

**City of Portland
Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

**Summary Meeting Notes
January 22, 2007**

Committee Members

David Aulwes*
Jim Conklin*
Ali Corbin*
Kim Cottrell
Karen Girard*
Erin Kelley
Doug Klotz*
Jess Laventall
Rod Merrick
Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara
Bob Robison
Matt Whitney*
Rod Yoder*

***Indicates committee members in attendance.**

Staff

April Bertelsen, PDOT*
Gregg Everheart, Portland Parks
John Gillam, PDOT*-
Denver Igarta, PDOT*
Caitlin McCollum, PDOT*

***Indicates staff in attendance.**

Guests

Introductions of New Staff

John Gillam, supervisor for the Policy & Systems group in Transportation Planning, was in attendance to introduce new PDOT staff. April Bertelsen has been temporarily appointed as Pedestrian Coordinator. April has a good background in pedestrian issues; previously she was vice president of the WPC. April will continue to act as the project manager for the Powell Streetscape project and will be able to devote about half of her time to the pedestrian coordinator duties. She will act in this role until a recruitment happens. PDOT will hold an open, competitive process to hire a new coordinator, and the PAC's input will be welcomed and sought after.

John also introduced Denver Igarta, a newly hired Planner I with Transportation Planning. Denver was hired to assist all three modal coordinators (pedestrian, bicycle and freight). He is focusing a lot of his time on the update to the Bicycle Master Plan. In the pedestrian realm,

Denver has taken over the duties of the curb ramp request program. He is also available for technical support to the coordinators. Previous to working for PDOT, Denver worked with the City of Tigard and with the Bureau of Planning. He will attend PAC meetings occasionally.

Approval of Notes

Notes approved with Doug's comments added.

Announcements

- Burnside/Couch Couplet – The Burnside and Couch couplet project will go before Planning Commission tomorrow evening. Doug will be in attendance to testify in favor of the project. This project will significantly improve the pedestrian environment. The committee briefly discussed and agreed that Doug should testify not only as an individual, but also on behalf of the committee.
- BTA Legislative Agenda – Each legislative session, the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA) presents proposed bills to Salem. This year, one of the bills they are proposing is a “pedestrian hand signal” that would allow pedestrians to signal their intention to cross a street (thus triggering their right of way) without actually stepping into the intersection.
- The Walk Safe Umbrella – The Northwest District Neighborhood Association (NWDA) worked with the umbrella manufacturer Shed Rain to create an umbrella to improve the visibility of pedestrians. The umbrella has reflective elements and two of the panels have the warning sign with the pedestrian on it. Thanks to Shed Rain, NWDA is able to offer these umbrellas at the wholesale cost of \$15. For more information, or to order an umbrella, contact Jeanne Harrison, 503-228-0457, cats@aracnet.com
- Pedestrian Safety Video – PDOT Traffic Investigations put together a safety video about pedestrians. The PAC commented on the draft script last year. The video was shown to the CSTSP coordinating council last week. Now that the video is created, PDOT is looking at how to use and distribute the information. April will get the video for the PAC to view and comment on.

2007 Priorities

Caitlin passed out a list of possible agenda topics for the PAC. It is an ongoing list based on upcoming projects, themes the PAC has looked at in the past, and other ideas that have come out of meetings. The committee went through the list, and added and deleted items where appropriate.

Discussion:

- Morrison Bridge – add to list. Project will not begin until after the transit mall is completed.
- Sellwood Bridge – add to list.
- PDOT Bridge Projects - A discussion with and/or presentation from the Bridges and Structures section in PDOT so that the PAC can understand their policies and they can consider pedestrians more often when reconstructing structures.
- Columbia River Crossing – add to list.
- Construction mitigation – add to list. This will be part of an eventual Pedestrian Design Guidelines update. The concern is regarding pedestrian access and mobility during construction and also special events.
- Green Streets – Maintenance and policy issues
- RTP Update – PAC should receive updates on a regular basis
- TSP Update – add to list. PDOT staff will begin work on this in mid-summer.
- ADA Guidelines – PAC will want presentation once new guidelines are adopted.

- Pedestrian Design Guidelines – an update is not in the immediate future. The group discussed possible ways to work within the existing guidelines to make them work. Ideas discussed were continuing and improving training, and adding things in the training sessions that are not included in the design guide. There was also discussion about enforcing the design guide.

PDOT staff will review the full list and create a timeline for when these various topics would be pertinent to discuss.

Eastside Community Benefit Opportunity Program

As part of the Eastside CSO (a.k.a. “big pipe”) project, BES has allocated \$2 million for a Community Benefit Opportunity (CBO) program. The program provides funding for community projects in neighborhoods and business districts affected by the “big pipe” project. Projects can be identified and proposed by individual citizens, community groups or public agencies.

Denver brought four projects for the PAC to consider. These are projects that neighborhood associations have taken a lead on. April also brought information about a project on N Russell that PDC is proposing.

Clay Street Green Street

This project will improve SE Clay with green street treatments and will improve access to the river and to the Eastbank Esplanade. Elements of this project include curb extensions at SE 11th & 12th avenues and advanced stop lines (a.k.a. “bike boxes”) at SE 7th, Grand, MLK and Water.

Doug commented that bike boxes, while a good concept, are not always obeyed, since the majority of motorists don’t know what they mean.

BES is also looking for EPA money for this project.

Clinton Crossing

Again, this project would provide improved access to Willamette River recreation. The project would put in crossing treatments on 11th & 12th (possibly a signal). This project was presented to the Central Eastside Industrial Council and they were supportive.

Members were skeptical that the proposed route would actually be used by bicyclists (the project’s main intent).

Rose Quarter Transit Center

This is a project that TriMet is bringing forward. The project would put bike lanes on N Wheeler, so that cyclists don’t have to go out of their way to get to N Williams. The benefit to pedestrians? Fewer cyclists on the sidewalks.

North Portland Trail Access

There are many wonderful recreational trails in North Portland, however, getting to these trails can be difficult, especially because of N Denver. This project would complete the Slough Trail between MLK and Denver and also close the Denver under-crossing to motorist traffic.

The map Denver passed out shows where a path will be along Schmeer Road. Matt questioned the specific location of that trail. He stressed that it should be on top of the levy (not at grade) for the most pedestrian benefit. Denver will confirm the location.

Russell Street Improvements

This is the project that PDC is proposing and it would implement the Russell Street Improvement Plan from I-5 to Williams. The section from Interstate to I-5 is already being implemented using Interstate URA funds.

The committee decided that they would support all the projects to receive funding. David will work with PDOT staff to craft a letter.

Letter Regarding DMV Testing Requirements

Rod Yoder drafted a letter that would be sent from the PAC to other community groups (e.g. BTA, WPC) asking them to encourage the DMV to change its testing requirement. Currently, the only time a driver is tested is on initial receipt of their license or when they move into the state.

Generally the committee supported the idea and made a few suggestions regarding the content of the letter; it needs more information about what is being proposed. Rod will edit the letter and redistribute it to the committee.