



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR JANUARY 22, 2024

Present: Mayor Frank Bubenik, Council President Valerie Pratt, Councilor Bridget Brooks, Councilor Maria Reyes, Councilor Cyndy Hillier, Councilor Christen Sacco, Councilor Octavio Gonzalez

1. Tualatin Moving Forward Final Report.

City Engineer Mike McCarthy presented the final Tualatin Moving Forward report, outlining the completion of the program and the projects. He provided a summary of the projects completed, including the Tualatin-Sherwood Road/Nyberg St/I-5 lane addition, Boones Ferry Corridor sidewalk and bike lane projects, Highway 99: Pony Ridge neighborhood to 124th Avenue, 67th/68th Avenues loop at Stoneridge Park, the Sagert St Bridge/I-5 walkway, and a stormwater mitigation project. Engineer McCarthy also shared the report card document containing details of all 36 projects and their associated costs.

Councilor Pratt inquired about the sidewalk at Hwy 99, specifically asking if it is pervious. Engineer McCarthy confirmed that it is indeed a pervious sidewalk.

Mayor Bubenik asked what happened to the flashing beacon at Jurgen's Park. Engineer McCarthy stated it was damaged in the weather and hope to have it fixed quickly.

Councilor Reyes stated she received great feedback from the community on the art that was included with these projects.

Councilor Gonzalez thanked staff for their work on these projects.

2. Transportation System Plan Update.

Management Analyst Cody Fields, Consultant Katie Selin, and Consultant Brianna Calhoun provided an update on the Transportation System Plan (TSP). Consultant Calhoun introduced the TSP draft goals, which were developed based on the current TSP goals, related planning efforts, staff input, council feedback, and community participation. She outlined the five transportation goals: advance land use vision, provide a high quality of life, expand opportunities for safe multi-modal transportation, advance climate and health goals, and invest wisely.

Council President Pratt requested to include collaboration with other entities regarding major roads in the city that are not owned by the city in the goals.

Consultant Selin provided an overview of the engagement process, highlighting their current phase: "listen and learn." She mentioned attending various community events such as Viva Tualatin, National Night Out, and the Pumpkin Regatta to gather feedback. Additionally, they hosted an open house, focus groups, and conducted a survey to gather input on what the community would like to see addressed in the TSP. She stated key takeaways from the community include a desire for more walking, biking, and transit use, concerns about future roadway capacity and growth, and increasing traffic congestion. Consultant Selin stated safety for road users was also highlighted as a significant concern.

Consultant Calhoun shared information on the existing conditions inventory. She explained functional classification, which guides roadway features and mode prioritization. Consultant Calhoun stated since Tualatin's roadways are owned and maintained by multiple jurisdictions, coordination will be required. She also discussed Tualatin's transit services, which are operated by three different providers.

Consultant Selin provided details on Tualatin's existing pedestrian system, noting it is well-built with sidewalks on both sides of residential streets. She also discussed the existing bike system, primarily consisting of striped bike lanes on arterial and collector roads, with an extensive but disconnected off-street trail system. Consultant Calhoun then discussed collision density in Tualatin, highlighting areas of high collision concentration, particularly on Tualatin-Sherwood Road near downtown and 124th Avenue.

Council President Pratt expressed satisfaction with the pedestrian connectivity improvements facilitated by the bond program when reviewing the maps.

Councilor Reyes inquired about the high collision density at 124th Avenue, wondering if it was related to the construction in the area. City Engineer Mike McCarthy explained the congestion in the area has resulted in a higher number of rear-end accidents.

Councilor Brooks asked about the methodology behind planning projections. Consultant Calhoun explained they consider factors such as land use and associated traffic growth in their projections.

Councilor Sacco asked about the possibility of replacing stoplights with roundabouts. Engineer McCarthy stated that such alternatives could be considered in future planning.

Councilor Reyes suggested collecting data during the winter months to gain perspective on potential challenges during darker periods. Consultant Selin noted the survey was open until mid-November but agreed that seasonal variations should be considered.

Councilor Brooks expressed concerns about flooding issues on roadways, particularly in the area by Fred Meyer, and how this can be mitigated for the safety of both drivers and cyclists. She also raised the issue of considering other climate-related factors such as ice and branch debris. Engineer McCarthy stated that the issues in the area by Fred Meyer will be addressed through an upcoming capital improvement project.

Councilor Hillier sought clarification on bike routes and whether users were surveyed to determine how they were utilizing the routes. Consultant Calhoun clarified that the maps presented only showed the available routes and did not include user feedback.

Mayor Bubenik expressed interest in improving neighborhood circulation and connectivity, as well as collaborating with transit providers to enhance last-mile connections. He also suggested exploring the possibility of implementing "right on red" and reviewing safety data related to pedestrian collisions. Engineer McCarthy noted that other cities have considered such measures to improve pedestrian safety.

Councilor Reyes suggested elevated sidewalks for pedestrians and bicycles in Tualatin to help with safety.

Consultant Calhoun stated next steps including finalizing the existing conditions and TSP goals.

3. Prohibition and Regulation of Camping on Public Property Ordinance Check-In.

Deputy City Manager Megan George provided an update on the prohibition and regulation of camping on public property ordinance. She outlined the background of camping on public property and noted that an ordinance was passed in June establishing time, place, and manner restrictions. She stated the ordinance designated one camping area near the police department. Manager George stated since its adoption, there hasn't been an increase in camping frequency. She stated the city remains engaged with other cities in the area, noting others do not have suggestions for changes to their ordinances at this time. Manager George stated staff does not recommend any changes to the current ordinance.

Council President Pratt expressed agreement with maintaining the status quo.

Councilor Sacco inquired about the city's approach to offering services to those experiencing homelessness. Manager George explained that when calls related to homelessness are received, the city's code enforcement officer shares a brochure outlining available services.

Councilor Hillier asked about outreach to businesses or nonprofits in the core area regarding the ordinance. Manager George indicated there hasn't been specific outreach to businesses in the core area.

Council President Pratt suggested posting signage related to the camping ordinance. Councilor Hillier noted that the council had decided against permanent signage when the ordinance was adopted.

Manager George announced plans to bring forward an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with Washington County, Tigard, and Sherwood to establish a Homelessness Services System Liaison position. She stated the position will be funded by Washington County for the first three years and will primarily focus on supporting strategies through public relations, communications, and coordination with local services.

Councilor Hillier inquired about the language proficiency of the position. Manager George stated those details have not been fully outlined.

Councilor Brooks asked how the ordinance aids in securing funding for homelessness services. Manager George explained that the ordinance ensures the city is in legal compliance and positions it to receive funding for homelessness services.

4. Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications & Roundtable.

Councilor Gonzalez stated he attended the TSP Advisory Committee meeting.

Councilor Brooks stated she attended the Arts Advisory Committee meeting. She stated the Policy Advisory Board is rating applications and will meet this week to make determinations on funding.

Council President Pratt stated she attended the TSP Advisory Committee meeting, the C4 Metro meeting, and the C4 Tolling Sub-committee meeting.

Mayor Bubenik stated he attended the Greater Portland Inc. meeting, the Westside Economic Alliance meeting, and the Regional Tolling Advisory Committee meeting.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor