

## PATHWAYS AND BIKE ROUTES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting of August 21, 2012 @ 7:00 P.M.

Caldwell Airport Hubler Terminal – Community Room

- I. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Molenaar called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Members Present.** Ann Manning, Bill Gigray III, Paul Mann, Nick Molenaar, Mark Pemble, and Rod Garrett.

**Members Absent.** Bill Buckendorf, Cindy Grover, Larry Evans.

**Others Present.** Brian Billingsley, Planning & Zoning Director; April Cabello, Planning Technician; Ricardo Calderon, Associate Engineer; Rob Hopper, CC Liaison

**Others Absent.** Brent Orton, Public Works Director.

- II. **Review and Approval of the Agenda.**

The Committee verbally and unanimously approved the agenda with items added under Committee and Staff Reports.

- III. **Approval of Minutes.**

- A. The minutes of May 15, 2012 were presented to the committee.

Motion to approve the minutes of May 15, 2012.

**MOTION:** Bill G., **SECOND:** Ann M., **MOTION PASSED.**

- IV. **Audience Participation.** None.

- V. **Communications.** None.

- VI. **Old Business.**

- A. **FY 2012 Project Update.** Ricardo C. asked Brian B. what exactly they were looking for on the update.

Brian B. responded the first thing to discuss would be the I-84 overpass improvements and that the paving is complete and is ADA accessible. Brian B. asked the committee for feedback.

The commission agreed unanimously the improvements look great.

Bill G. wondered if the neighbors that access their apartments near the overpass would be able to withstand people going back and forth.

Brian B. and Ricardo C. responded yes.

Brian B. stated he spoke with the streets superintendent yesterday and they will be adding gravel to the shoulders.

Paul M. said the main thing is the smooth transition from the asphalt off the concrete.

Bill G. thanked the City for supporting the project and would like to send a thank you note to the Streets Department.

- B. FY 2013 Budget Recommendations.** Brian B. reported that he had presented the PBR budget recommendations to City Council back in June and City Council approved all the projects. The main project for next year is building the pathway from the YMCA down to the Heritage Community Charter School and to Ustick. City Council awarded the PBR committee \$30,000.00, same as last year. Per Brent Orton, the Public Works Director, he will keep track of the PBR fund balance and will provide an update every quarter. Brian B. further stated that he hoped all billings for the overpass project would come in by the October PBR meeting, so the commission could review the fund balance and remaining projects.

Rob H. stated that if projects have earmarked money and they are not executed that budget year, the money would carry over to the next year because it is tagged with that budget item. It will not be a “use it or lose it” situation.

Bill G. wondered if a notice should be sent to the school district that this pathway project over the interstate is done so when school starts they can notify the parents.

Rob H. wondered where the school boundaries are located.

Brian B. stated the children could use the overpass but then the children would have to cross Marble Front Road and that would not be safe. Upgrades to Marble Front Road should be complete before they promote the use of the overpass to students.

Bill G. said the overpass is the safest way to get over the interstate if you are on a bike.

Rob H. suggested publishing updates to the pathways in a general newsletter to go out with the water bills.

Brian B. responded he could do that.

Bill G. made the motion that Brian B. will write the newsletter and mail it along with the city water bills.

**MOTION:** Bill G., **SECOND:** Ann M., **MOTION PASSED.**

Ricardo C. continued the discussion on the budget.

Ricardo C. stated that he spoke to Robb M., the Assistant City Engineer, regarding the pathway from the YMCA to Ustick and Robb M. stated he would not recommend the project unless the PBR committee has worked out the crossing extension over the Dixie Drain and the Lower Line with Pioneer. Robb M. is concerned that if they build the pathway from Ustick to the Drain, there is nowhere to go and a child could fall off the end of the pathway into Dixie Drian, which is a 10ft drop.

Brian B. asked how long they anticipate the agreement with Pioneer to take.

Ricardo C. responded it is in the same status as it was 2 years ago when they spoke with Mark Zirschky so Ricardo C. stated he told Robb they needed to speak with Pioneer again regarding this crossing. If nothing happens, they can design it but cannot construct it.

Brian B. responded that the next project on the list is the greenbelt improvement, which means the PBR committee can address some of the concerns regarding the greenbelt that Bill G. had voiced.

Bill G. said he remembered that they had alluded to this problem and the PBR committee decided to stick with the pathway project hoping it would go through. Bill G. said he thinks Ricardo C. should let the committee know if it is not doable in the next fiscal year then the PBR committee can talk about the greenbelt improvements.

Ricardo C. stated if they could not do the crossing this winter, they would not build the pathway.

Paul M. inquired about the upgrading of Ustick Road and incorporating the pathway and crossing at the same time.

Rob H. responded that Ustick Road is scheduled for upgrade in about 2-3 years.

Brian B. stated that the next year's project for engineering is studying the roundabouts.

Rob H. suggested focusing on the greenbelt upgrades.

Brian B. requested that Ricardo C. keep the committee posted.

Chairman Molenaar wondered if Pioneer did not want a structure at that location.

Ricardo C. responded Pioneer is in favor of it. Two years ago, when the City met with Pioneer, they said they would build the crossing in the wintertime but they never did. Neither Pioneer nor the City pushed for the crossing until now and Ricardo said he was not sure if Pioneer will build the crossing this fall/winter. If the PBR Committee wants to build the pathway, the City needs to work out a deal with Pioneer or ask Pioneer if the City may contract out the job or use City crews to build the extension when it is cold. Ricardo wondered if it is a matter of what they need to do and execute the verbal agreement with Pioneer.

Brian B. thanked Ricardo.

- C. Indian Creek Festival Bike Helmet Give-Away.** Brian B. reported that West Valley Medical donated \$1,000.00 towards the bike helmets and that he purchased 200 bike helmets. Brian B. presented a helmet and informed the committee that city staff placed PBR and West Valley Medical logo stickers on the helmets. Brian B. also stated he purchased PBR banners for the tables at the Indian Creek Festival.

Brian B. asked the PBR Committee to sign up for the Indian Creek Booth shift schedule.

Brian B. informed the committee that the helmet give away would start between 9:00 – 9:30am, first come first serve.

The committee held a discussion on whether or not a policy should be put in place for the helmet give away.

The committee agreed, for a child to receive a helmet, they must meet the following requirements:

- Under the age of 16 must have a parent, grandparent or guardian present.
- Child must be present for fitting.
- One helmet per child.
- Helmets provided to children whose reside in the Caldwell or Vallivue school district.

Paul M. inquired about a press release.

Brian B. stated he would send out a press release and notices to all the schools.

Brian B. informed the committee that YMCA staff would help at the booth for 3 hours doing tire repair, safety lessons and rules of the road. The YMCA staff will train the PBR committee members on how to fit a helmet if needed.

Rod G. wondered if they were going to promote the pathways at the Indian Creek Festival.

Brian B. responded yes and explained that there will be three tables, the middle table will have all the brochures / information, and the side tables will have the helmets.

- D. Family Values Park Pathway Update.** Ricardo C. reported they had to apply for Special Use approval for the new YMCA Family Values Park. Ricardo C. contacted the park committee once the special use was approved asking for any last revisions or comments before he starts design of the irrigation system. Ricardo C. needed to know where the buildings are going to be located and gave the park committee until the end of the week to submit any changes. That next week they will start the design of the park, installing the irrigation system, this fall will seed, and by next spring, the park should be green. Installation of the playground and structures will start next spring.

## **VII. New Business.**

- A. October 3<sup>rd</sup> Bike Train Event.** Brian B. stated that last week he sent out a save the date request for October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Brian B. reported that they will host another Bike Train Event which will be similar to last year. The train will start at Sacajawea Elementary School and ride down to the YMCA but this year it will be a little bit different. All schools in the district will be invited to join the train so the closer the train gets to the YMCA the bigger the bike train will become. The YMCA is trying to get Kristin Armstrong to attend but no confirmation at this time. Brian B. informed Ricardo C. that Mayor Nancolas would like to have the groundbreaking ceremony for the YMCA Family Values Park on that day so when the bike train rides in they can ride over and be part of the ceremony.

Bill G. wondered if someone should appear before the board of trustees at the September meeting announcing the bike train.

Brian B. responded that is a great idea and suggested that Bill G. be the one to present the information to the board of trustees.

Bill G. requested that Brian B. send him an email with the pitch for the Bike Train.

Brian B. responded affirmatively.

Ann M. suggested promoting for the same day, ride your bike to work day.

Brian B. stated that the reason October 3<sup>rd</sup> was picked for the day of the ride was because it is National Ride Your Bike or Walk to School day.

Ann M. wondered about including Ride Your Bike to Work day.

Brian B. responded affirmatively.

**B. Montana Avenue Safe Routes to School Project.** Brian B. stated that he is forming a committee to work on this project and Montana Ave. is a two-lane road with no bike lanes, limited sidewalks and accessibility. The committee would work on developing some plans to make short and long-term improvements while trying to encourage children to walk or ride their bike to school. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 2pm at the Syringa Middle school. The committee will be made of up City Officials, School Officials and people from the general public. Brian B. extended the invitation for a PBR member to serve on the new committee.

Mark P. responded that he would like to serve on the committee.

**C. Canyon County Fair – Booth Opportunity.** Brian B. reported that the Caldwell Fire Department sponsors a booth at the Canyon County Fair every year and each day they like to do a different theme. The Fire Department approached Brian and asked him about doing a bike safety theme; unfortunately, they asked him two weeks before the fair and it did not give him enough time. Brian B. thought that the PBR committee and the Nampa Bike group could get together and for one day run the booth at next year's fair. Brian B. asked for feedback from the committee to see if they would be interested. The committee responded with a unanimous yes. Brian B. stated that he would contact the Nampa group and coordinate with fire.

## **VIII. Committee and Staff Reports.**

**A.** Paul M. suggested the committee should send a Congratulations note to Kristin Armstrong for being an ambassador for the sport.

**B.** Paul M. suggested sending Brian B. to a weeklong bike and pedestrian innovative course in Portland and asked the committee to make a resolution supporting that Brian B. attend this class in June of 2013.

Brian B. stated that funds for the budget are allocated from the street fund and he is not sure if education and training can come from this fund.

Bill G. made a motion for Brian B. to review/investigate the training to see if the course is a worthy event.

**MOTION:** Bill G. **SECOND:** Ann M., **MOTION PASSED.**

- C. Paul M. suggested sending a note to the Governor asking him not to opt out of the transportation funding at the federal level.

Brian B. informed the committee that the Governor has the option to opt out of the Alternative Transportation Programs Safe Routes To School Enhancement Funding and utilize those funds for highway projects. Before, those funds were mandatory for alternative transportation projects. Now the Federal Government has given the states the ability to choose to continue with the safe routes to school or take that money and build more highways.

Paul M. responded he still would like a letter sent to the Governor from this committee requesting he does not opt out.

Paul M. made the motion that the committee send a note to Governor Otter, stating that he does not have to exercise his ability to opt out of federal funding for recreational trails, etc.

Brian B. will write the letter to the Governor.

**MOTION:** Paul M. **SECOND:** Bill G., **MOTION PASSED.**

- D. Paul M. reported that he participated in a Compass workshop in June and afterwards complained to a head of Compass that they do not promote or discuss bike paths across the counties and valleys of Idaho. Compass discusses walkability but not bikeability. The head of Compass agreed and stated that committees like PBR need to keep the pressure on Compass to promote bikeability.

Bill G. made the motion to collaborate with FACTS (The Foundation of Ada County Trails) and send a joint letter to Compass encouraging them to include bikeways in their planning process.

**MOTION:** Bill G. **SECOND:** Ann M., **MOTION PASSED.**

- E. Bill G. opened a discussion regarding assessing the greenbelt and gave the history on how the greenbelt came to be built. Bill G. stated his intention to visit the greenbelt before the next meeting and report back to figure out an assessment plan.

Brian B. recommended that all committee members should assess the greenbelt and have the greenbelt as a discussion item on the next PBR agenda.

Bill G. stated that the city is partnering with Canyon 4 to get a grant to move the silver bridge and put a new bridge to the south of the silver bridge which will have to happen or we'll lose the connection to the greenbelt.

Rob H. stated that pathway maintenance is supposed to be budgeted for and asked Brian B. to inform Brent O. so he can start planning for the greenbelt repair/maintenance.

Brian B. responded that the committee would review the greenbelt project and give recommendations to Brent O. at the next PBR meeting.

Brian B. and Nick M. told the PBR committee their homework assignment was to go and assess the greenbelt, making note of areas that needed work and what work needed to be done.

**IX. Adjourn.** Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting.

**MOTION:** Paul M., **SECOND:** Ann M., **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted by April Cabello,

MINUTES APPROVED AND SIGNED BELOW BY CHAIRPERSON NICK MOLENAAR  
ON THE DATE NOTED BELOW.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nick Molenaar, Chair

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Date

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ATTEST: Brian Billingsley, P&Z Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date