

**BIKEWAYS AND WALKWAYS COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2021 at 12:00 PM**  
**Council Chambers**

**Member Attendance:**

Keith Yoho (Chair)  
Bob Lange (Vice Chair)  
Lesley Orr  
Chip Dennerlein  
Cliff Kuhlman  
Dana Christensen - Absent  
Heidi Morris - Absent  
Melissa Pingree  
Eric Parrinello

**City/Staff/Council Liaisons:**

Brian De La Grange (City Council)  
Daren Fowler (County Commissioner)  
Wade Elliott (Public Works Assistant Director)  
Rob Brandes (Jo Co Public Works)  
Jenna Stanke Marmon (ODOT) - Absent

**Public:**

Trish Paredes – Board of County Commissioners Office

1. **Roll Call:**
  - Chair Yoho opened the meeting and took roll.
2. **Introductions:**
  - None.
3. **Public Comment:**
  - None.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - Approval of minutes from February 9, 2021

**MOTION/VOTE**

**Vice Chair Lange moved, and Member Orr seconded the motion to approve the minutes from February 9, 2021. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Yoho, Vice Chair Lange, Members Orr, Dennerlein, Kuhlman, Pingree and Parrinello. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Christensen and Morris. The motion passed.**

5. **Action Items:**
  - Review Committee applications (if applicable)
    - a. Wade stated that the open position has been advertised and two applications have been received. However, City policy is to have at least three applications, so the position has been advertised again.
    - b. Chair Yoho asked if there were any questions needing to be answered on the 118 Project off Lower River Road. Wade said all questions have been answered. There was discussion on grant deadlines for the Recreational Trails Program. Wade commented that there is a new Grant Writer for the City, Susan Clark.
    - c. Wade stated that City Council would like committee members to be aware of what will be discussed at the City Council meetings and workshops so members can attend if they would like to. Agendas are included in the handouts.
    - d. Councilor De La Grange gave an update on Dollar Mountain. He said the Council asked staff to get some additional information about the accounting for the project and what has happened so far. The Council will review that before they move forward.

- Transportation System Plan (Allen Creek / Fairgrounds Area)
  - a. Wade presented the 2040 Transportation System Plan. The plan is online for public viewing. There was an open house in person and online for public input. The vision is to keep Grants Pass healthy and vibrant and the goals and objectives are to create a plan that will encompass all forms of transportation. This Transportation System Plan is incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan, which is the City's Comprehensive Development Plan. Projects are subject to the annual budget. He said on a larger level, they are part of the Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization which has its own regional transportation plan, which feeds off some of the City's projects. From there, it goes into a statewide plan, which would be their STIP, Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. He talked about street classification and their uses, different types of bicycle facilities and alternative transportation loads. There was a study of the pedestrian system and pedestrian level of traffic stress. This study also looked at pedestrian and vehicle accidents. Most of these were in the downtown area. They did the same for bicycles and tried to project where the system may fail in the future. The South Y was an issue. They also discussed the fourth bridge. They looked at location and the current location at the fairgrounds was the best. He talked about the Multimodal System Plan. They drafted a preferred alternative list to fix some of the problems and brought this to the public for comment. He discussed funding and noted that gas taxes have gone down since Covid. They have two tiers of projects. Tier one is the 100% list, which is what they can fund in the 20-year horizon. Tier two list is the 150% list, which is like a wish list. Wade showed the overview of the final plan and what was adopted of the pedestrian systems projects. He showed the bicycle system projects and the street system projects, stating that every time a road is upgraded, they install sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and bike lanes. Wade talked about the three projects surrounding the fairgrounds. The first one is the bridge approaches, which is in the Tier one. The next project is West Park Street which is also a Tier one. They will upgrade the existing street and tie it into Allen Creek Road and the fourth bridge corridor. The last one is the Redwood Avenue realignment. This is a holdover from some of ODOT's previous plans, specifically the 199-expressway plan. Discussion followed.
- Formation of sub-committees to address committee goals
  - a. Chair Yoho suggested having three committee members volunteer to be on each sub-committee since this committee has nine members. Councilor De La Grange stated that Dollar Mountain has trails but it is a Park, and both this committee and the Parks Committee have focused on this project and he isn't sure if that duplication is necessary. Chair Yoho said this committee is a combination of both connectivity and destinations. Discussion followed. Chair Yoho stated that the proposed subcommittees are the Pedestrian and Bicycle Commuting Connectivity, the Trail Development and Recreation, and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advocacy. Chair Yoho will send an email asking members what their preferences would be and finalize the members of the subcommittees next month.
- TMB Racing / Flying Lark / Josephine County Fairgrounds Development Plans

- a. Wade stated that Phase I has been approved. There will be an extension of Flower Lane with parking and horse stalls. There will be an extension of the track as well. They have submitted a Phase II, which will have to come before the committee. Phase II will include a larger parking area with horse trailer parking and temporary use horse stalls. Member Orr commented on the mud tracked on the roads and bike lanes from vehicles driving in and out of the area. She asked if there was anything in their plan to try to limit that in the future. Wade isn't aware of anything in the plan at this point.

## **6. Matters from Committee Members and Staff:**

### City/County Project Update –

- Wade Elliot provided an update on City Projects
  - a. Wade stated that the Western Avenue Sewer Project is moving forward. Spruce Street is paved, and Western will get ADA upgrades as well as repaving the entire street. The sewer is installed, except for Bridge Street, which will be closed the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a detour for several days to hook up a force main on Bridge Street. After this is complete, they will work on stormwater and getting the road ready for paving. Wade is hopeful that they will be able to close the project in the next month. Wade stated that the shared use bike path from Midland to Vine Street has been installed and they will be getting the GIS maps updated to show that. They are waiting for good weather to put the thermoplastic down. Contractors are laying down the Greenfield Drive waterline, where they will be boring underneath I-5. He said they received 100% plans on Beacon Drive Waterline Replacement Project. This will be advertised for bids next week and they are looking to award the project in April. Wade stated that after the City has installed the waterlines, the County will be able to move forward with their Beacon Drive improvements. The City sent out a Site Package to clear the new Water Treatment Plant Site. This will involve building demolition, grading and stormwater work. Wade said the B Street Sidewalk Project will be awarded at the next Council meeting. They will be installing sidewalks from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street up to Grant.

## **7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting**

- Finalize sub-committee members.
- Grant Information
- Review of Committee Handbook and By Laws options
- Transportation System Plan and how it affects the Allen Creek / Fairgrounds area.

## **8. Adjournment**

- Chair Yoho adjourned the meeting at 1:09 pm

**Next meeting date:** April 13, 2021 at 12:00 pm in the Council Chambers