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Newport Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Members Present: Ken Dennis (chair), Jerry Kern, Ken Smith, Jeff Bertuleit, and Dave Teem

Absent: Chuck Forinash

Staff: Lee Ritzman, City Engineer/Public Works Director, Tanya Timberlake

Meeting called to order at 5:35 P.M. The December minutes were accepted as written.

Staff Report:

Lee went with Dave and looked at bike rack locations; possibilities include the Nye Beach turnaround by the picnic table, by the Chowder Bowl that has a little niche area setback though this may be private property, and one last option is on 3rd street. Lee showed the committee a sketch of a possible location next to the Nye Beach archway. Lee will schedule a time with Jim Protiva, Director of Parks & Recreation to walk through for another opinion. Discussion started on type of bike racks, Lee stated that stainless steel was mandatory due to corrosion issues close to the ocean. Ken asks Lee not to get the wavy ones as these are not terribly well designed.

Lee suggests that the committee find a catalog and give a suggestion to the City. Ken states that the Master Plan probably has some standard recommendations in it. Dave suggests we use what we have now and for future there be a decision on a standard design. Everyone agrees that everything the City has in stock currently will be installed at Nye Beach

Sidewalks at south end of Yaquina Bay Bridge - Lee has had a couple of conversations with Dean Fuller who has contacted Sheila Lyons who thinks the Bike/Ped Program can help with some of the funding. RFP for engineering services for the City are being advertised, and this would be one of those areas that engineering services could be used for - designs like South Beach grant and Naterlin Drive will probably be outsourced as well.

Dave asks about future project priority. Lee indicates that money we already have that is earmarked will come first. Discussion ensues on economic stimulus package, and how much we don't know yet. Lee passed out a list of possible projects that the City sent to the Council of Governments.

Lee stated that the grant for Naterlin Drive has some little things to tweak about overlaying the road, but that some additional money will be forthcoming since the overlay included a widening and bike path designation, rewording the request will increase the grant we receive. Ken asked about the Coast Guard being on board with the Naterlin project, and stated that the commander of the station will be switched in July. Lee stated he spoke with someone in Oklahoma originally some time ago who was not opposed, and that he is meeting with the commander on Thursday afternoon to discuss the project.

Ken D. asked about the Oregon Coast Bike Route signs and Lee stated he hasn't gotten any feedback on that, but will discuss it with Mike Eastman at the Public Works sign shop and find out where that had been left.

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Lee reiterates that the offer is still open to walk Oceanview Drive with right of way maps to locate possible improvements for bicycle safety along this route. Ken stated that he now has a helmet cam in order to video the issues. Oceanview video discussion ensues.

Ken asked about Jetty Trail per/note from Chuck, Lee stated that Gary set up the CG meeting and this was part of the discussion Thursday as well.

Idaho Point Rd over to Oregon Coast Community College in South Beach – there is still negotiations going on with the property owners. Ken mentions the current Transportation Enhancement Plan has allocations for trails, and trails only. Discussion ensued on various obstacles for trails. Ken stated that a lot of people would like to get on a trail that goes all the way around behind the Marine Science Center. Discussion on the Big Creek trail going all the way through to the bay ensued.

Old Business:

Ken brought maps of potential local bike routes and would like to have the City purchase some new bike route signs and post. Discussion on the routes ensued.

Lee suggested the possibility of exempting bicycles from One Way roads. Discussion ensued. Signage could say “caution, bikes and pedestrians on roadway.”

Ken mentions Bicycle Boulevard designation and shows example of “sharrows” which is painted symbols (arrows) on roads indicating the road is shared by bikes. Discussion ensued on symbol recognition, with several on committee saying they wouldn’t understand what the symbols on the roads were indicating – Ken showed the committee photos taken in Portland of some new sharrows that had been painted on the street there. Tanya mentioned that this was quite controversial in Portland, and many letters to the editors of the Oregonian were published concerning it. Ken indicated that as the sharrows become more widely used, they will be more accepted and understood. Discussion ensued on roadway paint and longevity.

Ken D. showed a photo of a speed ramp - Ken S. stated that for fire trucks, ramps work well and they are far preferable to speed “bumps,” Dave enthusiastically agrees that speed ramps do the job of slowing down vehicles better than bumps. Ken also showed traffic circles, and discussion ensued.

Dave asks if the City can post a sign for coastal bike route on Oceanview Drive near 101 since it’s easy to miss the turn there. Would we be stepping on the states toes if we signed Oceanview close enough to 101 for bicyclists to see the coastal route designation? Lee thinks this shouldn’t be a problem.

Jerry mentions a spot that a curb is a problem on one of those plotted bike routes. *Curb cuts are needed at San Bay O Circle and Chambers Court entry to park.* Lee stated a curb cut will probably cost around \$1000, and although there is nothing budgeted for it this year, he might be able to do one of the two.

Lee asked difference between bike boulevard and bike route, and Ken stated “signage” to let motorists know they are sharing the road with a bicycle.

New Business:

Ken announced that the Bicycle Commuter Tax Provision went into effect January 1. Employers can give up to \$20 monthly as a subsidy or tax deferred payroll deduction; he is currently working with his employer to see if they will offer this incentive to employees.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.
Next meeting: February 10, 2009 at 5:30 PM.