

1 **Philomath Public Works Committee**
2 **MINUTES**
3 **March 5, 2020**
4

5 **CALL TO ORDER:**

6 Mayor Eric Niemann called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at
7 Philomath City Hall, 980 Applegate Street, Philomath, OR.
8

9 **ROLL CALL:**

10 City Councilors Chas Jones and Doug Edmonds and Mayor Eric Niemann (via teleconference).
11 Staff: City Manager Chris Workman, Finance Director Joan Swanson, Public Works Director
12 Kevin Fear, Public Works Operations Supervisor Garry Black, and City Recorder Ruth Post.
13

14 **MINUTES:**

15 **MOTION:** Councilor Jones moved, Councilor Edmonds second, to approve the minutes of
16 February 6, 2020 as presented. Motion APPROVED 3-0 (Yes: Edmonds, Jones and Niemann;
17 No: None).
18

19 **TREE BOARD BUSINESS:**

20 None.
21

22 **PUBLIC WORKS BUSINESS:**

23 **Safety and Streetscapes Project Active Transportation Bike Route Option** – Mr. Workman
24 introduced Jenna Berman an active transportation specialist with ODOT. He summarized her
25 involvement in bringing additional bicycle and pedestrian safety amenities to the Downtown
26 Streetscapes plan. He described the efforts of Ms. Berman to develop a plan to include active
27 transportation amenities in the scope of the streetscapes project. Ms. Berman distributed a
28 handout describing the potential amenities that would be add to the streetscape and paving
29 project (Supplemental Agenda Item). She reviewed the roadblocks that the current
30 transportation system through Philomath creates for bikes and pedestrians and the new
31 guidance that is coming out of ODOT to address such situations.
32

33 Ms. Berman reviewed the proposals already identified in the City's Transportation System Plan
34 related to bike and pedestrian projects along the highway. She proposed shifting the alignment
35 to create a separated bikeway on the south side of Applegate from 15th to 13th, then north to
36 connect to Main. She explained the need for support from the community before moving from
37 the conceptual stage to the detail and engineering stage.
38

39 There was discussion about the C2C hiking route through Philomath and the value of keeping
40 bike and pedestrian traffic on the main thoroughfare to access businesses. There was
41 discussion about the proposed 10 foot wide path with a 2-foot concrete buffer/curb.
42

43 Ms. Berman presented preliminary layouts showing the conceptual project designed within the
44 existing right-of-way. She noted that these are preliminary layouts and there are still significant
45 details to be determined. She provided examples of similar projects in other Oregon cities and
46 elsewhere.
47

48 Ms. Berman described interactions with the ODOT Area Manager and other members of the
49 Active Transportation team. There was discussion about cleaning and maintenance of paths like
50 this.

1
2 Mayor Niemann questioned coordination of engineering efforts. Ms. Berman explained that
3 ODOT would add money to the project and the engineering would be incorporated into the
4 City's overall streetscape plans. She explained that her budget for the project would be
5 \$500,000 and be intended to cover the addition of the active transportation project amenities.
6

7 Councilor Jones questioned if additional lighting and reflectors would be added to ensure high
8 visibility in that area. There was discussion about questions regarding lighting. There was
9 discussion about the Applegate and 15th crossover from a safety perspective, including the
10 potential for a rapid-flashing pedestrian-activated light to cross Applegate near McDonalds.
11

12 Ms. Berman reviewed assumptions and questions that would need to be addressed as identified
13 in the handout. Mayor Niemann questioned the actual bike count already trafficking on
14 Applegate and Main Street. Mr. Workman suggested that CAMPO has just purchased bike
15 counting equipment. There was discussion about challenges in identifying existing routes. Ms.
16 Berman noted the current route is an incomplete network for bicyclists.
17

18 Mr. Workman described an alternative route directing bike traffic north at 17th Street to use the
19 existing crosswalk light. Ms. Berman described the issues related to bikes being placed on the
20 two-way five-lane section of the highway. She described an alternative of moving the bike lane
21 inside of the parked car lane that is being utilized in Portland but requires consistently heavy
22 parking usage.
23

24 Ms. Berman described new standards for bike and pedestrian amenities. Councilor Edmonds
25 requested to see more of the proposal with the streetscapes design. Ms. Berman described
26 issues with the timeline for the overall project and her interjection into the project. There was
27 discussion about the tight timeline involved. Mr. Workman described problems that are known to
28 exist with current bike and pedestrian flow.
29

30 Councilor Jones suggested adding extension of the bike pathway on Applegate all the way to
31 15th Street. Ms. Berman agreed but noted that her constraints are limited to being adjacent to a
32 state highway and there wouldn't be any state funding for that. There was brief discussion about
33 the planter strips along the south side of Applegate from 15th to 13th. Ms. Berman described the
34 differences between using a wider sidewalk and a separated bikeway path.
35

36 Ms. Berman reviewed other crossing improvements as included in the handout. She requested
37 the Committee provide feedback about the proposed areas. Mayor Niemann added concerns
38 about the crosswalk at 14th and Main exacerbated by the location of the bus shelter, and the
39 lighted crossing at 16th and Main. Ms. Berman explained the 16th and Main intersection is
40 outside of the streetscape project limits but an updated lighting pattern might qualify for a Safe
41 Routes to School grant. Councilor Jones noted concerns about the crossing at 9th and
42 Applegate. Mayor Niemann added the 9th and Main crossing striping. Ms. Berman explained the
43 question is primarily for additional enhancements where there is not currently a light.
44

45 There was discussion about extension of bulbouts on Main to 7th Street to help control speeds.
46 Councilor Edmonds described concerns about pedestrians walking on the highway shoulder
47 from west of 53rd Street to the eastern city limits.
48

49 Ms. Berman suggested having her traffic engineers review the additional input from the
50 Committee and developing estimates to provide additional opportunity for the Committee to
51 weigh in. By consensus, the Committee provided initial support for the bikeway path. Mayor

1 Niemann suggested using one of the digital speed signs to gather speed data on the corner
2 around McDonalds and the Credit Union.

3
4 **MOTION:** Councilor Edmonds moved, Councilor Jones second, to support the shifted bike path
5 concept as presented. Motion APPROVED 3-0 (Yes: Edmonds, Jones and Niemann; No:
6 None).

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8 **SDC Consultant Update –** Mr. Workman described the proposals that were emailed out to the
9 Committee from FCS Group and Curt McLeod. He requested feedback from the Committee
10 regarding any additional information needed to reach a decision on a consultant.

11
12 Mr. Workman described the methodology presented by Mr. McLeod compared to the current
13 methodology and the similar methodology FCS Group proposes. Councilor Jones questioned if
14 Mr. Workman had more confidence in one consultant over the other. Mr. Workman stated he
15 had no reservations about going with the less expensive option proposed by Mr. McLeod.

16
17 Councilor Edmonds described the differences he noted between the information provided by the
18 two consultants and the major price-point difference between the two. There was discussion
19 about the defensibility of the two approaches and the ability to explain them to developers. Mr.
20 Workman recommended contracting with Mr. McLeod.

21
22 Mayor Niemann noted any new methodology would be an improvement over the current one.
23 Mr. Workman described the age impact of the current methodologies and the conflict between
24 the schedule and the current project lists. Mr. Workman described the end-result determination
25 by the Council when implementing them and the impact of potential grant funding.

26
27 Mr. Workman described bringing the consultant in to determine which priority projects to include
28 in the methodology within the intended timeframe.

29
30 **MOTION:** Councilor Jones moved, Councilor Edmonds second, to move forward with Curran-
31 McLeod. Motion APPROVED 3-0 (Yes: Edmonds, Jones and Niemann; No: None).

32
33 Mr. Workman clarified that the final methodologies will go to the City Council for implementation.
34 Councilor Jones noted that the 100% difference between the bids was a substantial factor in
35 reaching his decision.

36
37 **CIP Equipment Improvement Schedule –** Ms. Swanson explained that the facility and
38 equipment schedules were inadvertently not included in last month's packet. Mr. Black reviewed
39 the equipment recommended for replacement in the coming year. He described the repair
40 issues that are escalating on the vac truck and the recommendation to replace it a year early.
41 There was discussion about the repair issues related to the vac truck. Mr. Black described the
42 critical need for the vac truck and the concerns when it needs to go in for repair. He noted that
43 replacement of the dump truck has been moved out farther. He described the addition of a Park
44 Fund equipment schedule to begin saving for equipment needs there. He noted the repurposing
45 of the truck that was replaced last year and is now used as the flower basket watering truck.

46
47 Councilor Jones questioned the maintenance costs associated with the pickups to be replaced.

48
49 **CIP Facility Replacement Schedule –** Ms. Swanson reviewed the new schedule format for the
50 facilities schedule to put more emphasis on expected needs and less on saving for overall
51 building replacement. She described the space needs for city hall with a schedule aimed at

1 accomplishing a remodel in four to five years. Mr. Workman described additional storage and
2 office space needs. There was discussion about creating a plan, committing to saving the funds,
3 and moving forward with it.
4

5 Ms. Swanson noted there were no change anticipated in the police building schedule. She
6 described the needs for additional space at the library, along with the floodplain issues. She
7 noted a five year timeframe for that project. There was discussion about the space constraints
8 at the library. There was discussion about the city owning the building and the library district
9 operating the facility. There was discussion about grant funding availability for the library. There
10 was discussion about planning being in the early stages and the different expansion options that
11 have been considered over recent years. Mr. Workman explained he has reached out to the
12 library leadership for a preliminary meeting.
13

14 Mayor Niemann described the correlation between population growth and increased library use.
15

16 Ms. Swanson noted the facilities schedule for Public Works has not changed. She emphasized
17 the importance of the approved CIP being funded in the budget process.
18

19 Councilor Jones recommended holding off on the replacement of the GMC Canyon from the
20 water equipment schedule. Ms. Swanson stated that Mr. Fear and Mr. Black make a practice of
21 holding off on replacement of a vehicle whenever they can; but when they suggest it needs to
22 be replaced, they are typically correct. There was discussion about the Canyon being 10 years
23 old and having two vehicles needing to be replaced next year.
24

25 Mr. Workman explained the correlation between the Strategic Plan goals and General Fund Fee
26 goals to fund the CIP. He described the importance of keeping the goals as they were
27 presented to the public.
28

29 It was agreed that the two additional schedules should be moved to the City Council with the
30 previously approved CIP.
31

32 (Councilor Edmonds left at 4:50 p.m.)
33

34 **Other Business** – Mayor Niemann touched on ongoing efforts to resolve the visual conflict
35 between the summer flower baskets and the military banners hung from the acorn light poles.
36

37 Mayor Niemann adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

38 Meeting recorded by Ruth Post, MMC, City Recorder