



CITY OF OREGON CITY

CITY COMMISSION JOINT WORK SESSION WITH THE CITY OF WEST LINN

MINUTES

Commission Chambers, Libke Public Safety Facility, 1234 Linn Ave, Oregon City
Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 6:00 PM

CONVENE WORK SESSION AND ROLL CALL

Commission President McGriff convened the meeting at 6:05 PM.

PRESENT: 9 - Commissioner Frank O'Donnell, Commissioner Rocky Smith, Commissioner Adam Marl, Commission President Denyse McGriff, Councilor Todd Jones, Councilor Mary Baumgardner, Councilor Bill Relyea, Council President Rory Bialostosky, Mayor Jules Walters

STAFFERS: 4 - City Manager Tony Konkol, City Recorder Jakob Wiley, Public Works Director John Lewis, City Engineer Dayna Webb, West Linn City Manager Jerry Gabrielatos, West Linn Public Works Director Lance Calvert

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Oregon City – West Linn Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge (30 minutes)

Councilor Relyea said that the upstream location suggested for the Oregon City – West Linn Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge has a lot of aesthetic value but may not meet the vision of creating transportation. He suggested significant roadway improvements would have to be made in Oregon City and West Linn before considering the upstream location. He suggested the downstream corridor would be better when considering transportation.

Commissioner Smith suggested that the downstream corridor would be less ideal for Oregon City. He added that the bridge is not funded, and that other transportation needs such as neighborhood sidewalks and water ferries should be considered in the city's transportation plan. He suggested the bridge may not be a priority for citizens of Oregon City.

Lance Calvert, West Linn Public Works Director, said the bridge meets the multi-modal requirements of I-205 tolling, but that transit is another requirement. He suggested that regional transportation plans may not be adequate to guide city transportation plans. He said acknowledging the bridge as part of a city transportation plan would not mean endorsing or enacting it.

Mayor Walters suggested that there is no multi-modal infrastructure on each side of the river to support multi-modal requirements and that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) should assist to fund this requirement. Mr. Calvert suggested that funding concerns could be included in the transportation plan.

Tony Konkol, City Manager, said that if both cities adopt the bridge into their transportation plans there is a proposal to take it to Clackamas County for adoption into their transportation plan, the Regional Transportation Plan, the trails plan and potentially the Oregon Highway Transportation Plan to help justify additional funding down the road.

Commissioner O'Donnell asked for clarification on what the bridge is trying to solve. He stated that the project is not grassroots but driven top-down from the state legislature and is unfunded. He questioned

ODOT's dismissal of alteration suggestions to the 205 bridge due to it not being cost effective. He suggested that future considerations for how both cities will progress should be taken into consideration when considering a landing point that would benefit both cities. He suggested more immediate transportation needs should be considered first but does not have a problem acknowledging the bridge as a project for future consideration.

Councilor Bialostosky suggested that considering the bridge does not necessarily mean endorsing it and said it is a good idea because there is a need for safe crossing of the river between Portland, Oregon City, and West Linn. He suggested including the bridge in city transportation plans in case future funding becomes available.

Councilor Bialostosky mentioned ODOT's proposal to provide additional means of transportation to citizens, so they do not have to use their cars and pay 205 tolls. He would like to call on ODOT for bridge funding to assist with alternate modes of transportation while they plan to charge for 205 tolling.

Commissioner Marl asked for clarification on who, according to the concept plan, would determine the location of the bridge. Dayna Webb, City Engineer said a final corridor alignment has not yet been determined due to time and funding. Ms. Webb said the next step would be to identify an additional funding source to refine this issue and determine where the corridor is placed. Commissioner Marl said that including two corridor locations in the plan might not be wise.

Councilor Jones asked if ODOT needs the bridge to meet the multi-modal requirements of 205 tolling. Ms. Webb said she understood that the multi-modal component of the 205 project was more than the project could fund and that the bridge project was intended to support this component.

Councilor Baumgardner likes the concept of multi-modal crossing and supports putting it in a plan if it does not supersede other projects. She said the project seems disconnected and like an afterthought and pondered what would happen if one city adopted it and the other did not. She said tribes would not like the bridge placed close to the falls and requested more information on what the tribal coalition wants before adopting the project.

Councilor Jones suggested that the bridge could be a potential bargaining tool with ODOT in months to come.

Commissioner McGriff said bridge questions still exist and that commissioners will work with City staff to get them answered through ODOT.

Councilor Relyea asked if ODOT would put the bridge in a regional or State transportation plan if the cities did not adopt it into their transportation plans. Commissioner O'Donnell suggested they likely would.

Mr. Calvert suggested that a preamble to the adoption of the bridge could include a summary of key talking points from tonight's work session. He stated the danger of putting a bridge on 205.

2. 100-Year Anniversary of the Historic Arch Bridge (15 minutes)

Commissioner McGriff said that 2022 is the 100-year anniversary of the Arch Bridge. Due to weather concerns, the celebration will take place in October instead of December.

Mr. Konkol provided updates regarding celebration logistics.

The next meeting is June 9, 2022.

3. I-205 Construction and Tolling Discussion (30 minutes)

Commissioner O'Donnell discussed the major theme at a Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4) Metro Subcommittee meeting which is that I-205 construction is unfunded and must be paid for via tolling. He said the impact of tolling on local citizens, especially those with lowest incomes, would be mighty.

Commissioner Marl said he is a representative of C4 and sits on the tolling diversion subcommittee. He said he has been pushing to see the economic impact study cited by ODOT.

Councilor Bialostosky said ODOT's studies are for the year 2045 and they do not look good. He said perhaps the cities can push for more timely and relevant diversion studies such as for 2028 or 2030.

Commissioner O'Donnell would also like to see more timely studies and explore the economic impacts of tolling on citizens and businesses.

Councilor Baumgardner highlighted discussions of equity and said that citizens who could afford the flexibility and financial burdens of tolling the least will be impacted the most. She said she has not seen mitigation measures for tolling on emergency service vehicles. She expressed concern that I-205 tolling will be implemented the same time as other regional tolling measures and said that pushback in Clackamas County is strong. She asked how businesses will survive if people avoid the corridor altogether and expressed concern about the impact of diversion on surface streets.

Commissioner McGriff said that tolling should not be foisted on local citizens and that many questions asked of ODOT have not been answered.

Commissioner Marl asked if an in-person meeting with Oregon City, West Linn and ODOT could be scheduled. Councilor Jones asked if other cities should be invited. Commissioner O'Donnell said Oregon City and West Linn will be mostly impacted. Commissioner O'Donnell suggested legal action. Commissioner Marl said that statutorily ODOT has the right to toll. Commissioner McGriff suggested including state representatives, including Mark Meek.

Commissioner O'Donnell suggested the cities perform data gathering prior to the meeting.

Councilor Bialostosky suggested city attorneys explore all possible options.

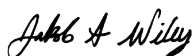
Mr. Konkol said ODOT is planning an upcoming ground-breaking in Oregon City and that councilors and commissioners will likely be invited.

Mayor Walters thanked commissioners and staff for organizing tonight's meeting. Commissioner McGriff thanked councilors for attending the meeting and emphasized the importance of forging relationships between the cities.

ADJOURNMENT

Commission President McGriff adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jakob S. Wiley, City Recorder