



CITY OF OREGON CITY CITY COMMISSION JOINT WORK SESSION WITH THE CITY OF WEST LINN MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 6:00 PM

JOINT WORK SESSION WITH THE CITY OF WEST LINN

CONVENE WORK SESSION AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Lyles Smith convened the meeting at 6:04 PM.

Oregon City

PRESENT: 5 - Mayor Rachel Lyles Smith, Commissioner Adam Marl, Commissioner Denyse McGriff, Commissioner Frank O'Donnell, and Commissioner Rocky Smith, Jr.

STAFFERS: 6 - City Manager Tony Konkol, Public Works Director John Lewis, Community Development Director Laura Terway, Assistant City Recorder Jakob Wiley, City Engineer Dayna Webb, Economic Development Director James Graham

West Linn

PRESENT: 5 - Councilor Todd Jones, Councilor Mary Baumgardner, Councilor Rory Bialostosky, Council President Bill Relyea, Mayor Jules Walters

STAFFERS: 4 - City Manager Jerry Gabrielatos, Deputy City Manager John Williams, City Attorney Tim Ramos, Assistant City Engineer Erich Lais

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Council & Commission Introductions

Mayor Walters thanked all those that participated in the joint meeting.

Mayor Lyles Smith also thanked everyone and mentioned the reason for the joint meeting was the abundance of transportation related projects that affect both cities and that it was deemed appropriate to share information.

2. Staff and Consultant Introductions

Oregon City Manager Konkol and Public Works Director Lewis introduced staff and consultant Marc Butorac with Kittelson & Associates and West Linn Manager Gabrielatos introduced their staff.

3. Work Session Overview

Mr. Butorac provided a brief overview of the meeting agenda and objectives for both sessions which consist of ongoing/planned transportation updates.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. City of West Linn Updates

City of West Linn staff provided updates on ongoing and planned transportation projects and topics of interest along their waterfront, including:

1. Willamette Falls Drive Concept Plan Adoption

Mr. Lais provided information on pedestrian and bike improvements to Willamette Falls Drive. This project is not currently funded.

2. Waterfront Project/City Hall Historic District

Mr. Williams provided background on the visioning efforts of the district and some of the challenges West Linn has experienced. The plan for the former City Hall is to develop the building into a cultural center.

3. Willamette Falls Locks

Mr. Williams reviewed Oregon House Bill 2564, which established the public corporation of the Willamette Falls Lock Authority, with Governor appointments to be made by December 2021. The next steps are to secure start-up and capital funding.

Mayor Lyles Smith asked what the timeline was for the Willamette Falls Drive Concept Plan and Mr. Lais indicated there is not, as there is not current funding for the Plan. Thirty percent of the design has been completed. Mayor Lyles Smith also provided comments on potential considerations for bike pathways from a ridership perspective.

Commissioner McGriff asked for clarification on the alignment on Willamette Falls Drive and Mr. Butorac and Councilor Jones provided information and clarification on pathway placement.

5. City of Oregon City Updates

City of Oregon City staff will provide updates on ongoing and planned transportation projects and topics of interest along the waterfront, including:

1. Willamette Falls Legacy Project

Ms. Terway provided background on the Blue Heron site and the new ownership by the Grand Ronde Tribe and their visioning to create a cultural center in partnership with the four public agencies.

2. OR 99E Shared Use Path Project

Ms. Webb provided background on the project that addresses gaps in pedestrian and bicycle access along 99E and complete street design along McLoughlin Blvd. between 10th and the 99E tunnel. A regional flexible fund allocation grant was received for development of the final phase.

3. Economic Development and Tourism

Mr. Graham outlined the Strategy Plan which includes a new workforce development strategy called Talent Ready and the business retention and expansion program. Also outlined is the new Urban Renewal Development Plan.

4. Transportation Demand Management

Ms. Terway provided the background which included the goal of accommodating more activity downtown, increasing pedestrian and bike access downtown, supporting transportation options and managing parking resources. Ms. Terway reviewed the projects currently under development.

5. Downtown Oregon City Railroad Quiet Zone

Ms. Webb provided information on the safety improvements necessary to establishment of the quiet zone.

Mayor Walters commented that West Linn would like to partner with Oregon City on the Arch Bridge Anniversary celebration.

Councilor Bialostosky commented that he would like to see a joint effort to resolve traffic issues that affect both cities, especially when I-205 tolling begins.

Councilor Jones asked about the riverwalk as part of the Willamette Falls Legacy Project and Ms. Terway clarified that the four public partners are focused on only the riverwalk project.

Commissioner McGriff asked about reducing the speed on McLoughlin Blvd/99E as well as enhancing the three pedestrian crossings and Ms. Webb indicated there are potential design elements that could be investigated that may help both items. Rian Windsheimer with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) commented they will work with Oregon City to look at the potential of reducing the speed in that area.

There was additional discussion regarding the basalt wall formation on Willamette Drive and the implications of removing portions to expand access.

6. Oregon Department of Transportation Updates

Oregon Department of Transportation staff will provide updates on ongoing and planned transportation projects and topics of interest in the area, including:

1. I-205 Improvement Project Update

Mandy Putney, ODOT, provided an overview of the project that has the goals of earthquake-ready bridges, reducing crashes and reducing congestion and travel times. Discussed was the interim and long-term financing for Phase 1A construction.

2. I-205 Phase 1A Construction

Allen Hendy, ODOT, presented on the Phase 1A construction which includes widening of the Abernethy Bridge portion of the freeway and interchange/pedestrian improvements with Highway 43 and 99E. Mr. Hendy reviewed the noise variance and sound wall installations, property impacted by nightwork, and lane closures.

Commissioner Smith asked about sidewalk connections by Main Street by the sound wall installations. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Hendy provided information on the timeline and other construction details.

Mayor Lyles Smith asked if noise levels are tested during construction and Mr. Hendy indicated testing can be done if requested. Also discussed were email distribution lists to the neighborhood associations for construction updates.

Councilor Relyea asked about the potential of installing video surveillance measures to reduce speeding and crashes during the construction. Mr. Hendy indicated that ODOT will be working with the Oregon State Police and both cities' police forces to enforce the speed limits during the four years of the construction. Mr. Windsheimer indicated that ODOT does not have the authority to conduct video surveillance, but they can do the photo ticket process for speed violators.

Councilor Baumgardner asked what fish species will be monitored during the construction and Mr. Hendy indicated that all the primary species including salmon, will be protected as well migratory birds.

3. I-205 Tolling & Regional Mobility Pricing Policy

Lucinda Broussard presented on the tolling process which includes automated vehicle tolling by window tags and also video capture of license plates and billing by mail. Toll amounts are unknown presently but will be established before the process begins and will include rates by peak hours and off-peak hours. Tolling revenue will pay for the construction and transit and multimodal transportation options.

Mayor Walters asked about the tolling station locations and Ms. Broussard indicated the locations have not been determined. Mayor Walters asked about mitigating traffic diversion onto surface streets and Ms. Broussard indicated there was information forthcoming on the diversion strategy.

Councilor Bialostosky asked at what point tolling would be discontinued and if the revenue collected will stay in the local area. Ms. Broussard indicated the Transportation Commission will make determinations on both topics.

Ms. Broussard indicated tolling would likely not begin until 2025 or 2026 and also provided information on how citizens can get involved. Also discussed was impact scenarios of not doing the project versus doing the project and next steps linking the toll project to the I-205 improvements project. The tolling project is currently in the environmental assessment phase.

Councilor Baumgardner asked if there is any possibility the tolling process will not happen, due to the lack of alternative street routes. Ms. Broussard indicated tolling will be occurring on all metro area freeways beyond the project areas, so there won't be alternate street routes.

Commissioner McGriff commented that Oregon City had joined other local cities in sending a letter to ODOT earlier in the year expressing concerns and questions on tolling and Ms. Broussard indicated the letter had helped ODOT refocus the tolling program to cover most of the metro area freeways and not the construction areas alone.

Commissioner O'Donnell expressed concern on a variable rate tolling program, based on examples of variable tolling in other jurisdictions. Ms. Broussard provided explanation that dynamic pricing as done elsewhere, will be done with tolling here.

Commissioner Marl expressed concerns about documentation that states tolling is "indefinite" and other terminology that doesn't feel truthful to citizens. Commissioner Marl discussed funding and inflation costs.

Mayor Lyles Smith asked when tolling of other stretches of metro freeways will be subject to tolling and Ms. Broussard indicated approximately 2025.

4. OR 43 Improvement Project

Paul Scarlett provided background including design completion is anticipated in late-2022 with construction in late-2023. Pedestrian and bicycle and signal improvement will be done in two primary portions with Highway 43.

Councilor Baumgardner asked about how the I-205 construction helps the environment and Ms. Broussard responded that it reduces stop-and-go traffic which contributes more air pollution.

5. 100-year Anniversary of the Historic Arch Bridge

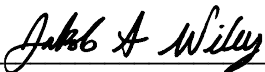
Paul Scarlett indicated ODOT is working with both cities to develop a celebration scheduled for late-2022.

Commissioner Smith commented that he had purchased an original 1922 invitation to the Arch Bridge opening.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lyles Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jakob Wiley, Assistant City Recorder