



TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Vancouver City Hall – Aspen Room – 415 W. Sixth Street
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www.cityofvancouver.us

Jeananne Edwards · Connor Godsil · Corey Grandstaff · Alexander Hubert · Leah Jackson ·
Mike Paine · Mario Raia · Eduardo Ramos · Derya Ruggles · Ken Williams

June 7, 2022

Time: 4:06 – 6:47 p.m.

Location: City Hall Aspen Room

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (00:13)

The June 7, 2022 meeting of the Transportation Mobility Commission was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Chair Eduardo Ramos.

Present: Chair Eduardo Ramos, Vice Chair Mario Raia, Commissioners Jeananne Edwards, Connor Godsil, Corey Grandstaff, Alexander Hubert, Leah Jackson, Mike Paine, Derya Ruggles and Ken Williams

ACTION ITEMS

ADOPTION OF MINUTES (01:15)

Motion by Vice Chair Raia, seconded by Commissioner Ruggles, and carried unanimously to approve the May minutes as written. Commissioners Edwards and Jackson abstained from the vote due to absence at the May meeting.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS (03:48)

Rebecca Kennedy, Deputy Director of Community Development, provided an update from the TMC retreat in May that included a discussion of a letter of support from the TMC in support of the Interstate Bridge Replacement Project. Staff are drafting the letter and will be available for consideration by the Commission at their July meeting, with the intent that it would be sent to City Council. She then introduced William Cooley, Community Engagement Manager, to present an update on a Community Visioning that is just getting underway and will inform several planning and policy development processes across multiple departments. The presentation covered a brief update on the Strategic Plan, the purpose and rationale for community visioning, the guiding principles, and the importance of a community-driven approach. Commission discussion covered community input methods and locations for community engagement, the co-creation process, engagement with the Vancouver community that has limited English proficiency, and synergy with other City Boards and Commissions to set the vision.

WORKSHOP ITEM (27:26)

Main Street Streetscape Project Overview (Teresa Brum, Deputy Director of Economic Development, Ryan Lopossa, Public Works Streets and Transportation Manager)

Rebecca Kennedy introduced the workshop. The project is before the Commission as it is in the right of way and will cost more than \$2 million. Staff reviewed the process and gathered Commission input on the design. Ryan Lopossa presented the project background, opportunities for improvement of Main Street, and the project scope. Teresa Brum presented on project funding and the public outreach plan.

The bullets below summarize the Commissions questions and staff responses to the presentation:

- Consideration for EV charging stations on Main Street. Staff responded they are looking at that city-wide, but this is not yet being planned for this project.
- Sidewalk replacement along Main Street and Broadway or Main and Columbia. Staff responded there is only funding for sidewalk replacement on Main Street, but that side streets will be considered later in relation to the Interstate Bridge Replacement Project.
- Concern with the emphasis on parking and comments that it should be balanced with business and safety needs for wider sidewalks.
- Sidewalks obstructed by cages required by Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board. Staff responded there was a change in the interpretation of the rules, but then changed back to the original interpretation. Staff are having conversations to potentially make some changes to RCW to offer some flexibility.
- Crosswalk striping at each intersection. Staff responded they will follow the new crosswalk policies, which includes lighting. Staff will evaluate the crossings.
- Plan to work with forestry to have larger trees that won't ruin pavement and foundations. Staff responded they will work with forestry to discuss preservation and replacement of trees along the corridor.
- Accessible parking pay stations. Staff responded they will investigate the accessibility of current pay stations and in the purchase of new pay stations for this project.
- Audible pedestrian signal technology. Staff responded all signal upgrades throughout the City will include audible technology, and it will be employed in this project.
- Location of street trees to sidewalk and street. Staff responded for this project, the trees will be near the street curb, and the sidewalk will be open for pedestrian traffic.
- Consideration for motorcycle parking. Staff responded part of the outreach process will include a discussion of parking, how much is needed today, benefits and costs to parking, and what type of parking is needed.
- Plans for maintaining business operations during construction. Staff responded they have been looking at best practices from around the country for this type of project. The City has also partnered with Vancouver's Downtown Association and is in the hiring process for staff to focus on business outreach with this project. We don't want to lose business during this project and will need creative marketing to get people downtown.
- EV charging stations. Staff agreed there is an opportunity with the street torn up to add the infrastructure for charging stations.
- Support for making this corridor bike and pedestrian friendly and maximize transit stops to access this area and the Waterfront.

WORKSHOP ITEM (1:24:20)

Fort Vancouver Way and Fourth Plain Safety and Mobility Project (Rebecca Kennedy, Deputy Director, CDD, Ryan Farncomb, Parametrix)

Rebecca Kennedy introduced the workshop. The project is currently in the planning phase and the two separate projects for Fourth Plain and Fort Vancouver Way are now integrated together due to their proximity and shared user base. This presentation is focused mainly on Fort Vancouver Way.

Ryan Farncomb presented a project update and overview of the issues to address with this project.

The bullets below summarize the Commissions questions and staff responses to the presentation:

- How to integrate existing and future businesses and development into recommendations for reconfiguration of the corridor. Staff responded they are looking at what exists now, but also projections at year 2040.
- If the project is limited to repaving. Staff responded it is planned as a curb to curb project, but they are also gathering input from the community on other potential needs.
- How planning impacts and potential changes will affect public safety facilities like police and fire and the ability to respond quickly in case of an emergency.

Staff continued the presentation, covering lane reconfiguration analysis on the corridor and safety and mobility needs for all users.

The bullets below summarize the Commissions questions and staff responses to the presentation:

- Planning for similar travel lanes as Fourth Plain, with space for traffic, transit and bikes. Staff responded they are planning to accommodate all users with this project and the need for nuanced design for bus stations that avoid conflict with the bike lane.
- Opportunities for placemaking as a way to increase safety. Staff responded this project is implemented through the pavement program, though there may be opportunities for traffic calming. Placemaking would come later, but staff continue to gather community input through this project to consider for future opportunities. Staff also noted that slowing of the traffic on this corridor would affect the feel of the street.
- The plans for a future Vine extension that travels south to Mill Plain on the east side of the City, creating a loop with the currently under construction Mill Plain BRT line. Staff responded they will work with C-TRAN on this project once it enters the planning phase, but that they do not yet know the implications of the planned extension of the Fourth Plain route to the east.
- Preference for separation of transit and bike lanes.
- Importance of providing real examples when looking for feedback from the community on potential changes and suggested providing more information on the later phases of the project so the community understands the full scope of the project when providing input.
- Concerns with parking near parks and schools in or close to the project area.

Staff concluded the presentation with the evaluation framework and next steps for the project.

The bullets below summarize the Commissions questions and staff responses to the presentation:

- On evaluation and scoring, if we emphasize equitable outcomes, all users benefit.

- Overlapping and similar scoring elements to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Staff responded there is overlap, though with this evaluation, scoring is for project elements, rather than the project as a whole.

COMMUNITY FORUM (2:27:40)

Sara Schmit, Vancouver, was present to provide comments on Fort Vancouver Way and Fourth Plain and the importance of the VA Campus in the area to the community. Efforts made to improve this corridor should focus on the intersection of Fort Vancouver Way and St. Johns and creating a bike lane from Fourth Plain and Grand to Fourth Plain and St. Johns. Most accidents have occurred at the intersection of Fort Vancouver Way and Fourth Plain because of inadequate infrastructure on Fourth Plain. If active transportation users were not forced to share the sidewalk with pedestrians and mobility scooters, or the main road with motorists, this area would be safer and more accessible for everyone. She encouraged the Commission to focus its efforts on safely connecting existing active transportation corridors before potentially wasting resources on an area that already has adequate infrastructure in place.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION (2:35:26)

Commissioner Williams noted he appreciated the room layout for the meeting.

Commissioner Paine thanked the speakers at the meeting and emphasized the community members who utilize the services at the VA campus are an important part of the City to consider when making decisions related to transportation.

Commissioner Hubert provided comments on the difficulties of accessing the VA campus without a personal vehicle.

ADJOURNMENT 6:47 PM

Eduardo Ramos, Chair

Meetings of the Transportation Mobility Commission are electronically recorded on audio. The audio is kept for a period of six years.

To request other formats, please contact: Julie Nischik | 360-487-7813 | TTY: 360-487-8602 | Julie.Nischik@cityofvancouver.us