



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR JUNE 10, 2024

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

Mayor Bubenik called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

1. Transportation System Plan Update.

Management Analyst Cody Field, Consultants Brianna Calhoun, and Consultant Katie Selin presented information on project development for the Transportation System Plan (TSP). Consultant Calhoun briefly explained the components of a TSP, which include reviewing existing and future conditions, transportation goals and performance measures, project list creation and prioritization, funding availability, drafting the plan, and adoption. Consultant Selin shared the public engagement schedule, noting that the plan is currently in phase three of engagement. She stated they will be conducting an online survey, attending events, and holding an open house to confirm the vision they have gathered to date.

Consultant Calhoun explained how the project list is being built, including considering network gaps, projects in adopted city plans and programs, safety projects, and community desires. Consultant Selin stated pedestrian projects will include filling sidewalk gaps, enhancing pedestrian facilities in climate-friendly areas, and meeting crossing standards. She shared a map of pedestrian connections and examples of projects, including the 65th Avenue pedestrian and bicycle bridge and the Sagert Street Bridge pedestrian facility.

Consultant Selin stated bicycle projects will plan for a connected network of bicycle facilities that provides a safe, low-stress, direct, and comfortable experience for people of all ages and abilities. She shared a map of the proposed bike network and stated projects could include a separated off-street trail, path, or bridge, bike boulevards, and on-street bicycle facilities.

Consultant Calhoun stated the transit network is looked at in tiers: transit priority, regular service, and flexible service. She stated these projects focus on amenities, access to transit, and reliability while advocating for service improvements with the transit agencies. Examples could include making the WES station a central focus downtown and working with ride connection to provide two-way service.

Consultant Calhoun stated the vehicle projects are looked at by bringing roadway facilities up to standard, safety improvements, fixing congestion, and making signal improvements. She shared project examples such as upgrades to Grahams Ferry Road to meet roadway standards and building a bridge carrying Tualatin-Sherwood Road over the railroad and Boones Ferry Road.

Consultant Calhoun asked the Council what is important to them, what their top projects are, how they want them prioritized, and if there are any key projects missing.

Councilor Brooks asked if there is data on last-mile use from e-scooter usage and where they are being used the most. She also suggested looking at creative solutions for entryways to the downtown area.

Councilor Reyes inquired about Ride Connection and improved signage for its routes. She expressed the need for more feedback from the Jurgens Park area to ensure that all the community's needs are being met.

Councilor Sacco stated her top three priorities are the Tualatin-Sherwood railroad crossing, general transit improvements, and on-street bicycle facilities. She emphasized the importance of data on the impact and costs of projects to be able to prioritize them effectively.

Councilor Hillier prioritized projects that would improve traffic. She highlighted the need for better understanding of Ride Connections and other transit options. She expressed concerns about the lack of a bicycling culture in the city and stressed the importance of strict safety measures before adding more bicycle facilities.

Council President Pratt emphasized the need for safe routes to school as part of the bike connections. She also mentioned the importance of improving routes for ride connections and adding the South end of Boones Ferry to the project list.

Councilor Brooks agreed with the need for safe routes to school enhancements and suggested adding safe routes to parks as well.

Mayor Bubenik questioned why the WES station would be a central focus given its limited operation. Consultant Calhoun explained that the location is central and that the plan aims to facilitate connections with other modes of transportation. Mayor Bubenik stressed the need for improvements to Ride Connection routes to make them more extensive and frequent.

Mayor Bubenik asked if the SW Corridor is still included in the plan. Consultant Calhoun confirmed it is. The Mayor also wanted to ensure the TSP includes future plans for the CORA.

Mayor Bubenik inquired about the sidewalk plan and whether it covers neighborhood connections as well as the big picture. Consultant Selin confirmed that the project list includes all sidewalk gaps in the city, prioritized from higher traffic to lower traffic areas. The Mayor also asked if design standards for sidewalks need to be updated to be wider and include more benches.

Mayor Bubenik asked if the city could suggest specific routes to TriMet through the TSP. Consultant Calhoun stated that they could.

Consultant Calhoun outlined the next steps, which include integrating the feedback into the project list, continuing outreach to the Community Advisory Committee and the public, and beginning the prioritization of projects.

Councilor Gonzalez emphasized the importance of using all communication options to engage the community and suggested including messaging in the city's utility bills. Consultant Selin stated that they could include information in the next round of engagement through utility bills.

2. Overview of Upcoming Capital Projects.

City Engineer Mike McCarthy presented an overview of upcoming capital projects. He began with the water reservoir and pump station at the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) site, noting that the design phase will take a year with construction anticipated to start in 2026. Engineer McCarthy stated a transportation initiative at 65th/Borland/Sagert is planned with design just beginning and funding discussions set to take place in the near future. He outlined the Nyberg Creek storm improvements with the project beginning conceptual design this fall and winter to determine the best approach to addressing the issues in the area. Engineer McCarthy stated the Siuslaw water quality retrofit and the 99th/Coquille stormwater rehabilitation projects design contracts are expected to be finalized by late summer, with construction beginning in 2025. He stated the final project is the Martinazzi sewer construction and paving, with construction set to start next month.

Mayor Bubenik inquired about the closing of Martinazzi and how residents would be able to navigate the area. Engineer McCarthy responded that the closures would last for several months and closures would be limited to the immediate work zones as the project progresses from south to north.

Councilor Brooks emphasized the importance of community outreach and including public art in the reservoir build-out project. She also inquired about the Borland project and whether grants were available since it is near a hospital and a park. Additionally, she asked about the bottomless pipes at the Siuslaw project and how many such pipes exist in the city. Engineer McCarthy admitted he was unsure of the exact number but assured that the city works to upgrade them when they are identified.

Council President Pratt asked if the sidewalks would be usable during the Martinazzi project. Engineer McCarthy stated that sidewalk accessibility would depend on the specific stage and location of the project at any given time.

3. InPipe Micro-Hydro Turbine Project Update.

Public Works Director Rachel Sykes presented information on the InPipe Micro-Hydro Turbine project. She explained that InPipe is a company specializing in the design and manufacturing of hydro turbines. In this project, water moving through city water lines will be diverted through turbines, generating electricity. This electricity will then be 'net metered' back to PGE, providing the city with electricity credits.

Director Sykes stated the lifespan of these turbines is 30 years or more, and the city will maintain an annual maintenance contract to service the turbines. She noted that while hydroelectricity itself is not new, this specific application of the technology is innovative. She mentioned that the City of Hillsboro is already utilizing this technology and has reported positive results.

Director Sykes outlined the benefits of the InPipe system, including a short installation period, minimal ongoing maintenance, alignment with the city's climate action initiatives, high visibility, and ease of promotion. Additionally, the project can have a short payback period. The total cost for the design, purchase, and installation is \$690,295. She stated there are numerous external funding opportunities available through grants and incentives to help offset this cost.

Director Sykes shared information on the payback period, explaining how external funding could reduce the project's overall expense. She recommended moving forward with a sole-source

contract with InPipe Energy, noting that this contract is on the consent agenda for consideration at tonight's regular meeting.

Councilor Brooks inquired about the estimated dollar value of the energy credit. Director Sykes explained the 'net metered' system, noting that conservative estimates anticipate a payback period of less than the initial projection. Deputy Public Works Director Nic Westendorf clarified that the energy credit would amount to approximately \$55,000 per year.

Councilor Brooks also asked how many other potential sites in Tualatin could be candidates for similar installations. Director Sykes responded that they had evaluated seven other sites.

Councilor Reyes questioned where the generated electricity would benefit. Director Sykes explained that the electricity would be net-metered back into the grid and credited to the city on a 1:1 basis.

Councilor Reyes then asked what might potentially interrupt the device. Director Sykes assured that there would be no downtime as the pressure-reducing valve would take over and continue to function in case of any interruptions.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed concerns about the technology being proprietary and inquired about the estimated maintenance costs. He sought a more detailed ROI analysis on potential repairs for the device. Director Sykes stated she could inquire further with InPipe Energy.

Council President Pratt expressed enthusiasm about the project, highlighting its positive impact on the climate.

Councilor Brooks asked if there are other water power systems that could be considered for future projects.

4. Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications & Roundtable.

Councilor Gonzalez asked to have InPipe Energy contract removed from the consent agenda for further discussion and consideration.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor