

Minor Betterment Program Review and Selection Committee



Department of
Land Use & Transportation

June 5, 2013
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Walnut Street Center
Training Room 1

Members:

Tim Connelly, URMDAC
Brian Irish, County
Jim McCulloch, RROMAC
Jake Mintz, CCI
Marty Moyer, URMDAC
Shelley Oylear, County
Doug Riedweg, RROMAC
Paul Seitz, County
Dyami Valentine, County

Staff:

Steve Franks
Victoria Saager
Dave Schamp
Stacia Sheelar
Todd Watkins

Absent:

Stephen Roberts, County
Jason Yurgel, CCI

MINUTES

Victoria Saager opened the meeting with introductions.

Dave Schamp reviewed the history of the Minor Betterment Program, shared why the committee was created, and explained his concerns that those being impacted by these projects were not involved in the decision process. Citizens have since broken down those barriers and the County continues to look for ways to engage the public. The committee brings together representatives from the rural and urban areas, citizen groups and County staff. The committee consists of two representatives from the Rural Roads Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee (RROMAC), the Urban Road Maintenance District Advisory Committee (URMDAC) and the Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI) along with a staff representative from each division within the Department of Land Use and Transportation. There are also several staff involved with the administration of the committee and the Minor Betterment Program. Dave thanked the group for their time and commitment to this process.

Victoria reviewed the current Minor Betterment Policy which can be found at www.co.washington.or.us/MB. Proposals for Minor Betterment candidates are received year round from the public and staff. Recommendations from the committee are given to Dave Schamp by October 1 of each year. Any projects that have been completed, funded or recommended are included on the webpage. It was also shared the Minor Betterment candidates continue to remain on the eligible list if they are not selected.

Bids for the URMD Safety Improvement projects were opened today, and the low bid was a little higher than the engineer's estimate. We are currently on track to complete the 2012-2013 projects previously recommended by the committee. Estimated completion time is the end of summer.

Last year's committee recommended starting the selection process earlier to allow more time for public comments, criteria review etc. This year's committee also needs to agree the scoring system is adequate and works well. Brian Irish said comments are always welcome and encouraged any time and if they don't get in before the current deadline, they are included for the following fiscal year's requests. Victoria did confirm she responds with an email to each candidate proposal to let the citizen know their information has been received.

Victoria reviewed the previous committee Ground Rules, Roles and Responsibilities, Committee Guidelines, and the Candidate Evaluation Criteria. Jim McCulloch shared he would like to see guest comments at the beginning of the meeting and maybe an additional five minutes at the end to wrap up.

Shelley Oylear asked that school districts be engaged in the process. Victoria noted that the school districts are engaged through Traffic Engineering's Safe Routes to School coordinator, Cecilia Hagle.

Dyami Valentine shared that Long Range Planning has created a list of sidewalk and bike lane gaps on Collectors and Arterials. Dyami also said there are several that fall beyond the scope of a Minor Betterment project. He also shared there was a very rigorous public involvement process used to gather this information. Dyami suggested future notices be translated to increase awareness of the program. Doug Riedweg asked if the gap list had been cross referenced with the Minor Betterment List and Brian said yes that is the first thing he does when he is given a recommendation.

The committee discussed the current evaluation criteria and agreed it was working well and should stay the same. It was suggested Minor Betterment funding be offered to citizens who are willing to get a group together to do the actual work and the funding would pay for the supplies. Dyami agreed this was a good idea.

Victoria discussed the criteria and weighting factors and asked if anyone would like to see anything changed. Shelley Oylear recommended everything stay the same for a few years so existing projects don't get moved drastically down the list. She feels consistency is good.

Future meeting schedules were discussed. Meeting number two will likely be in late July, meeting three in September or October and then the final meeting would be in October or November.

Victoria will continue to color code new comments so they are easy to spot and she also committed to updating the website with the midblock crossings information. Victoria will send out a meeting Doodle request for the next meeting.

There were no further questions and the meeting was adjourned.