Bricker – Executive Director, and Karl Rhode - Gov’t. Relations and Public Policy. They are working with state legislature to address bicycle transportation policy including: Vulnerable User Bill, Safe Passing Law, Pass on Right bill, Safe Routes to School Program and Share the Road License Plate. Current economic

climate and BTA's track record make this legislative session the best opportunity to address non-motorized transportation in a long time.

Bike Summit – there was a session on possible topics for the BTA's legislative agenda. That was the starting point for the Oregon '09 Bicycle Legislative agenda. Scott passed out The Oregon Bicycle Agenda – Ideas Compiled for Review and Comment. Earl Blumenauer – Congressional Rep – Portland has a national bill ready with an 18 point program to increase bicycling. At national level climate is ripe, somewhat the same at the state level. Every one of Oregon's Federal Legislators is supportive of bicycling. One of Gov's top 3 issues is transportation. There is discussion about increasing gas tax, also possibly a third Connect Oregon program. The BTA is interested in adding a non-motorized component. Scott – getting non-motorized modes in Connect Oregon is a lobbying effort. Maureen – what about operations and maintenance. Pat Fischer – Forest Highway program allows money to be directed to trail maintenance and may be a template for Connect Oregon non-motorized funding – if it comes to pass. Pat – need to include staff costs. Carl – everyone needs more than is available. Will require a lot of effort to educate and convince legislators to put money towards non-motorized modes.

There is a possible Gas Tax increase or more traditional transportation funding that goes into the highway trust fund and the mode split is potentially the best argument. Oregon's bike mode split is about 2%, Portland's = 6%, Eugene's = 6%, walking is slightly higher. Also looking at funding splits between City/County/State. If you look at travel behavior – a lot of travel is on local roads and Cities and Counties tend to build non-motorized infrastructure.

Need to develop the economic data about numbers for bicycling and walking, industry, costs, employment, industry, travel & tourism, etc.

Karl discussed the Vehicular Homicide bill, Rolling Stops bill, similar to one in Idaho, Truck equipment requirements, Safe Routes to School & school siting, Driver safety education, etc. Not on short list: Increased penalties for impaired driving, reduced fines for bicyclists, increasing 1% in bike bill to 2% or more, bike benefit – tax incentive for using bikes, linear state parks, bicyclist licensing.

Governor's Transportation Funding Initiative – Scott and Karl sit on these committees.

BTA would like the committee to make a statement or endorsement of the need for support for bicycling and walking, as a committee, but also as individuals members could support specific legislation. OBPAC could build partnerships with other agencies and groups to support non-motorized issues – such as working with OPRD on linear state parks.

'09 Bike Summit – April 21st & 22nd.

TE Grant Program Update – Pat Fischer

Gave out status lists for '07/'08 projects and '10/11' Approved Projects gave up dates on specific projects. Comments for TE grant applications for this go round will be via Survey Monkey on line.

Bike Events on State Highways – OAR update

Division 57 – Mike Wilbur, Erin (last name unknown) attended to answer questions about the placement of landscaped entry areas and banners on state highways. Jerry N – need for insurance (Beautification of State Highway 3(e) is an issue for event organizers. David Lewis developed language to indemnify agency – that seems to work. How many participants trigger the need for a permit? When a ride spans districts the organizer must get a permit from each district manager. Erin – working on a central permit, one person initiates it and forwards it to each district down the line: like the Fireman's run. It's up to individual District Maintenance Managers to take on the role of permit coordinator. Event coordinators could ask the major district to coordinate the other districts.

Division 56 – Special Even Permits

Jerry N – problem with 'no spray paint' rule. Stakes are tricky because of underground utilities and they are not allowed to attach to highway signs. He is looking for a sane way to sign events. Sandwich boards blow down. There is a need for signs on the highway to keep people on the course and safe, but usually in the process rules are broken. Suggestion – permittee could be required to put signs up in morning down in evening, or not get a permit next year. Mike – not real positive that permit restrictions or non-renewals are possible, may not be legal. David suggests a performance bond. Mike W – that could work, because the bond amount would be raised based on poor clean up. One issue is that paint lingers for years. Cycle Oregon uses pink arrows, there's a new arrow marking: Route Arrows. They are biodegradable and dissolve in rain. It's a problem when it rains. Work with DM's and ADM. Work with local DM, he/she could then take it to the DM statewide meetings for approval statewide.

Motion: To affirm proposed changes. Yes Unanimous.

High Performance Schools – AJ

High Performance School siting should include evaluation of and planning for bikability and walkability. High performance schools are energy efficient and esthetically pleasing. There is nothing in the proposal that addresses transportation.

Motion: Jerry Z will draft proposed paragraph to include transportation and school siting and committee will forward to the Energy Department. Passed Unanimously.

Baker City

Discussion of proposed changes, grant status, funding, scope of work, etc.

Motion – rescind the grant, require City to reapply, offer two week extension of application deadline. Passed Unanimously.

Region 1 Update – Basil

Trolley Trail – 5 mile trail from Springwater Corridor to Gladstone. Proposing a 10-foot trail, but there is ROW for 12-foot or wider.

Sandy River Bridges – Troutdale OTIAIII I-84 Bridge replacement. Several national, state and local land uses come together at this location with a high recreation trail component. Oregon Bridge Deliver Partners (OBDP) will be constructing a path on the Eastbound I-84 structure for trail users.

I-5 Iowa St. Viaduct Replacement – only way to cross I-5 in this area. Markam trail exists, trail replacement as part of viaduct replacement is in discussion.

I-205 at Hwy 213 – Rivers Development

There are existing trails and limited pedestrian access. Only ped access along 213, have to go a mile out of travel.

Airport Way/I-205 Interchange – currently exploring bike/ped circulation.

Eugene Strategic Plan – David Roth – City of Eugene

Committee Attendance

Jerry Z. proposed that the By-Laws be revised to institute an automatic process by which members are removed or contacted after having missed two meetings in a row.

Also – there is dissatisfaction with the committee vacancies and the timeliness of appointments by the Governor’s office.

ACTION ITEM – Jerry N & I would go to governor’s office to discuss filling Bike Industry slot.

Jerry will contact Alison about committee participation and possible resignation.

Maureen is going on sabbatical to the East Coast. This is her last meeting for one year. She’ll be at Clemson studying transportation planning. Could come back to participate in grant meeting in October.

Motion- By Law Amendment: Add the phrase, “without communication” to Article III MEMBERSHIP, Section 3, Vacancies. “If any member of the committee shall be absent from two consecutive regular meetings, **without communication**, the committee may recommend that the Governor declare the position vacant.” Cancelled

Committee will be more diligent in monitoring attendance and addressing absenteeism.

Committee Make-up

Jerry Z proposed amending ORS 366.112 to add a ninth committee member to OBPAC in the area of bicycle law or transportation planning. Social life issues oriented, not necessarily hardscape DOT issues.

Maureen – changes would be appropriate to broaden the ORS to include the pedestrian mandate of the committee. Also does not address ADA issues, motorized scooters, etc. *(Need to notify the director's office if this goes forward.)*

Alternate approaches – recruit members to fill existing vacancies that have the skill set the committee desires. Or associate memberships could be added, non-voting members that would attend and give guidance and input. The issue with alternates: Governor is supposed to appoint the committee members. Proxy voting does not conform with public meeting laws. Could create advisory committees to OBPAC.

Jerry proposed that the committee think of potential committee members to fulfill roles desired.

Public Comment Period

Shane interesting that the federal funding process is confusing to OBPAC and ODOT staff. Safe Routes to School funding is federal money and it's complicated and confusing to deal with all the federal rules and regulations.

Brianna Orr – U of O outdoor program staff. They are launching a bike loan program at the U. Starting with 25 bikes for long term loan program. They are looking for long term funding. They expect the bike will be loaned to international students thru the university, thru a deposit system: when the bike is returned at the end of the school year they will get their deposit back. Source of bikes is yet to be determined. There is a large supply of impounded bikes from the campus police. They are trying to instigate a lifestyle change. Students can get introduced to bicycling at low cost. Maintenance classes will be offered also.

Erna Gilberson – comes from Holland and has concerns about young people riding bikes in an unsafe manner. She's from Holland and would like to get involved in youth bike riding. It's important for bicyclists never to take their right, even if they have the right of way, because between a bike and a car the car "wins." Shane has connected with her and she'll be able to get involved locally in bike safety education.

Bike education is taught in school in 4th or 5th grade in Holland. Is bike safety class in 4th grade enough? Yes – because you ride your bike every day. Do police enforce traffic laws for bicyclists? Yes All bicycles come with lights.

Other Business

Presentation to the commission: annual report, inventory, tourism partnership, grant program show and tell. Leave questions in their minds.

Next Meeting: Propose dates when we get back to the office – Thursday Friday in October.

Public Comment