

Session 13-02, a Regular Meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Roberts at 5:33 p.m. on May 21, 2013 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Highland, Roberts, Smith, Walker

ABSENT: Venuti

STAFF: Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to extend Anna Bosin's DOT presentation to 30 minutes and approved as amended by consensus of the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Wayne Aderhold, city resident, commented regarding Waddell Way. He likes to walk and ride his bike and is a proponent that non-motorized traffic should be treated as a priority in some places. He appreciates the action taken regarding Waddell Way because he would hate to see Grubstake as a thoroughfare, he thinks this is a good example of a doing the right thing the overall good of the city. He questions the need for having a through street in that area at all. He feels that Poopdeck should remain a non-motorized trail. He has followed a little bit of the Kachemak Drive business. He does ride his bike a lot and thinks separated trails are nice to have but he is one of the people that also believes that for people who commute it needs to be allowed on the roads because it's legal, so wide enough lanes for safe use is number 1. Separated paths are a nice idea, but they are an amenity, not a necessity.

Lindiann Sarno, city resident, commented that she is part of the new forming Kachemak Drive Path Steering Committee, a citizens group working to move forward the plan. She has been talking with young mothers and other people who are interested in a separate pathway. Right now, parents can't let their kids get from East End Road to the Spit Trail via Kachemak Drive because it is too dangerous for kids on the road. She recognizes the commuters will continue to use Kachemak Drive, but for kids, mom's with strollers, and the elderly, a separated path will be safer. She thinks there will be a lot of community support for a separated path. She noted that resolution 13-040 was postponed until September to give their committee time to organize. They are working with the HOPP co-chairs for advise on how to move forward. One of the group's principles is to raise funds, at least enough to match the HART trail funds that are available, so as not to cost the general fund at all.

Beth Cumming, city resident, is also part of steering committee, and is speaking on her own behalf. In resolution 12-079 the Council approved up to \$20,000 of HART funds for survey, pre-engineering, and cost estimate for the first half mile of trail for the area from the west end of the proposed trail, going east to the west end of aviation leasing long term parking. The resolution was partially carried out but not completed. The Public Works Director looked at a proposed section of the trail, said it was too steep, and made the decision to stop, and had them take it all the way to beach access road beyond what was imagined for the trail. She would like to see the area defined in the resolution be completed as approved. She knows that if it's done as they request it will cost far less.

RECONSIDERATION

No items were scheduled for reconsideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Synopsis of February 19, 2013.

The Synopsis was approved by consensus of the Committee.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Anna Bosin- AKDOT

Anna Bosin and Carla Smith presented to the committee about the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and upcoming projects for the city. Ms. Bosin explained the process DOT uses to determine projects that will be submitted for HSIP funding. The process includes data collection, screening high crash locations, project scoping and ranking, and project approval and selection. Once projects are selected, there is project design, construction, and HSIP management. After completion, there is post project evaluation that includes reviewing 3 years of post-construction crash data.

Carla Smith commented about the Homer HSIP projects that were nominated. Pioneer and Main Street was nominated due to traffic and pedestrian volume. They propose a four way, all way stop, with a flashing red beacon, and also signage and striping. Beacons have been shown to reduce crash ratings because it helps drivers see upcoming intersections. It is a good immediate solution to reduce crashes. DOWL is the consultant doing the project design, sending surveyors out this summer, and she is planning to hold a public meeting in Homer this summer to present the project. Project construction is anticipated next summer.

The next Homer project is Sterling and Main Street. It is the most congested intersection and was nominated due to crash history from 2005 to 2009, and also traffic and pedestrian volume. There is not a consultant yet, they are proposing a signal or roundabout. A consultant will come onboard to complete survey this summer and present alternatives to the community this fall and get public input. A traffic analysis will be completed as well, to get some good in-depth back ground for traffic and pedestrian operations, and what will work best for this area. There was brief discussion about the roundabout radius, and funding for sidewalks.

Ms. Smith also commented about projects near Homer that will include an area wide guardrail delineation project along East End Road to improve visibility, and also 22 slow vehicle pullouts between Soldotna and Homer hill. Both area projects expect construction in 2014.

B. Kevin Walker - Kachemak Drive Path Citizens Group

Kevin Walker reviewed his written information provided to the Committee. It included a brief overview of how the path committee came together about two and a half years ago and has recently become a citizens group to work more informally. They want to keep the city posted on their work and seek support, both financially and for community relations. Mr. Walker's report reference the HART manual and the Non-Motorized Transportation and Trails Plan (NMTTP) relating to the need for trails and the City's dedicated fund for trails. The group he

represents tonight has the vision, plans, and maps, as outlined in the NMTTP and their mission statement is to create a safe, separated path roughly paralleling Kachemak Drive to connect the East End Road bike path to the Homer Spit trail and provide non-motorized access to the general aviation area of the Homer Airport. He is not aware of any other project with a vision, plan, and maps that is competing for HART funding. He noted the trail solves a safety concern, connects existing trails, and there exists funding.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no public hearings scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Waddell Way Update - - Resolution 13-033 Approving a 2005 Transportation Plan Central Business District East/West Corridor Alternative Using Hazel Avenue as the Connection to Heath Street, and the Waddell Way Portion of the Road Corridor be Connected to Heath Street at Bonanza Avenue

There was no discussion regarding resolution 13-033.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. HART Annual Review

There was brief discussion that the committee should also be reviewing the trail priority list with their HART review. It was suggested that it be postponed to next meeting so the trail list could be available as well.

HIGHLAND/WALKER MOVED TO POSTPONE THE HART REVIEW TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. Summer Trail Improvement Plans- Spit Trail, Cruise Ship Dock Trail, Greatland Trail

The committee briefly discussed the Spit Trail and Cruise Ship Dock Trail improvements that will begin this summer. They also recognized that the Greatland Trail is not a trail but a right of way. It was noted that since people are using it as a trail, cleaning out the ditches would help drainage.

- C. Homer Area DOT Updates

The committee discussed the \$2 million that was initially allocated for the Main Street intersection improvements had been suggested to use for sidewalks when DOT came up with money for the work. Chair Roberts explained that Council determined that the \$2 million

wasn't enough to do the work and that the state owns Main Street so the state would be the ones to do additional improvements. Ms. Highland noted Ms. Bosin's earlier comment that the city could help with that. She is concerned that it will take a death to get anyone to do something. People are walking on Main Street because there isn't room to walk on the sides. Mr. Smith concurred that he hoped the \$2 million would be used on Main Street as well and noted that now it will fall to the Council to put it on the STIP priority.

D. Non-Motorized Transportation and Trails Plan

Chair Roberts said she asked for this to be in the packet to ensure everyone has a copy. They can discuss it at another time.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Resolution 13-040 Directing City Resolution 13-040 Directing City Administration to Terminate all Survey, Design, and Cost Estimating Work on the Kachemak Drive Pathway.
- B. Steep Slope Information from City Code
- C. Design Criteria Manual Steep Slope Information

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Wayne Aderhold, city resident, expressed his concern about getting pedestrians safely across the Sterling Highway between the Petro Express and Islands and Ocean area. It is a big accident waiting to happen. In retrospect it should have been a component of the visitor center when it was built since they put in the trail at Bishops Beach and it links up with Poopdeck Trail, and will continue to be used. There is a cross walk, but it doesn't solve the problem, it needs to be an elevated crossing. The highway will get busier and you have people who get half way across because traffic stops, then the other side isn't looking. There have already been some near misses.

COMMENTS OF THE STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen commented that the one of the Governors picnics will be held in Homer in July and the Mayor has invited the DOT Commissioners to attend. Hopefully they will come and be able to see the conditions of the roads.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER/CHAIR

Chair Roberts said she would report the committee's information to the City Council at their meeting on Tuesday.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Smith said he heard a story from one of our former Mayors who said he took Governor Bill Egan down to West Hill Road and Sterling Highway and got stuck. He had to walk back to catch his plane with mud up to his knees, and that's when they funded the Sterling Highway reconstruction. He added one thing the Committee has discovered is they have zero input with the State DOT rights of way. The recommended places for cross walks in the East End Road improvements and they got zero.

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Mr. Walker commented that the city has improved parks near a state road with a nice walkway next to the road near Jack Gist Park and also Mariner Park. There aren't cross walks and the big hang up is the speed limit. He did some research and calculation and it would be 4/10ths of a mile that would have to extend to 35 mhp at East End Road, the speed limit difference would take 9 seconds longer. It would accommodate the horse park and kids riding bikes to the ball field. It is kind of the same on the spit with Mariner Park. He knows it's state, so maybe we need to talk to our legislators.

Ms. Highland commented that it used to be 35 on East End for a long time. She wondered if petitions can work for that. She was surprised with earlier comments about the committee only is to review and respond to what the Council tells them to. It isn't like the Planning Commission. A reason she wanted to be on the committee is to have say and give vision and ideas to the Council.

ADJOURN

There being no more business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____