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Newport Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Members Present: Ken Dennis, Maryann Bozza, Bob Hein, Elliott Crowder, Lisa Kern and Dave Teem.

Staff: Ted Jones

Minutes: May 14th minutes were approved as written

Staff Report:

Ted reports that Dorothy Upton will replace Scott McCanna as the ODOT Region 2 Traffic Engineer. He has spoken to her about painting sharrows on the Yaquina Bay Bridge and she's supportive of the idea. The committee recommends that Ted re-contact them soon and have them painted before anymore ODOT staff changes take place.

The additional bike route maps will be printed without any changes to the lack of a continuous trail at HMSC. Maryann says that there are still several permitting issues that need to be addressed before repairs to the washed out section can be done.

Ted says that City Council has approved a Notice of Intent to apply for a grant to put in sidewalks from Park St. to Government St. on Elizabeth St. If this grant is successful the only sidewalk gap from Don Davis Park to the Bay Front will be through the Yaquina Bay State Park. Ken raised some concerns about the committee not being asked for input on the selection process for this grant application. He also mentioned that the committee wasn't notified about the Coho/Brant planning process that includes several ideas about sidewalks, trails and bike lanes. Community Development has left the Newport Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee out of the loop. We hope this will change in the future when considering projects that include bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Ted has been in contact with Dennis Comfort about sharrows through the park and learned that Dennis will be leaving soon and John Allen will be retiring soon also. The committee suggested that the city pursue the sharrow markings before these two leave and we have to start all over again with their replacements.

Ted gave the committee a copy of a Progress Report on the US101 Pedestrian Safety Improvements. No design work has started for the crosswalks.

There will be a final public meeting tomorrow, June 12th at City Hall for Coho/Brant Infrastructure Refinement Plan and a public meeting on June 25th for an update to the Newport TSP. Ken suggested that the committee attend these meetings and recommended that someone mention that bicycle and pedestrian improvements to Oceanview Dr. become part of the TSP update with a high priority. The existing TSP only mentions striping and signing Oceanview Dr. This is one reason it wasn't considered as an option for the current TE/Bike-Ped grant cycle for 2013-2014.

Old Business:

Ken reported that he'd contacted Sue Graves the LCSD Safety Coordinator about getting the school district involved in a Safe Routes To Schools program. She will send out a message to all district school principals and let them know that there are resources available to guide them through the process. Our committee is suggesting that we become involved in raising awareness of getting more students interested in walking or bicycling to school this fall when school gets back in session.

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Several committee members are willing to help start this process through public awareness campaigns.

The sharrow placement program for the City of Newport's streets, the Yaquina Bay Bridge and the OR State Parks roads in the city needs to be "fast tracked". The consensus is that Sharrows are the quickest and least expensive way to raise the level of awareness for motorists that these are shared roadways. It also sends a message to bicyclists that these selected roadways are used by many cyclists and may encourage them to get out and ride.

Ken sent a copy of the Newport Walking Route map to Lorna Davis at the Chamber of Commerce and she's very interested on producing this map in a similar format to the "tear-off" city map.

New Business:

Maryann attended a meeting with Lincoln County Transit about bus service to/from Corvallis and serving the South Beach area with an eye on commuting by bus (look at arrival and departure times).

The next is on July 9th, City Hall at 5:30PM. Ken will be out of town and requested that another committee member put together an agenda and conduct the meeting.

Corrections or additions to the minutes will be made at the regularly scheduled meeting and noted in the next edition of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee minutes.