



North Portland Greenway Trail Alignment Project - Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 6:30-8:30 pm - University of Portland, Chiles Center, Hall of Fame room

Attendees (28)

Project Advisory Committee (PAC): Kristen Acock (BES), Pam Arden, Walt Bartel (David Evans & Assoc.), Spencer Bohaboy, Aaron Brown, Sarah Figliozzi (PBOT), Mark Freeman, Jim Haines (U of P), Jane Hart (Metro), Rich Hatfield, Mary Jaron Kelley (NPNS), David Lee, Gentiana Loeffler (NPNS), Barry Manning (BPS), Heather Mickler, Marian Rhys, Francie Royce, Angela Wagnon (ONI-Crime Prev.), Kip Wadden (PPR)

Public: Lynn Barlow (PPR), Chris Brown, David Goodyke, Bon Hill, Mark Hill, Beate Hoelscher, Scott Mizee, Erin Stockenberg, Betsy Valle

Welcome/Intro/General Announcements- facilitated by Mary Jaron Kelley and Kip Wadden

- Mary Jaron Kelley requested feedback on a distributed list of organizations that the PAC had identified in January as interest groups for exchanging project information.
- Mary Jaron Kelley provided a copy of the Interwine Trail Counts document.
- www.oregonmetro.gov/trailcounts
- Q: What city agency is responsible for street alignment and bike lanes and are they represented here? A: (Mary Jaron Kelley) PBOT. Yes, they are represented on the PAC.

Public Outreach and Project Schedule

- Mary Jaron Kelley to introduce NPGT blog in approximately two weeks. PAC will receive email with link.
- Mary Jaron Kelley/Kip Wadden to organize site visits this spring and summer.
- PAC reminded of upcoming Open House in May.
- Mary Jaron Kelley will look into organizing the PAC to attend community events.

Project Overview

- Focused segment presentation on Smith and Bybee Lakes and St. Johns Landfill trails was presented by Jane Hart, Senior Regional Planner with Metro Sustainability Center.
- Questions followed presentation, focusing on the proposed method of crossing at N. Columbia Blvd: Q: (Sarah Figliozzi, PBOT) What is being proposed at the Columbia Blvd crossing? A: (Jane Hart, Metro) At-grade crossing, still in progress. Q: There are plans to turn Columbia Blvd from a city highway into a state highway. How will people safely cross Columbia Blvd? A: (Jane Hart, Metro) Trail study based on cost, physical constraints and statistics recommend an at-grade crossing. Further statistics show some people will not use elevated crossings, which is a safety concern... Q: Can there be a signalized crossing at Columbia Blvd? A: (Jane Hart, Metro) Yes. (Sarah Figliozzi, PBOT) Yes, but PBOT needs to see pedestrian volume that is consistent with that kind of signal. Q: Are there other "traffic calming" options? Q: Are the decisions around the type of crossing based on current use or projected use? A: (Sarah Figliozzi, PBOT) Projected use. Q: If a decision is made regarding turning Columbia Blvd from a city highway into a state highway there should be involvement from groups like NPGT or interested citizens to inform the decision-makers about current and projected use of Columbia Blvd. Q: I suggest citizens get involved and demand safe crossings. If a citizen group comes together to make a particular demand (for example, rumble strips and a red light, etc. at Columbia Blvd) what is the process? A: (Sarah Figliozzi, PBOT) First, the group should strive to understand the situation at Columbia

Blvd, rather than project their experience from other, similar crossings onto this one. The decision regarding the crossing at Columbia Blvd will be very cut-and-dry for the engineers considering the facts. (Kip Wadden) The PAC should fully understand and educate themselves about the conditions of the trail. The project will not provide a “perfect trail,” but the PAC can put together a set of recommendations for “future desired conditions.” The charge of the PAC is to create the trail alignment based on existing information while working within constraints about what is possible. Q: Families are often safer at crossings while cyclists (based on personal experience) are impatient and do not wait for crossing signals. Q: Is Metro looking for funding for the trail now? A: (Jane Hart, Metro) Yes, mostly at the federal level. Q: What is a separate-grade-crossing? A: (Kip Wadden) A crossing that is above or below grade.

Q: What is the length of the trail at Smith Bybee? A: (Jane Hart, Metro) Q: Why does the Smith Bybee Trail go counter-clockwise around the landfill? A: (Jane Hart, Metro) Offers the nicest route, and best views. Q: Is there going to be signage on the Smith Bybee Trail regarding the transition from a landfill to a trail? A: (Jane Hart, Metro) Yes.

Q: (Kip Wadden, addressed to PAC) Was this trail segment information helpful? A: (PAC) Yes.

- Updated preliminary trail alignment map presented by Kip Wadden.
- Questions followed regarding segment map updates: Q: How wide is the trail? A: (Kip Wadden) Standard width is generally 12 feet with 1 foot shoulders. Q: At the U of P will the upper alignment have a treatment to replace the stairs with a ramp? A: (Kip Wadden) That will have to be looked at for an upper trail option.
- Five trail section maps indicating unresolved issues were provided and participants were asked to attach questions, comments or recommendations by post-it note.

Advisory Committee and Audience Q/A

- Q: The first focus will be on Baltimore Woods, then the U of P then the Rose Quarter? A: (Kip Wadden) Yes. The easier pieces will be resolved first. Q: Is it possible to schedule tours for each section of the trail? A: (Kip Wadden) Yes. Q: How do PAC members notify the public/interest groups of upcoming events? A: (Mary Jaron Kelley) PAC members can send contact information for members of the public/interest groups to Mary and she will add them to her email list. Or the PAC can forward the emails that they receive from Mary to their contacts. Q: Can the trail maps include an explanation of the acronyms? A: (Kip Wadden) Yes.

Next Steps

- The project team will schedule tours for the Pier Park to Cathedral Park section, and the St. Johns Landfill Trail section. The PAC will likely do tours during the late spring and summer months.
- Jim Haines (U of P) can schedule a tour of Waud Bluff and possibly Triangle Park area for the PAC. He will check in with Jim Kuffner of U of P and have him relay information to the PAC.
- Kip Wadden and Mary Jaron Kelley will look into defining trail-related acronyms.

Meeting notes will be made available to PAC members via email and will be posted on PPR website.

April 25 Regional Trails Fair at Metro Regional Center 1-3:00pm

Next meeting Wednesday, May 16 Open House, University of Portland, Chiles Center