



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

MINOR BETTERMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JUNE 9, 2011

Members: Bonnie Hadley, URMDAC Staff: Victoria Saager
Brian Irish, Staff Dave Schamp
Matt Meier, Staff Stacia Sheelar
Shelley Oylear, Staff Todd Watkins
Linda Peters, CCI
Doug Riedweg, RROMAC Consultant: Leslie Howell
Stephen Roberts, Staff
Lars Wahlstrom, RROMAC
Aisha Willits, Staff
Jinde Zhu – Alternate Staff

Absent: John Douglas, URMDAC Guests:

Welcome

Dave Schamp started off the meeting introducing Leslie Howell from Howell Consulting. Leslie will be facilitating the Minor Betterment Committee meetings.

The committee introduced themselves to each other, Leslie reviewed the agenda, ground rules, communication guidelines, and roles and responsibilities. After making a few minor changes to the ground rules and the communication guidelines, the committee approved all changes. Linda Peters would like to have an alternate member for the CCI as a backup. Dave suggested a second full time CCI member. Linda agreed to get back to the County with a name.

All communication for the Minor Betterment Committee should be routed through Stacia Sheelar at stacia_sheelar@co.washington.or.us.

There was some discussion of having an open house, but it was agreed to wait and see what type of interest there is first. Victoria will handle media releases and any other form of public communication. All media contacts should be referred to Victoria.

Dave reviewed the history of the Minor Betterment Program (see attached Power Point presentation). The budget for minor betterments has increased significantly due to increased revenue from HB2001 which raised the state gas tax and license and registration fees.

Leslie asked the question, “What will success look like?” Responses included:

- Having a project in every CPO
- Safety improvements that affect lots of people
- Projects should result in no pedestrian injuries or fatalities

- Ability to be able to communicate rationale for decisions
- Within budget
- Publicize the selection process well enough that the public feels like they had an opportunity to impact the decisions
- Seek opportunity to partner with other programs (i.e. Safe Routes to Schools)
- Projects should serve highest demand and fit County's plans for bike and pedestrian networks
- Leverage opportunities for implementation by others
- Improve quality of life for people
- Improve capacity where it is constrained
- Improve safety (accident rates), security and comfort
- Some contracts done by outside bidders rather than all by County staff
- Projects should fill the gaps and provide better access to transit
- The decisions need to be defensible to the driving public because they are paying for these improvements.

The group discussed the project web page and outreach to the public:

- A web page will be established for the committee. Meeting agendas and notes will be posted
- A roster will be included on the web that only lists affiliations (no names)
- The web site will include a generic email address for comments to come into the committee. County staff will monitor
- An e subscription will be included
- The group liked the idea of a media release to announce the July 15 deadline for applications and the formation of the committee
- The committee asked that there meetings be accessible by the public and that each agenda include an item for public comment
- There was much discussion about whether to hold an open house and if so, when it should be. The committee decided to leave the question open and wait and see what kind of public interest there is. If an open house were to be held the most likely time would be after an initial prioritized list is developed and before it is finalized.
- Linda suggested that an open house include both an unstructured opportunity for people to review displays and talk to staff and the committee and then a time for the public to provide comments verbally to the committee.

The committee discussed the best time and place for their meetings. Thursday work for everyone and there was a request to adjust the time of day. Future meetings will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon. All felt the County offices were a convenient location. The next meeting will focus on developing criteria for selection of the projects, methods for public input, etc.

Next meeting is July 7, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Training Room 1