

**TUALATIN TOMORROW
VISION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

MEETING #9

March 11, 2009

6:35 P.M. – 8:40 P.M.

Police Training Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Monique Beikman, Frank Bubenik, June Bennett, Ed Casey, Candice Kelly, Connie Ledbetter, Rina Minato, Beth Roach, Ben Roberson, Alex Schrimp, Dave Simmons, Karen Solano, Dave Volz, and Jay Wilcox

MEMBER ABSENT: Larry McClure

PARTNERS: Hal Ballard, Washington County Bicycle Trans. Coalition
Mike Dahlstrom, Washington County
Steve Fletcher, Providence
Cindy Haldorson, Legacy Health Systems
Kelly King, Tualatin Chamber of Commerce
Sherilyn Lombos, City of Tualatin
Scott Schlegel, Washington County Community Action Network
Paula Stewart, Loaves and Fishes
Cassandra Ulven, TVF&R
Sheri Wantland, Clean Water Services
Steve Wheeler, Clackamas County Administrator
Jill Zurschmeide, Tigard-Tualatin School Board

GUESTS: Cliff Higgins and Janet Withrow, Metro

STAFF: Carol Rutherford, Office Coordinator
Doug Rux, Community Development Director
Lisa Thorpe, Tualatin Tomorrow Champion

INTRODUCTIONS/AGENDA

Mr. Bubenik welcomed everyone, and attendees introduced themselves.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 10, 2008 VIC MEETING

MOTION by Zurschmeide, SECOND by Volz, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2008 meeting. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

DISCUSSIONS

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation by Clifford Higgins/Karen Withrow – Metro High Capacity Transit Study

Mr. Bubenik introduced Mr. Higgins and Ms. Withrow from Metro. They are participating in the first segment of tonight's meeting to provide a brief overview of the Metro High Capacity

Transit Study. Ms. Withrow distributed information which included an overview of the presentation, survey form, and card to solicit feedback on possible future mass transit routes within the Portland area.

Mr. Higgins briefly reviewed the "Making the Greatest Place" handout and encouraged meeting participants to peruse their website which is referenced throughout the document. He stressed that this process deals with all modes of regional transportation (i.e. light rail, commuter rail, bus and street car transit and freight movement) and takes into consideration the expansion of the area due to the urban/rural reserves program and periodic updates to the Regional Transportation Plan.

Page 3 depicts a map showing current and proposed transportation projects including light rail, WES, and the expansion of the street car system into Lake Oswego. On the east side of Portland, the expansion of light rail to Clackamas which is opening this year is shown by a green dotted line. This planning process began in June 2008 and focuses on identifying proposed transportation projects for the next 30-40 years. Page 4 shows a black and white map dating back to 1982 which served as a model for transportation projects that were constructed over the ensuing 26 years.

Page 5 is taken from Metro's winter newsletter and shows 15 lines that were added during this public involvement process (pared down from 55 corridors identified in the initial screening.) This process included interviews, talking to community groups, participation in various community events, and an on-line survey. More than 700 people provided input for consideration. Page 6 outlines the screening criteria used in this process. This information is being transferred to TriMet to help them review their transportation options. In looking ahead. The next steps are to further prioritize lines shown on the "Going Places" map using the evaluation criteria to evaluate the options in more detail. The last page displays a chart regarding the decision-making process for this project as well as the definition of Metro's structure. The "think tank" encourages the "think outside the box" concept to insure that we consider all elements and identify other things that we might be missing.

Mr. Higgins offered to answer any questions the VIC might have and encouraged meeting attendees to complete the survey either now or mail it in and encouraged everyone to discuss this project with other people to gain as much input as possible. Eventually another on-line tool will be made available. Thus far Mr. Higgins and Ms. Withrow have spoken to 40-50 groups like us with an average of 15-30 people per group. The goal is to obtain input 10 times that amount with the on-line tool. Mike Dahlstrom inquired if this concept will be integrated into the urban reserves project. Mr. Higgins responded that when the urban reserves are brought in, this will be part of Regional Transportation Plan process every four years. Karen explained the screening criteria and process for both the proposed green and peach colored routes.

Dave Volz voiced his concern over the cost effectiveness of some transportation systems including WES which currently has 1200 riders per week. A secondary issue is the issues associated with train noise created by WES which is having a big impact to some residents. We don't want this situation replicated in other areas. Mr. Higgins has talked to TriMet about the noise, and a request may be made to obtain money from the stimulus package to help with transition to quiet zones in this area. More information is available on TriMet's website.

The Metro representatives briefly reviewed various considerations from the fiscal perspective including regional goals or values, balance with ways we justify road building and property taxes, and efficiency factors (i.e. WES operates only during rush hours on weekdays whereas light rail and other modes operate more hours.) When rail replaces buses, the costs are initially higher but then once constructed, the operating costs are considerably less.

Budget 2009-2010

Mr. Bubenik reviewed the proposed budget. It was the consensus of the Steering Committee that they liked the Partner luncheon, and it should be done on an annual basis. The line item for publicity was increased to allow \$100 for each focus area representative as well as Frank and Candice to participate in Speakers' Bureau events. The line item for printing was doubled since our inventory of Action Plan documents is almost depleted. It is our intent to have the books reprinted and include updated data. The remaining high-value line item is the \$20,000 allocated for Administrative support. The contingency remains at 8% to cover unforeseen costs. This may decrease in future years as we become more familiar with the budgeting process and the needs of Tualatin Tomorrow.

Mr. Bubenik asked for feedback regarding this proposal. It is our goal this evening to gain consensus on the proposed budget so that it can be reviewed by the Budget Committee and City Council with final approval being granted in June 2009. Mrs. Lombos stated that the City and Council have engaged in discussions regarding the five-year forecast. The confidence in revenues over next several years is not that high and the City budget will reflect our concerns over the economy. This is clearly a time of constricting and identifying what are absolute needs vs. wants. Consideration should be given to what items may need to be trimmed if directed by Council. Mr. Ballard inquired about the difference between cost of mailing (\$2600) under communications and the \$4,000 allocated in the printing/postage line item. Ms. Kelly clarified that the one is the charges incurred if we were to create a tabloid or mailer to be distributed via the US Postal Service while the other is the printing cost associated with updating the action plan documents. Mr. Bubenik inquired if the VIC agrees with this recommendation from the Steering Committee. The consensus was to remain with the proposed budget.

Mr. Wheeler inquired about the in-kind support for staff services in the amount of \$5835. Mr. Rux responded that we used the same figure as for FY 08/09, and it includes support provided by Sherilyn Lombos, Carol and him. A brief discussion was held regarding the options for grants or other sponsorship to subsidize this program. While this has been discussed, there is no one to do it. Mike Dahlstrom stated that it would be good to demonstrate the value of the many volunteers supporting this program. Mr. Ballard stated that he does this in grant applications, and that in 2007 the dollar value placed on a volunteer equated to \$19.71 per hour. Mrs. Rutherford routinely forwards volunteer information to Victoria Eggleston, the City's Volunteer Services Coordinator. However, this is only as accurate as that information she can compile or what is forwarded to her from the volunteers. Mike stated that this group represents an undefined community goodwill to the City. Councilor Beikman concurred. In our budget discussions we should stress that they are volunteers and donating an incredibly valuable service.

VIC members continued to discuss the proposed budget. If a decision is made that it needs to be trimmed, we can deal with it at that time. Mrs. Zurschmeide suggested that we also

focus on the measurable outcomes that we provide and what we need to continue to achieve these goals.

MOTION by Wilcox, SECOND by Volz, to approve the proposed Tualatin Tomorrow budget for FYU 2009/2010 for presentation to the City Council. MOTION CARRIED Unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Partner Feedback on February 4th Luncheon:

Mr. Bubenik solicited feedback from all Partners regarding the luncheon. Recommendations that were given in a debriefing session with the Steering Committee included that one longer session would be preferable to two sessions, if the time allocated for the actual lunch should be shortened, giving the Partners a “homework” assignment for completion prior to the event, and that the survey should be retooled and then request that the Partners complete the survey weeks in advance of the event. A brief discussion was also held regarding the venue. The police department training room was quite noisy. Perhaps the Education Center at the hospital might be a better location and could include break-out rooms with better acoustics. Many Partners concurred with the suggestions made by the Steering Committee. Other comments included:

- Some Partners inquired why they were assigned to a particular focus area not directly related to their action items.
- Great ideas came out of the “cross pollination”
- Need information ahead of time, developing key questions, more instruction about how it should work for us, and the process for recording what happened. (It was also mentioned that it was hard to transcribe the tapes, and there should be some other means to capture comments)
- It would be helpful for focus area leads to know who was in his/her group ahead of time and to insure everyone has the book.
- A positive outcome was having various Partners together which is resulting in setting up mini meetings to continue discussions
- Concern was voiced by Dave Volz that some key players were not there including transportation representatives from TriMet, WES, and Washington County.
- Need clarification on the process for being a lead partner. (i.e. Scott Schlegel commented that Community Action is not listed as a lead.) Mr. Bubenik stated that there is currently no formal process to identify lead partners other than the Partner verbally expressing interest or sending an email offering to assume this role for a particular action.
- Two students attended the event and commented that they enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the different focus areas as well as the program in general.

Partner Reports

Washington County Bicycle Transportation Coalition: Hal Ballard reported that there is a lot happening. He encouraged anyone with a bicycle that they do not use to donate it to their community bike center. Arrangements can be made to pick up the bicycles, if needed. He also encouraged everyone to visit their website www.washcobtc.org

City of Tualatin: Sherilyn Lombos stated that there are many things happening in the city. There is currently a contingent in Washington DC to determine if stimulus dollars might be available for some of our projects including funding for the SW 124th Avenue extension and train noise mitigation. The City is dealing with budget issues and contract negotiations with employee groups. We are also heavily involved in the urban/rural reserves program. The City now has a Municipal Court which is going well and routinely has 50-90 people at each session. This provides a service to our residents so that they don't have to travel to Hillsboro.

Tigard-Tualatin School District: Jill Zurschmeide reported that budget concerns are the highest priority and identifying where cuts will occur. They will likely need a 10-20% reduction. Non-essential services will not be a priority. The School District might receive some stimulus money or funding through Title 1. Their budget must be completed by July 1, 2009. A related concern is that midway through the school year, the State decreased the funding available to them. It is very difficult to make changes mid year; however, they have a rainy day fund to get through this school year.

Clean Water Services: Sheri Wantland reported that construction continues on the pump station in the Community Park. The project is going well and may be finished ahead of time.

Washington County: Mike Dahlstrom stated that Washington County continues to be involved in the urban/rural reserves process. Open houses are being scheduled next month, and information will also be available at the Tualatin Tomorrow Annual Event.

Chamber of Commerce: Kelly King announced that the "Celebrate Tualatin" volunteer recognition event will be done in conjunction with the April 23rd luncheon at the Country Club. The Mayor's State of the City address will be delivered at the March 26th luncheon.

Loaves and Fishes/Senior Center: Paula Stewart stated that there numerous activities occurring. Plans for the Crawfish Festival are beginning. A Personal Trainer in conjunction with the "Fit City" comes once per week to teach classes to the seniors. The Health Fair is scheduled for April 18th with a kick-off walk which is expected to attract 100 people.

TVF&R: Cassandra Ulven reported that a new station in Tigard recently opened. This will alleviate some instances where Tualatin personnel would have to travel to Tigard or Beaverton to provide support. They are also expanding the Tualatin station and to include emergency battalion quarters and disaster support communications. Alternate methods for responding to medical calls and traffic accidents are being researched. This includes monitoring ODOT cameras to ascertain the seriousness of accidents to determine how many resources to deploy and more efficient ways to rapidly respond to medical emergencies.

Clackamas County: Steve Wheeler stated that they have four new commissioners (out of 5) including the former mayor of Wilsonville. County personnel are also in Washington D. C. looking for money from the stimulus package and are also active in the urban/rural reserves analysis. Talks are continuing regarding the possible expansion of the number of beds in the area justice system, but this plan also faces budget issues.

Community Action: Scott Schlegel reported an increase in requests for emergency assistance with rent and energy bills for the low income population in Washington County. While his agency cannot help with payment of mortgages, they can provide resources to pay the rent. They are planning a celebration of community spirit at the Oregon Zoo. The cost of the event is \$70. His organization has worked with the interfaith community for homelessness to change legislation and pass new legislation. Networking is occurring, and they hope to raise as much money as last year.

Meridian Park Hospital: Cindy Haldorson reported that February was American Heart month and both the hospital and local fire departments offered programs. March is cancer awareness month, and they'll be focusing on the importance of early detection. The hospital is seeing an increase in charity care.

Providence: Steve Fletcher also reported an unprecedented increase in charity care. The medical center at Bridgeport opened six months ago and offers a variety of services including primary and urgent care, a surgery center, rehabilitation and diagnostic services. Providence is also providing a modest level of sponsorship to the senior center, Crawfish Festival as well as key services for low income individuals.

Loaves and Fishes: Paula Stewart reported an increase in the meals served at the Senior Center. They will be doing a campaign in Tualatin with discharge planners at local hospitals to identify individuals who may benefit from home delivery of meals. Last Saturday they piggy backed on the Latino Resource Fair and had a Latino pot luck and entertainment with Mexican dancers. Next Tuesday they'll host a St. Patrick's Day celebration with lunch and dancing as well as supporting a fund raiser at Italian restaurant in town where they'll receive 10% of proceeds to support Meals on Wheels. They are the largest sponsor of the health fair, and she stressed that this is a multi-faceted health/safety event and not just for seniors.

Focus Area Reports/Questions

Health, Safety and Social Services: Jay Wilcox stated that items dispensed from the food pantry have increased by 38%. Donations will be solicited at the Tualatin Tomorrow annual event (i.e. an extra raffle ticket will be given to anyone donating food). The food pantry is still searching for a new facility. Scott Schegel, Sia Lindstrom, Cindy Haldorson and other folks continue discussions started at the Partners' luncheon. He continues to solicit support from the faith community.

Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas: Connie Ledbetter announced that Jennifer Wilson is now our representative for the Wetlands Conservancy, replacing Diane Lynch. Connie knows Jennifer, and she has been very active in doing projects in our area and should bring a different perspective to this program. Connie is also regularly attending TPARK meetings. The City has advised them that they will not be building the dog park. If we would like to see this project move forward it would have to happen via volunteers and donated materials. She encouraged committee members to continue to identify alternate representatives to serve on committees.

Arts, Culture, Education, Youth and Family Activities: Larry McClure was not in attendance. No report was provided.

Traffic, Transportation and Connectivity: Dave Volz announced that 4 million dollars was spent thus far on the I-5 Connector study. The final recommendation was Alternative 7 which will be incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan. WES is averaging 1,200 riders per day.

Growth, Housing and Town Center: Doug Rux stated that the City continues to engage in many projects identified in the action plan including urban/rural reserves, urban renewal issues, train noise, high capacity transit mobility, the Town Center and SW Concept plans.

Governance, Leadership and Community Engagement: Ed Casey deferred the update on this area to Mr. Rux. It was reiterated that the big issue is that people don't know what we're doing. We need to find a better way to communicate this to our residents.

In looking ahead, focus area representatives should begin preparation of their report cards for the April 30th event. All six areas should follow the same format. It isn't necessary to report on every action item, rather select those that are moving forward. In addition to tables for the six focus areas, additional tables will be staffed by the City, Chamber of Commerce, and the Tigard/Tualatin School District. The City will have a considerable amount of information available on the urban/rural reserve program.

Yearly Event Planning/Health Fair

Health Fair: This event is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The City is partnering with Loaves and Fishes, Providence, Tualatin Tomorrow, Meridian Park Hospital, and Haggens'. At the beginning of the day there will be a walk, with the first 40 people receiving a "give-a-way." The Lion's Club mobile screening van will be there as well as the Bicycle Coalition. In all, there will be 20+ tables set up with wellness, fitness, community and safety information as well as fingerprinting for young children.

Annual Event: Ms. Kelly provided a brief recap of the planning for the annual event. The flyer has been revamped, and Karen Solano is translating it into Spanish. There will be a coloring contest for kids - the picture will be sent home with school children, and all children who bring their picture to the event will receive a prize. We are purchasing two pages in the newsletter which will contain both the English and Spanish versions of the flyer. Other publicity includes an advertisement in the Tigard/Tualatin Times which will run every Thursday in April. We are using the same artwork as last year. Lisa Thorpe is creating a periodical similar to the one done by Zenn Associates several years ago. Each focus area will be represented with lots of pictures and white space as well as text.

The Event Planning Committee met today. We plan to order some more "glow-in-the-dark" flyers. Throw-a-way cameras will be purchased, and attendees will be encouraged to take photos. Lisa will take digital photos. We have met with the staff at Meridian Park hospital to finalize the menu. Focus area leads were encouraged to advise Candice who will be attending and staffing their tables. It should be a maximum of 1-3 Partners. Lisa is soliciting donations for raffle prizes. We would like to have two items displayed at each table. Suggestions include a basket or gift certificates. Partners and VIC members were encouraged to let Lisa know of any potential donors.

ACTIONS:

Approve 2009 – 2010 Budget Request

This has already been done.

Any needed actions on any other of the above items

None

OTHER ITEMS

The meeting schedule for FY 2009/2010 was briefly discussed and it was agreed to follow the same schedule. Carol Rutherford will update this schedule and distribute it to all VIC members and Partners.

Public Comments

None

Announcements/Other Items

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Summary notes compiled by: Carol Rutherford, City of Tualatin