

Bike and Walk Salem: Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update and Safe Routes to School Plan

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #5

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Pringle Hall Community Center, 606 Church Street SE

Attendees

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Members	Project Team
1 Bill Cummins, Disabled Service Provider	Julie Warncke, City of Salem
2 Rodger Gutierrez, ODOT	Kevin Hottmann, City of Salem
3 David Fridenmaker, School Facilities Department	Sumi Malik, CH2M HILL
4 Gary Obery, Vision 2020 and BTA	Rory Renfro, Alta Planning + Design
5 Nick Fortey, West Salem N.A. (alternate for Heather Swanson)	Mariah VanZerr, CH2M HILL
6 Jan Nelson, Stand for Children	Judith Johnduff, City of Salem
7 Carel Dewinkel, SCAN	Citizens in Attendance
8 Ken Simila, Northeast Neighbors	Mike Jaffe, SKATS
9 Jeff Leach, SESNA	Bill Holmstrom
10 Michael Wolfe, South Salem Cycle Works	
11 Ray Jackson, Salem Keizer Area Transportation Study	
12 Tonya Johnson, Marion County Health Department	

Meeting Summary

This meeting summary documents the major conversation items from the May 11, 2011 meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) for Bike and Walk Salem, the City of Salem's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update and Safe Routes to School Plan. The summary is organized by agenda item.

Agenda and Process Overview

Julie Warncke opened the meeting and Sumi Malik provided an overview of the agenda. Sumi explained that the purpose of the meeting was to present a summary of the public involvement feedback on the draft proposed pedestrian and bicycle solutions and also for the SAC members to break out into small groups to help prioritize the core network of projects for evaluation in the next phase of the project.

Public Involvement Summary

Sumi Malik presented an overview of the findings from recent public involvement events to help collect feedback from the public on the draft proposed pedestrian and bicycle solutions. Public involvement activities included a series of open house and listening station events held during the week of April 25, 2011 and feedback from an online questionnaire that was available from April 26th – May 9th. Sumi explained that the questionnaire received 144 responses and that altogether the outreach events received 345 interactions (though there is likely overlap between the outreach methods). She noted that the public involvement findings should be thought of as a general “pulse of the community,” noting that the findings are not scientific, but rather reflect the thoughts and opinions of those who are interested in the project and self-selected to participate and provide feedback, rather than a random sample of Salem residents.

Next, Sumi described the projects selected by the public as high priority for each quadrant in Salem and the downtown core. These projects are described in more detail in the Draft Proposed Network Public Involvement Summary Memo, which will be posted on the project website.

Sumi also described the evaluation criteria findings. Sumi explained that the majority of respondents reported that “System Connectivity” and “User Safety and Comfort” were the most important, and that “Land Use Connections” and “Accommodating a Broad Range of Users” were also important. Draft evaluation criteria that respondents didn’t rank as high include: multi-modal connections, community support, cost, and environmental justice. These terms were defined in both the online survey and open house comment forms to help ensure that respondents shared a common understanding of their meaning.

Julie noted that she had also received several emails and verbal comments that were not reflected in the public involvement summary. Julie distributed a packet of these comments to SAC members for their review. Julie also noted that SAC member comments were not reflected in the public involvement summary memo (unless they had specifically provided feedback during the public involvement events).

Small Group Break Out Sessions

From 7-8pm, SAC members were asked to break out into small groups and provide feedback on the projects they would most like to see carried forward into the next phase of the project. SAC members were asked to select 2 quadrants (Northeast, Southeast, South, or West Salem) and to spend 30 minutes discussing the draft proposed bicycle and pedestrian solutions in small groups for each quadrant. Each quadrant had 3’ x 4’ maps of the proposed bicycle and pedestrian networks and SAC members were asked to identify the projects on each map that:

- best meet the criterion of “system connectivity,”
- best reflect key routes and connections for the quadrant, and
- best serve as key facility types for the quadrant.

SAC members were provided with 30 minutes to discuss and provide feedback on the bicycle and pedestrian maps in each quadrant (15 minutes per map – bicycle and pedestrian facilities separately), before they were asked to move to a different quadrant/small group.

Small Group Report Out

Northeast Salem

Sumi Malik facilitated the Northeast Salem quadrant small group discussion, and Gary Obery reported out to the rest of the group. Gary noted that the following projects were discussed as being high priority in the Northeast Salem quadrant:

- **Bike:** Bicycle projects that improve connectivity to both the Kroc Center and Fairgrounds were identified as very important.
- **Pedestrian:** Sidewalk infill was identified as high priority along segments of Cherry Ave, Brown Rd, Fisher Rd, and Herrin Rd, as well as near schools. Additionally, the proposed shared-use path crossings of both I-5 and the Salem Parkway were noted as high priority.
- **Intersection Improvements:** Intersection improvements were identified as a priority in several locations, including the intersection of Cherry Ave and Salem Parkway, the intersection of Union St and Commercial St, and the intersection of Liberty St and Ferry St, among others.

Additionally, SAC members had suggestions for a few new projects in Northeast Salem for the project team to consider. These projects include a shared-use path (from 12th St and Union St to D St, extension of 12th Street Promenade), as well as intersection improvements at the intersection of Broadway St and the Salem Parkway and the intersection of Hyacinth St and the Salem Parkway.

Southeast Salem

Mariah VanZerr facilitated the Southeast Salem quadrant small group discussion, and Rodger Gutierrez and Jeff Leach reported out to the rest of the group. Rodger and Jeff noted that the following projects were discussed as being high priority in the Southeast Salem quadrant:

- **Bike:** The proposed bicycle boulevards on Pennsylvania Ave, Mill St, and on Elma Ave were identified as high priority. However, Rodger noted that SAC members would like the project team to consider a bike lane on Pennsylvania Ave, rather than a bicycle boulevard. Additionally, SAC members identified the proposed shared use paths along the Geer Line Trail and on Airway Dr as high priority for bicyclists. Bike lanes were identified as high priority on McGilchrist St and Boone Rd (specifically at the blind corner near Abiqua School).
- **Pedestrian:** Sidewalk infill was identified as high priority along McGilchrist St, Macleay Rd and along the west side of the airport. Additionally, the proposed shared-use path crossings of I-5 and OR 22 (near Miller Elementary) were noted as high priority.

Additionally, SAC members had a suggestion for a new project in Southeast Salem for the project team to consider. Specifically, SAC members requested that intersection improvements be considered for the intersection of 25th St and Mission St.

South Salem

Julie Warncke facilitated the South Salem quadrant small group discussion, and Carel Dewinkel and Jan Nelson reported out to the rest of the group. The following bicycle projects were discussed as being high priority in the South Salem quadrant:

- **Bike:** Carel and Jan noted that the proposed shared-use path that would go through the Pioneer Cemetery is likely to be controversial and that it would be important to identify an alternative route to provide connectivity. One idea for an alternative route SAC members suggested was to construct a new shared-use path from Skopil St and Hoyt St to John St along the westernmost perimeter of the Cemetery. Additionally, the cycle track proposed on Mission St was identified as high priority, as well as the raised bike lanes on Liberty Rd. Ensuring good bicycle access to the new Trader Joes location near Commercial St and Hilfiker Ln was also noted as a high priority.
- **Pedestrian Improvements:** SAC members did not identify any specific pedestrian projects as high priority in the South Salem quadrant, rather they recorded a few questions for the project team to consider. First, SAC members wanted to know where pedestrians would go from the proposed shared use path through Clark Creek City Park from Cottage St south to Ratcliff Dr. Additionally, SAC members noted that the west side of the sidewalk on Commercial St south of Trade St is blocked, and they wanted to know when the blockage would be removed.
- **Intersection Improvements:** Intersection improvements were identified as a priority for the intersection of Liberty Rd and Commercial St.

Additionally, SAC members had a suggestion for a new project in South Salem for the project team to consider. Specifically, SAC members requested that Bush St be considered for a bicycle connection from the Willamette River and slough to Bush Pasture Park.

West Salem

Rory Renfro facilitated the West Salem quadrant small group discussion, and also reported out to the rest of the group. Rory noted that the following projects were discussed as being high priority in the West Salem quadrant:

- **Bike:** Rory noted that SAC members in his group identified the proposed shared-use path on Marine Drive as high priority, as well as the improvements proposed to better connect the Union Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge to Edgewater St. SAC members also noted that the proposed bicycle improvements (shared-use path and bicycle boulevard) near Chapman Elementary are high priority, as well as the east-west bicycle connections near Walker Middle School.
- **Pedestrian Improvements:** Generally, SAC members noted that improving north/south pedestrian connectivity throughout West Salem is a high priority. Specifically, sidewalk infill was identified as a high priority along Glen Creek Rd, Brush College Rd, Doaks Ferry Rd, Edgewater St, and along Parkway Dr (to connect to Orchard Heights Park).

- **Intersection Improvements:** Intersection improvements were identified as a high priority for the intersection of Wallace Rd and Edgewater St and the intersection of Wallace Rd and Glen Creek Rd.

Additionally, SAC members had a suggestion for a new project in West Salem for the project team to consider. Specifically, SAC members requested that intersection improvements be considered for the intersection of Parkway Dr and Orchard Heights Rd.

Public Comment Period

The floor was opened up for public comments. No public comments were made.

Next Steps

Sumi explained that the next phase of the project will involve using the information provided by the SAC and the public involvement process to help identify a “core network” of projects. Then the project team will apply the established evaluation framework to those projects to come up with a draft set of recommendations. Sumi noted that the project team will present the results of the project prioritization and evaluation process at the next SAC meeting, which is scheduled for the evening of June 14th. The meeting adjourned shortly before 8:30 pm.