



Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Planning Commission Members in Attendance: Trevor Wood, Art Adcock, Drew Hoffman, BreAnna Nixon, and Sarah Jorgensen (Attending via Zoom).

Others in Attendance: Community Development Director Jason Bond, City Manager Ben Reeves, Recreation Director John Bradley, Kai Tohinaka, Jodi Reed and Dan Olson.

Commission Chair Wood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Inspirational Thought/Invocation: Dan Olson offered an invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Adcock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum: Commission Chair Wood opened the Public Forum at 7:02 p.m. There were no comments, so he closed the Public Forum at 7:03 p.m.

Active Transportation Plan Discussion

The Planning Commission will hold a discussion regarding potential updates for the Active Transportation Plan.

Mr. Bond explained that last year Santaquin City applied for a grant through Mountain land Association of Government (MAG)'s Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) and were awarded it. Santaquin City subsequently awarded Parametrix the contract to update the cities active transportation plan. Mr. Bond introduced Mr. Tohinaka a Transportation Planner from Parametrix who has overseen the assessment of the current active transportation plan and who will help propose and create an updated plan for Santaquin City.

Mr. Tohinaka outlined Parametrix' process for updating the Active Transportation Plan which includes, an analysis of existing conditions and plans, recommendations for the new plan a draft report, and finally a final report and adoption. He stated that realistically, they will be wrapping up the plan in November of this year. Mr. Tohinaka explained that they plan to meet with the Planning Commission a total of 3 times.

Mr. Tohinaka presented the findings from their tour of the City in April (See his presentation in Attachment 'A'). He explained that they Identified the key destinations, as well as existing infrastructure within the City in terms of active transportation. He pointed out that currently, there aren't any on street bicycle facilities. Mr. Tohinaka explained that they inventoried sidewalks as well as the right of way and unpaved shoulders in the core area of town. He added that they also identified the crosswalks within the city.

Mr. Tohinaka highlighted key hotspots for cycling activity as well as pedestrian trips. He explained that they also analyzed the crash records from UDOT. He stated that the crashes were sporadic as far as location and time frame. They then consulted, the Safe Routes to School routing maps. Main Street was identified as a hot spot for crashes, specifically during school hours. Mr. Tohinaka explained that since Main Street is the boundary between two elementary schools, kids shouldn't have to cross Main Street to get to school.

Lastly Mr. Tohinaka explained that they look at the existing plans: These include the 2016 Parks and Recreation Trails Open Space Master Plan. The South Utah County Active Transportation Plan. The MAG Transplan 2050 and finally, the U.S. Bicycle Route 77.

Mr. Tohinaka indicated that moving forward, they will work on solidifying the plans, conducting a needs and gaps analysis, and then moving into recommendations. At which point they will reconvene with the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Nixon asked if there is a deadline for the grant? Mr. Bond clarified that the grant is funding provided by Mountain Land Associates (MAG) for this study. He explained that studies are different in that they don't have deadlines. Mr. John Bradley the Community Services Director, noted the value of this study, specifically regarding the outdoor recreation money that is available to the State of Utah. He stated that they are specifically looking at organizations that have plans.

Mr. Olson asked if the plan goes beyond hard paved surfaces to tie into forest and state land services? Mr. Tohinaka explained that they are looking at the opportunity to making those connections. He added that they want to take a closer look regarding the alignment of the Bonneville shoreline trail. He also recognized the confines to working within the city boundaries, while acknowledging the opportunities that are available. Mr. Bond expounded that there is Federal Legislation to provide money for the Bonneville shoreline trail. He added that this active transportation plan will help as developments move forward. Specifically having a plan in place regarding trail location, etc.

Commissioner Wood asked if there has been cross referencing to the USU 'Envision Santaquin' project. Mr. Bond answered that Mr. Tohinaka joined later, but he has updated him regarding that project.

Ms. Barbara Davis stated that she lives in Summit Ridge and is a regular bike commuter, she asked if there will be more opportunities to have trail connectivity between subdivisions. She also asked that joining various areas of Santaquin be considered in this plan. Mr. Bond explained that they would like to create as much trail connectivity as possible. He noted the difficulty of doing this within established subdivisions. Mr. Bond also added that trails must be built a little at a time because of cost, but this plan will make it easier to implement them in the future.

Commissioner Wood noted the lack of connectivity when biking through the City. Commissioner Adcock asked if the proposed extension of the Frontage Road to Exit 242 will help connectivity? Mr. Bond explained that it will as there will be an 8-10-foot-wide meandering path. He noted areas where this won't be able to be perpetuated to the North; but explained that they will do their best to perpetuate the trail. Mr. Bond explained that sometimes it is better to wait for the development to come in rather than trying to install it all at once.

Commissioner Adcock asked if there are restrictions from UDOT regarding installing a bike trail along Main Street. Mr. Tohinaka answered that Main Street is designated as a US bike route. This means that it will be put on UDOT's long range plans as active transportation improvement. He stated that with the current direction of UDOT, he believes they will be supportive of active transportation facilities on Main Street.

Mr. Olson noted safety concern from Summit Ridge to Highway 6 and into the city and asked if this project can be prioritized. Mr. Tohinaka indicated that they can communicate this with UDOT and ask them to elevate this project. He explained that since Highway 6 is a UDOT facility, it is important for the city to show its willingness and plans for the area.

Ms. Jodi Reed asked how a trail would fit on Main Street. Mr. Bond recognized the challenge of the width of Main Street. He explained that they will be looking for recommendations from Parametrix regarding how to best do this. Ms. Reed asked if it is typical to use paint to try and designate bicycle lanes, etc. Mr. Tohinaka stated that in some cases temporary improvements can be used in the planning effort. He clarified that a community wide study wouldn't typically look at specific examples, as they focus instead on identifying the main corridors. Mr. Bond stated that UDOT usually goes by numbers, and if there are numbers to justify providing bike lanes, etc. He noted that currently he doesn't see many bikers along Main Street.

Ms. Barbara Davis stated that she believes 'if you build it, they will come'. She expressed that if bike trails are built, she thinks it will get used, especially if growth continues in a similar manner. Commissioner Nixon agreed she stated that she thinks it will be important to expedite the connection to the 77 trail. She recognized the crowding of Main Street and asked if the trail could be routed onto a side road in certain areas where needed and then routed back into areas where there is enough right of way. Mr. Tohinaka gave the suggestion of routing a bike trail to 100 S. along the new City Hall,

Library, and right of way. Commissioner Nixon asked if UDOT would participate if it is on a side road instead of the Highway? Mr. Tohinaka explained that UDOT has created other options for funding other projects that are not along the Highway.

Commissioner Jorgensen pointed out that where Summit Ridge Parkway connects to Highway 6 there is the water treatment facility along the east side. She suggested that this trail be incorporated into the future park plan for this area.

Mr. Reeves asked if trails can cross railroad tracks? Mr. Tohinaka explained that Union Pacific is the main rail operator, who operate under that the understanding that existing at grade crossings be maintained, but any additional crossings would need to be grade separated by either a bridge or a tunnel. Mr. Reeves recognized a previous plan for connectivity from Summit Ridge Parkway to 500 S.

Commissioner Wood asked how the City plans to fund trail construction? Mr. Bond explained that the Trails Transportation Open Space Master Plan comes into play, because it puts and prioritizes projects that qualify to use impact fees for funding. He clarified that it is meant to work so that people who come into the city contribute towards the amenities needed to service a higher population. Mr. Reeves clarified that the city can maintain the same level of service per home and allocate fees through impact fees, but they cannot enhance the level of service. He outlined Staff's plan of funds coming through general plan resources, by growing the tax base. He clarified that once tax base takes hold it gives the city the ability to enhance its trails, parks and amenities.

Commissioner Wood asked how a city writes code in a way that requires trails to be implemented as development occurs. Mr. Bond explained that in some instances trails can be required rather than sidewalks. He noted that the PUD ordinance allows a give and take between the developer in the city. Mr. Reeves noted that all of the general plan updates, transportation plan, etc. are coming together. He referenced Heber City who provided their plans to a company who helped them update their code all at once in a way that matches all their plans. Commissioner Wood asked how these plans would be implemented into the code? Mr. Reeves answered that it would be included within the City Standards.

Commissioner Jorgensen asked if it is possible to require trails in a development that is not a PUD. Mr. Reeves explained that the city has worked with the developer along Highland Drive by obtaining property and right of way for future expansion. He explained that if the city wanted the developer to install this on day one, they would need to provide compensation for upsizing. Commissioner Jorgensen noted that trading trails for denser housing isn't the best option in her opinion. Mr. Bond explained that this would require finding different ways to fund recreational amenities which isn't always easy to do.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from

May 11, 2020

Motion: Commissioner Adcock motioned to approve the minutes from May 11, 2020.
Commissioner Nixon seconded.

Commissioner Hoffman

Commissioner Nixon

Commissioner Adcock

Commissioner Wood

Commissioner Jorgensen

The motion passed unanimously 5 to 0.

Mr. Bond explained that the general plan is moving forward, and the next step for the consultant is to work on scenarios. Another public meeting regarding the general plan will happen in August.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Nixon motioned to adjourn at 8:19 p.m.