

PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

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Chloe Eudaly Commissioner **Chris Warner** Director

NW Parking SAC	Friendly House
July 17, 2019	1737 NW 26 th Ave.
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Portland, OR 97210

Meeting Notes

Members in Attendance

Daniel Anderson, Nick Fenster, Jeanne Harrison, Lisa Higgins, Karen Karlsson, Rick Michaelson (Chair), Thomas Ranieri, Peter Rose, Don Singer, Mark Stromme

Members Absent

Parker McNulty, Brent Soffey, Ron Walters

PBOT Staff

Antonina Pattiz, Kathryn Doherty-Chapman – NW SAC Liaison

Rick Williams Consulting

Owen Ronchelli

Public in Attendance

Allan Classen, Michael Espinoza (PBOT), Michael Lilly, Al Niknabard, Phil Sellinger

Public Comment

No public comment

Business Exceptions

Kathryn mentions that she met with three businesses regarding the exceptions process for parking permits, Rick asks the committee to vote on the following exceptions requests.

Tillamook requested 89 permits last year and is requesting 96 this year. They met all the requirements set by the SAC. The subcommittee has requested approving their exception.

- Dan makes motion to approve Tillamook's permit exception request.
- Lisa seconds.
- Unanimous approval.

Swift has grown its workforce. They currently partially subsidize parking permits, but they plan to eliminate subsidies for parking moving forward. They are requesting 100 permits during renewal with the understanding that they will hire more employees later this year and may need more permits later.



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- Dan makes a motion to approve Swift's permit exception request.
- Tom seconds.
- Unanimous approval.

Legacy has 1,800 employees and requests 75 permits each year. They don't charge hospital employees for parking, staff at this location work 12-hour shifts at various hours of the day, so public transportation is not an option.

- Dan makes a motion to approve Legacy's permit exception request.
- Nick seconds.
- Unanimous approval.

Legacy's system office has grown since last year, they only had 600 employees previously but this year they have 731, they charge for parking and have several lots. One of the lots has a valet. Employees either pay for parking in a lot or can buy a permit. Legacy offers 97% subsidized transit passes and green commuter benefit. They are requesting 200 permits, the same amount of permits as last year. Rick points out that high-level executives were involved in the exceptions meeting and cooperation was high.

- Dan makes a motion to approve Legacy health system's permit exception request.
- Tom seconds.
- Unanimous approval.

Rick says that even though this exception outcome did not lead to a real reduction in permits this year, the process was incredibly useful and informative for the SAC. Also, noteworthy, none of the four businesses asking for an exception are getting more than .6 permits per their FTE.

NW in Motion Update

Kathryn briefs the members on the status of NW in Motion (NWIM).

Nick says there is some confusion about dividing lines because certain projects are PBOT funded and don't require the SAC's funds. He says there have been several NWIM updates, but it doesn't seem like the SAC had much say in the process/project list. There are so many groups involved in these decisions.

Rick says Nick's concern will be the focus of next month's meeting, it's clear that there are a lot of hands at play and it's a question of when the SAC should be involved and when they shouldn't.

Kathryn clarifies the SAC initiated NW in Motion. The SAC has always been involved in the decision-making process. In an effort for better communication and understanding, Zef will be attending more SAC meetings moving forward to keep the committee updated on NWIM.

Karen comments that when the SAC agreed to fund 50% of the traffic study, her understanding was the study would look at all transportation modes and challenges, not just alternative modes of transportation. There were no studies done for cars. She argues the SAC didn't have much involvement.

Jeanne disagrees. Zef was clear this was primarily pedestrian, bicycle and transit related. He didn't make promise about this being a full fledged traffic study. Jeanne ensures that the interests/needs of the SAC are included in the project via online comments and correspondence with city staff.

Phil points out that the neighborhood transportation committee has been tracking the various projects proposed by NWIM. He urges the SAC to weigh in on all aspects of the planning process. The NWIM website is comprehensive and asks for feedback/comments.

Kathryn says the NWIM team is taking the feedback received through the online open house, more than 1,200 individuals looked at it and provided 1000 individual comments. She will share the summary with the committee. In the fall there will be a more detailed draft plan. Additionally, the SAC will be hosting a joint open house with NWIM. This topic will be on every month's agenda until the project is completed to ensure the SAC is involved.

Don: "I don't understand a couple things. What is a test and what is part of the other project. There's that diverter at 20th and Everett, which is ridiculous. Is that part of NWIM test or is that something else?"

Rick answers no and adds that it's confusing because there are a series of projects already approved that don't show up on NWIM. There isn't a master list of all projects being proposed in NW.

Don: "How do we know when something is permanent? Was it a test, now is it time for comment? It caught a ton of us by surprise. It really is creating a situation where, the other day I had to get my daughter at the entrance of Couch Park, and at 20th you can't go left. It took me 2 ½ more minutes in my car, polluting and the whole thing and creating more traffic. There were a lot of cars doing the same thing, so you're diverting a lot of traffic and the whole thing. But I felt like, where did this come from? Where do I comment? Is it a test, is it permanent? Is it NWIM?"

Lisa adds 23rd Ave is very backed up, as is Everett.

Kathryn says there is a commitment to study the impact of the Flanders greenway and develop thresholds to determine the use of the Everett bike lanes.

Jeanne says that from her experience, public feedback is being taken seriously. If there are concerns about certain projects, committee members should be voicing them.

Don: "This is more of the same. The more of doing for good, in terms of transit, pedestrian mobility and biking, you're forgetting the car once again and the dislocation that it creates. The backups on Everett and 23rd, it was outrageous the other day, and very clear what is happening to the city when one person shut down the entire city. The whole city was backed up. There is no secondary flow at all being created for passive travel. If you look at streets with bike lanes, it was backed up all the way from downtown, up Everett. It was a disaster. A real concern is, as much as the intent is good, is creating situation not only in our district, where you can see little things like this Everett thing popping up. Keep that in mind."

Rick concludes the discussion by urging the members to look at the website and add comments. He asks members to take note of one project they like, one they don't and one they would like to add.

Timbers Parking Study Boundaries

Kathryn explains that Owen from Rick Williams Consulting (RWC) drafted a proposal for collecting Timber's parking data.

Owen wants to test the effectiveness of the event day district. A study will be conducted during a weekday gameday, weekend gameday and a nongame day. There will also be an intercept survey. He hopes to get the SAC's feedback on the proposal. The objective is to conduct as much of the study as possible in August. The plan is to start collecting data 2 hours before the game, 2 hours during the game and 1 hour after the game. This will be a utilization study so license plates will be recorded to determine length of stay. Permits will be recorded to determine resident vs. visitor parking.

Nick asks why the plan is to collect data 2 hours before a game. The public feedback received is that fans come to the neighborhood much earlier in the day and hang out beforehand.

Owen explains that if a fan parks 2 hours before a game and the game is 2 hours, they would be at risk of violation by the time they get to their car.

Don: "Is it limited to August only? I'm a bit concerned taking any of those counts in August because a lot of people might be out of town on vacation."

Owen answers that data collection is not just limited to August, the challenge with September is that there are only 2 weekday games, but those are not until late September.

Don: "Since you're doing both months it would seem like it's not an issue."

Rick asks how members feel about collecting data in September vs. August.

Members agree that all games are sold out, even if a lot of people leave town in August, visitors/tourists make up for the lack of residents.

Don: "You have two things, even though Timbers are sold out, are you going to get full attendance of those games in August that you would for the same game in September?"

Jeanne assumes there would be higher attendance in August because traditionally, rain starts in September and attendance may be lower.

Rick says data collection should occur in August this year, this decision will be re-evaluated before next year's data collection efforts.

Owen continues by explaining the areas of the neighborhood that will be surveyed. Members voice concern with the proposed data collections locations, perhaps data shouldn't be collected so far north.

Owen continues to the intercept survey. The goal is to conduct intercept surveys the same time as the utilization study, depending on staffing. If that is not possible, the surveys will be conducted within the same window. The attempt is to capture all different users to the neighborhood, not just fans.

Rick shares excitement about this study, the information will be valuable to know. He adds that it would be nice to know which businesses do well and which don't during game days.

Kathryn suggests working with the business district to potentially create a survey for businesses.

New Bylaws

KDC informs the committee of the city's new mandate for bylaws. She merged the SAC's existing framework with the new bylaw template and shares the draft with the committee. All changes are highlighted in yellow and she asks the members for their feedback.

Members share the following concerns:

- The bylaws mention permit surcharge revenue but not meter funds. Meter funds should be included in the language. Additionally, the language should specifically state that funds will only be spent in NW.
- If the years of service may not exceed eight consecutive years, having term limits of three years is confusing. Would the final term need to be terminated prematurely?

- The current language reads meeting must occur 12 times a year, the SAC asks for a more flexible number, such as 10-12 meetings per year, to ensure they are not in violation of the bylaws if one meeting is missed.
- The disclosure of conflict each time an issue is discussed seems unnecessary because this is a stakeholder advisory committee and all members have conflicts of interest.
- Kathryn thinks there can be a workaround, she can make a blanket statement at the beginning of each meeting and have written conflict of interest letters from all members. She will have physical copies of the letters with her at all meetings if anyone from the public would like to see them.
- Will the vice-chair be elected or appointed? There seems to be favor for the SAC to make recommendations and have the Bureau Director appoint.
- Members agree that transparency is essential to deliberations but pushed back on being required to notify the liaison of verbal communication with interest groups and all communications with media.
- It is understandable that email communication should be retained, but the SAC members are not interested in having email accounts specifically for NW SAC related items. They question if Kathryn's record retention of all emails is enough.
- Additionally, being required to keep all meeting documents with written personal notes from individual members seems unnecessary. Would a member be required to keep notes from two years ago if they scribbled a calculation on the form?

Nick asks what would happened if the committee isn't agreeable to the new bylaws. Rick says he would go before council to explain why the committee can't agree to the new bylaws. If that is the case, he urges the members to make a strong case arguing against the bylaws.

Meeting adjourned.