



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR AUGUST 28, 2023

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 5:00 p.m.

1. Tualatin's Transportation System Plan Update.

City Engineer Mike McCarthy, Assistant Community Development Director Steve Koper, along with Cody Field, Brianna Calhoun, and Kara Hall from Fehr and Peers Consultant, as well as Katie Mangle and Katie Selin from Alta Planning and Design, presented an update on the Transportation System Plan (TSP). Consultant Calhoun outlined the overarching goal of the TSP, emphasizing its aim to be a practical plan that leads to concrete action. She explained the plan's objectives encompass the development of a comprehensive transportation network that is accessible to all users, forecasting how the system will function in the future while suggesting potential enhancements, establishing new goals and policies, creating a prioritized list of transportation projects, and proposing strategies for funding these improvements.

Consultant Calhoun also provided context for the TSP within the broader regional framework, highlighting its alignment with the Transportation Planning Rule (TPR), which governs land use regulations and the creation of a network of facilities and services to address overall transportation needs. She emphasized the TSP update would be in harmony with other existing plans, such as the Comprehensive Plan, and would be integrated with initiatives like the Climate Action Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, and various master plans. Consultant Calhoun emphasized the importance of ensuring the TSP's goals and objectives accurately represent community feedback, reflect both current conditions and future requirements, and provide clear guidance for staff and the council. She stated key components of the plan include a thorough review of existing and projected conditions, the evaluation of transportation goals and performance measures, an assessment of available funding sources, and the eventual adoption of the plan.

Council President Pratt inquired about the timeline for the project. Consultant Calhoun responded that they aim to have a draft plan ready by the next summer.

Councilor Reyes sought clarification on the current stage of the process. Consultant Calhoun explained they are currently in the process of reviewing existing conditions and evaluating goals and performance measures.

Mayor Bubenik asked about the process of transferring projects into the new TSP. Consultant Calhoun stated the project list is compiled from existing lists, projects identified through the analysis process, and city master plans.

Consultant Mangle outlined the public engagement approach which will be done in four phases: recruit and build reach, listen and learn to engage broadly, reflect and connect the dots, and

refine and share the draft plan. She stated they are currently in phase one where they are building their network and email lists. Consultant Mangle stated phase two is the listen and learn phase where they will be able to tell the story of the TSP and how it connects to the Tualatin Moving Forward Bond program. They will get input to inform the vision, goals, and projects needed in this phase. Consultant Mangle stated they will gather information from a community survey, in person workshops, mobile outreach events, focus groups, the advisory committee, and the Transportation Advisory Group coordination.

Councilor Brooks inquired about the possibility of a new transportation-related committee emerging from this process. City Manager Lombos mentioned that this idea had been discussed at the Council advance, and the current plan is to begin with the community advisory committee and explore the potential for it to transition into a more permanent committee.

Councilor Brooks asked if the needs of children would be considered in this process. Consultant Mangle confirmed they would incorporate considerations for youth mobility into their coordination efforts.

Councilor Brooks expressed interest in formally linking the Transportation System Plan (TSP) and the development plan, suggesting that integrating these conversations could be beneficial for the community.

Council President Pratt asked for the definition of "active transportation." Consultant Calhoun explained they define it as micro-transportation modes like scooters and bikes.

Council President Pratt inquired about the process for selecting members of the advisory committee. Consultant Calhoun explained they will review applications and aim to strike a balance between ensuring the group doesn't become too large while still allowing everyone to have meaningful involvement.

Mayor Bubenik offered feedback on which groups to include in the email outreach efforts. Council President Pratt suggested reaching out to the school district to incorporate the voices of youth in the process.

Consultant Calhoun provided an overview of the Transportation System Plan (TSP) priorities, stating these priorities will shape the plan's goals and objectives. She mentioned they started with the seven goals from the 2013 TSP plan as a starting point. Consultant Calhoun asked the council to consider whether these priorities address existing transportation challenges in Tualatin and align with the envisioned future of travel in the city. She shared draft priorities that include positioning the City to develop a transportation system in line with their land use vision, enhancing residents' quality of life, promoting multi-modal transportation opportunities, advancing climate goals, fostering regional collaboration, and maximizing investments.

Councilor Brooks expressed her approval of the draft priorities and inquired about aligning them with the Comprehensive Plan. Consultant Hall explained the intention is to ensure the TSP incorporates any changes in land use since the last update.

Councilor Brooks emphasized the importance of not only considering the quality of life but also ease of use in transportation.

Councilor Hillier stressed the need to prioritize safety, particularly with respect to different transportation modes.

Council President Pratt emphasized the importance of continuous safe routes for bicycles, road resiliency, public transportation, and the inclusion of electric vehicle charging stations in the priorities.

Councilor Brooks raised concerns about addressing diversion and railroad safety.

Councilor Sacco advocated for including a priority related to connecting businesses to ensure all businesses have opportunities to thrive.

Councilor Gonzalez highlighted the importance of considering connections to other cities.

Mayor Bubenik emphasized the need for collaboration among regional jurisdictions and inquired about the impact of CFEC on the plan. Consultant Hall stated it would be considered during the development of performance metrics.

Consultant Hall summarized stating safety is a priority and mentioned they will work on crafting updated goals based on the feedback received, which would be presented to the Council for consideration before moving on to policy development and collaboration with regional partners. Consultant Calhoun outlined the next steps, which include continued work on community engagement.

City Manager Lombos indicated the advisory committee will require one or two council members to serve on it. Mayor Bubenik asked for volunteers, and Councilor Reyes, Councilor Gonzalez, and Council President Pratt expressed their interest in serving on the committee.

2. *Electric Scooter Pilot Program Review & Next Steps.*

Deputy Public Works Director Nic Westendorf presented a one-year recap of the electric scooter pilot program. He stated the Council had previously approved an agreement with Lime to introduce electric scooters in Tualatin. He is returning now to seek the Council's consideration to extend the program. Director Westendorf highlighted community engagement efforts, emphasizing the promotion of good behavior and safety practices through social media channels and the app. He reported that formal concerns about the program were relatively limited, with most focusing on unsafe ridership behavior and scooter placement on sidewalks, causing limited accessibility. Director Westendorf praised Lime for being responsive to address issues related to scooters parked in inappropriate areas. He also mentioned that Lime had reduced the fleet size seasonally and suggested a potential 5-10 cent per ride cost increase in the future to cover operating expenses in Tualatin. Director Westendorf stated the current agreement with Lime is set to expire soon, and the next steps involve the Council deciding whether to extend the agreement or terminate the program entirely.

Councilor Brooks raised questions about scooter visibility for nighttime usage. Director Westendorf assured her that the scooters were equipped with headlights and taillights.

Councilor Brooks inquired about addressing unsafe ridership behavior and whether the police could issue warnings or citations. Director Westendorf explained the City treats scooters similarly to bicycles, with helmet laws applying.

Council President Pratt asked if there had been any accidents. Director Westendorf stated the City is not aware of any accidents.

Council President Pratt expressed concerns about scooters being parked at the Marquis area and asked if this area could be protected. Director Westendorf confirmed Lime could establish no parking zones or move scooters when necessary if they were parked inappropriately.

Councilor Gonzalez asked about healthcare coverage for city employees injured while riding a scooter. Director Westendorf stated the coverage process is similar to that for employees using city vehicles. He noted the City provides helmets for all staff.

Councilor Gonzalez requested information about the average cost of a scooter ride. Director Westendorf stated the average cost is \$4-\$6, including the unlock fee and the ride cost.

Councilor Gonzalez inquired about who stages the scooters. Director Westendorf stated that Lime's Tualatin-based private contractor handles all staging.

Councilor Hillier suggested creating specific parking zones for scooters and asked if such zones existed. Director Westendorf clarified that staging areas were identified by Lime, and Lime moves scooters to high-visibility parking areas.

Councilor Hillier questioned whether scooters were haphazardly parked due to running out of battery charge. Director Westendorf explained Lime automatically makes a scooter unavailable to users if it lacks the battery life for a typical ride.

Councilor Sacco asked about Tualatin's scooter usage compared to other cities and whether the program was as successful as in other Lime-involved cities. Director Westendorf did not have specific data for Tualatin's usage but noted that Lime had confirmed the program's utilization met expectations for a city of Tualatin's size.

Councilor Reyes raised concerns about limited parking for cars in the Stoneridge/Las Casitas neighborhood and suggested encouraging people to use scooters instead of cars.

Mayor Bubenik asked about the suggested extension period for the program. City Attorney Kevin McConnell confirmed that City Manager Sherilyn Lombos had the authority to extend the program for one year, based on city contracting rules. Mayor Bubenik requested that staff return with a recommendation for the best extension timeframe.

Council reached a consensus to approve an extension of the program.

3. Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications, and Roundtable.

Public Works Director Rachel Sykes reported on a wildfire in the Bullrun watershed area. She stated the fire has grown to 1600 acres, with 200 firefighters actively engaged in fighting it. She mentioned the fire is 0% contained currently and noted the wind is moving in a favorable direction to the south. Director Sykes assured the Council the water in the area is still safe to drink, and the City of Portland has a contingency plan in place if the situation changes.

Councilor Brooks inquired about concerns related to microorganisms potentially being in the water. Director Sykes reiterated the water is safe to drink at the moment and that they would continue to monitor it for turbidity events.

Councilor Brooks stated she attended the Climate Action Plan meeting.

Council President Pratt stated she attended the Climate Action Plan meeting.

Mayor Bubenik stated he attended the Metro Mayors Consortium and the Greater Portland Inc meeting.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor