



# Transportation and Mobility Commission

## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, September 3, 2024**

**4:00 p.m.**

**City Hall**

**Aspen Room**

**415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Vancouver, WA**

**Commissioners Present:**

Jeananne Edwards, Zack Gattton, Cory Grandstaff, Thinh Phan, Mario Raia, Derya Ruggles, Sara Schmit, Ken Williams

**Commissioners Absent:**

Devon Fender, Eduardo Ramos

**Staff Present:** Kate Drennan, staff liaison; Julie Nischik, staff liaison; Becky Rude, staff attorney

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm by Vice Chair Edwards.

**Motion** by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Schmit, and carried unanimously to approve the July minutes.

**TMC Co-sponsorship of Week Without Driving**

Kate Drennan, Transportation Planning Manager, Olivia Kahn, Travel Options Coordinator, Community Development Department

Staff presented an overview of the Week Without Driving and a request to the Commission to co-sponsor the week with Council.

Commission discussion and staff responses:

- Who is the intended audience for the Week Without Driving? Staff responded it's intended for everyone in the community, including elected officials and people with decision making abilities.
- Does C-TRAN also participate in this week? Staff responded they do.

## Members

**Eduardo Ramos**

*Chair*

**Jeananne Edwards**

*Vice Chair*

Devon Fender  
Zack Gattton  
Cory Grandstaff  
Thinh Phan  
Mario Raia  
Derya Ruggles  
Sara Schmit  
Ken Williams

## Community Development Department

415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 1995  
Vancouver, WA 98668  
360-487-7800  
TTY: 711  
cityofvancouver.us

**To request accommodation or other formats, please contact:**

Community Development Department | 360-487-7813 | TTY: 711 | TMC@cityofvancouver.us

- What does co-sponsorship mean? Staff responded in this instance it's an endorsement of the idea and an invitation to Council to also participate.

Motion by Commissioner Ruggles, seconded by Commissioner Schmit, and carried unanimously to recommend co-sponsorship of the Week Without Driving.

### **Parking Management Area Study & Downtown Parking Plan Update**

Gabe Montez, Parking District Manager, Economic Prosperity and Housing; Ben Weber, Parking and Mobility Consultant, Walker Consultants

Staff presented contextual information for why this study is happening now, overlap of this study with other planning efforts that affect downtown Vancouver, scope of the parking study, timeline for this project, an overview of the work completed to date, a review of existing conditions for utilization of on-street parking and private off-street parking, and recommended strategies including parking management operations, pricing strategies, shared parking initiatives, and mobility and access.

Commission discussion and staff responses:

- Support for progressive pricing but also concerned for servers and other low-wage workers who work on the waterfront.
- Support for a mobility hub at the waterfront.
- Support for partnerships with C-TRAN to facilitate a circulator transit option downtown.
- Why don't private lot owners rent out space during the weekend? Staff responded one reason is due to leases with tenants that prevent them from opening those spots to the public.
- Staff should consider the areas where parking is restricted and how that may affect neighboring areas that have fewer restrictions for on-street parking.
- Support and enhance mobility and access to the businesses on the waterfront.
- Freight and delivery vehicles park in mobility lanes. Think about prioritizing short term delivery spaces for the businesses in downtown to prevent use of mobility lanes for delivery.
- Did the parking study look at ADA spot utilization? Staff noted that ADA spots are counted during regular counts by staff and those were also counted as part of the parking utilization study.
- Is the goal of the study to accommodate growth and demand or removal of parking spots? Staff responded it is about efficiency. The City doesn't want to reduce parking spots but also don't want to build additional public parking.

### **29<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Streets Safety and Mobility Project**

Maggie Derk, Senior Transportation Planner, Community Development; Erin David, Consultant Senior Planner, Parametrix

Staff reviewed the project area, phase one of public engagement activities and themes, and proposed investments and pavement work on 29<sup>th</sup> Street.

Commission discussion and staff responses:

- On 29<sup>th</sup> Street at the I-5 overpass, what is the reasoning for such wide sidewalks, and could that space be better utilized? Staff responded it's possible to have narrower sidewalks on that section, and potentially add buffered or elevated mobility lanes. The vehicle lane is narrow to keep the speed at 20 MPH. There's also a consideration of consistency with the design of the rest of the corridor.
- Are you considering adding a pedestrian refuge at St. Johns Blvd? Staff responded the project staff are coordinating with the St. Johns and St. James project staff. They are still developing design plans and will support what is proposed there.

- Could the replacement bridge be narrower? The replacement bridge will likely be similar overall width but will relocate the space away from wider vehicle travel lanes to a balance among all users.
- What is the process for these future improvements to get onto the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)? Staff responded they are prioritizing the improvements that are within the paving extents first. The first step is to develop these plans and then they can be added to the TIP. Once a project is on the TIP it can be analyzed and prioritized based on the TSP prioritization criteria.
- Issues with traffic circles and buses and delivery vehicles navigating around those.

The presentation continued with proposed corridor investments on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Commission discussion and staff responses:

- What are the accessibility features built into flashing beacons? Staff responded there is an auditory signal for the users to know when it's safe to cross.
- Support for keeping the north/south stop signs on P Street and 33<sup>rd</sup> Street rather than making it a four way stop.
- Is the speed limit on 33<sup>rd</sup> west of Main Street proposed to be 20 MPH? Staff responded the proposal is for 25 MPH along the whole corridor.
- The slip lane at 33<sup>rd</sup> and St. Johns is dangerous for mobility lane users and would like to see it removed. Staff noted they would relay this message the project team that is working on St. Johns and St. James.

### **Community Forum**

Dan Packard was present to talk about pedestrian crosswalk design, bicycle parking guidelines and placement of bike parking racks, and maintenance of bike and pedestrian trail directional signage, specifically along the Burnt Bridge Creek Trail.

Kyle Herrlinger was present to talk about safety and vehicle speeding on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and lack of traffic calming measures as part of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Safety and Mobility project. He also supported the bike lanes on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and extending the mobility lanes westbound as well. He also noted lack of visibility at crossings on 29<sup>th</sup> Street.

Jason Cromer was present to provide comments on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Streets project and supports traffic diverters at the bridge to make it primarily for pedestrians and bikers. He also requested more information on emergency vehicle response times due to traffic circles. He supported raised and protected crosswalks as a standard in the City's toolkit.

Israel Lopez supported the Week Without Driving campaign. He asked about what type of detail and data is provided to staff and TMC regarding pedestrian/cyclist and vehicle accidents. He also noted the issue with Amtrak allowing bicycles on the trains has been resolved and you can now bring a bike on the Amtrak from the Vancouver station.

Tabor Kelly requested a bike lane on Brandt Road between Mill Plain and Fourth Plain. South of E 18<sup>th</sup> is clearer due to signage and parking enforcement, but north of 18<sup>th</sup> there is confusing signage and paint.

Jonathan Wheeler thanks the commission for their work to address active transportation options. He also spoke on parking as a resource to drivers. He also supported the Week Without Driving.

Debra Kalz supported dedicated handicap parking spaces for wheelchairs in downtown. She supported a shuttle from Clark College on weekends to access events such as the Farmers Market.

John Ley was present to comment on the light rail extension as part of the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program.

Alyssa Wheeler supported no right on red throughout downtown, the proposed plans for 29<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Streets, progressive pricing for parking in downtown, the Week Without Driving, and light rail access in Vancouver.

Kimberlee Goheen Elbon was present to comment on on-street parking directly in front of City Hall that has been converted to a fire lane.

### **Get There Vancouver – Residential Travel Options Pilot Program**

Olivia Kahn, Travel Options Coordinator, Community Development; Sydney Cape, Programs Specialist, Alta Planning + Design

Staff presented the program goals, pilot program timeline, program areas and audience, strategy and approach, outreach and partnerships, and participation thus far.

Commission discussion and staff responses:

- Can someone indicate they would prefer to receive the program materials in an alternative format, and can you decline the HOP card? Staff responded currently the form doesn't differentiate between print or electronic materials. If you sign up via phone, you can indicate a preference for format. You can also decline to receive the HOP card.
- Reliability of transit routes in the areas that are a focus for this program. Staff responded they work with C-TRAN to relay information regarding reliability, but solutions can't be immediately implemented to fix those issues.
- Support for a scavenger hunt or some type of activity to encourage people to use transit to access businesses along the corridor.
- Partnership with local businesses as part of this program and support for installing bike racks at the businesses.
- Why is moving residences the target audience for this program? Staff responded people are more likely to try new things when there is a shift in their lifestyle. This program is modeled on Portland Smart Trips which uses moving as a "life change" event, and the grant was written to compare with Portland's data and model. However the program also includes all residences within a quarter mile of the bus rapid transit lines in the pilot areas, as they have the lowest barrier to accessing the transit resource.
- Can someone who is houseless participate in this program? Staff responded a mailing address is a key factor to send the HOP card, but staff could coordinate with the individual to pick up the card. Another strategy would be to connect the individual with a program through C-TRAN to get a transit card with a longer use timeline.
- Is the goal of the program to increase transit use or increase the number of people paying to ride the bus? Staff responded the goal of the program is to encourage people to bike, walk, carpool and take the bus more often. There is no revenue goal associated with the program.

### **Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program Update**

Katherine Kelly, Senior Transportation Policy Advisor, Lori Severino, Senior Planner, Community Development

Staff presented a brief update on the program, a short program history, purpose and need, program components, the modified locally preferred alternative (MLPA), schedule and timeline, the environmental

review process and ways for the public to participate and provide comments on the environmental statement.

Commission discussion and staff responses:

- Do you expect the comment period to be delayed again? Staff responded they expect the draft environmental impact statement will be released in the next couple weeks and not be delayed again.

### **Commission Communication**

Commissioner Phan requested an overview of the standards for ADA curb ramps at the City.

Commissioner Gatton mentioned the proposed new bridge shelter near the mall and the need to increase sidewalks and repair the sidewalk gaps in that area to provide safe ways for people to walk.

### **Staff Communication**

Kate Drennan noted the next TMC meeting will be on October 29, rather than November 5, due to that being election day. Becky Rude reviewed the policy on public facility use restrictions for political activities.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Signed by:

*Jeananne Edwards*

12/5/2024

732A5A2697B2461...

---

Jeananne Edwards, Vice Chair