

SALT LAKE CITY
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of the October 1, 2012 Meeting

Present from the Transportation Advisory Board were Jonathan Springmeyer, Robin Hutcheson, Rachel Otto, Cheryl Heying, Brian Doughty, Hal Johnson and Xuesong Zhou.

Also present were, Kevin Young, Colin Quinn-Hurst, Russell Weeks, Steve Woods, Ed Rutan, Molly Robinson, Cherissa Wood, Mike Barry and Larry Bowers.

The meeting, held at the Transportation Division Office, 349 South 200 East, Salt Lake City, Utah, was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chair Jonathan Springmeyer.

Jonathan welcomed the visitors.

Motion: Cheryl Heying moved to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2012, meeting. Brian Doughty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Colin Quinn-Hurst introduced himself and gave a presentation on Open Streets Event Planning. There are many cities across the US right now that are closing streets to vehicular traffic for a few hours on a Saturday or Sunday for walking, biking, skating, family activities, vendors, performances and exercise classes. The main aim of these events is to benefit community health, the air quality and the local economy. It's a chance to attract all different types of people to interact and promote social, emotional and physical health. The goal is to bring a park like environment to people's doorsteps so that instead of them having to drive to a park they can go out their front door and they're at an event that is happening on their street. These events can bring out thousands of people. When streets are closed for these events, there are a few streets that remain open for cars to go through. There has been a lot of community conversation about doing this in downtown Salt Lake and so the City has partnered with Bike Utah to help plan and implement this type of event. The City is looking to hold an event on Saturday, May 11, 2013 as it coincides with some other events that are going on downtown. Since May is bike month it would help kick start the biking season. The City would like to get other community members involved and are looking to partner with both public and private places. Jonathan wanted to know if the merchants were going to be able to do sidewalk displays/sales along the route under the current city ordinance. Colin said this is something they will have to look into. Jonathan suggested they have two anchor points, giving people a reason to go from point A to point B. Hal suggested they keep in mind the size of space vs. size of participants. Rachel said the businesses along the route could help advertise and Molly suggested getting a number of local marching bands to participate.

Molly Robinson, the new urban designer for Salt Lake City, gave a brief presentation on a Mid-block Walkways Project that is addressing making Salt Lake City more walkable. This project objective is primarily to increase pedestrian connectivity and overall livability downtown by developing a comprehensive strategy for mid-block walkway development, by building an attractive and functional mid-block walkway as a demonstration project, and through creation of a "lead by example" program. Through a work group study they found that shops, businesses and lighting are some of the most desired things that the City could do to encourage use of mid-block walkways. They also found that life and activity on city streets are what attract people. Molly is working with the City's Redevelopment Agency on Gallivan Avenue where many of the properties are vacant in an effort to give the street a more lived in and inviting feel. Planters, banners and eventually some street lighting will be added to indicate activity. Two public outreach strategies will be employed, one of which will be the use of 5 boards from the Museum of Temporary Change. People will be able to submit their comments by writing on the boards or at www.walkablesaltlake.com. The second outreach will be a series of mobile workshops where the public will be invited to tour mid-block walkways and provide feedback. They are also working on funding to redevelop Edison Street as a more pedestrian oriented street. The final piece is a site for a design competition that may be able to be held at midblock walkways. Jonathan asked if Regent Street was discussed and Molly said that they are looking at it since it is a stage door entrance of the new performing arts center.

Cherissa Wood from UDOT gave a Safe Routes to School Program presentation. This program began in 2006 and is intended to provide safe routes for kids to walk and bike to school. They've provided a lot of non-infrastructure projects to help in education and encouragement to teach kids to get excited about walking and biking. Because of the reauthorization of the transportation bill there have been a lot of changes in funding for the Safe Routes Program which has really limited their federal funding. They're trying to figure out how that will impact future funding for community projects within Utah. In Utah it's required that every elementary school and junior high have a safe routing plan which identifies which routes are the safest for the kids to walk and ride to school. Through their Student Neighborhood Access Program (SNAP) they provide resources for schools to create these maps. With the SNAP program their main focus is to get the schools to create safe routing plans that consist of a SNAP map as well as descriptions that describe in more detail some of the hazards or concerns within the walking routes. It is the responsibility of the school principal to create these maps but the school community councils help develop and distribute these maps. The mapping software that they've created is free to the schools and interfaces with Google maps. They also have contests encouraging students to increase the amount of days they walk or ride their bikes to school and hold free school assemblies and crossing guard trainings. Cherissa said a letter of support from TAB would be a great thing.

Motion: Cheryl Heying moved to write a letter in support of SNAP. Rachel Otto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Jonathan Springmeyer moved to amend the motion to say that Cheryl Heying will write the letter in support of SNAP and it can be submitted to board members for their electronic consent. Rachel Otto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Under general updates/other business, Robin asked if the board had any ideas for TAB appointments that are not currently represented. Jonathan pointed out that some of the Community Council areas are very active and questioned whether it still makes sense to align TAB appointments with the Planning Districts or if they would be better served aligning with the City Council districts. Robin said the City is not looking to re-write the ordinance right now although this is something they could review at another time. Hal would like to see someone from UDOT on the board so there would be a better understanding between them and TAB. Robin said there is a board member recommendation from one of the Council members. Their paperwork is working its way through the process. Kevin said the school district is specifically listed in the ordinance as having a place on the TAB. Robin said the list of community councils is eye opening and perhaps they should have a more focused discussion in November about the structure and what they feel would be most effective for their participation on the board, their representation and how they would or could reach out to the communities now that we have a better understanding of what that means. Robin is going to have some people within the City who are really creative in civil engagement give a presentation at the next meeting to help lead a discussion on how TAB can best engage the community

Upcoming Events-Tomorrow the City Council has two items of interest to the board on their agenda. One is the bicycle advisory committee and the other is the Ground Transportation sub-committee.

Robin asked the board if they had a chance to review the Sugarhouse Circulation plan and if so were they ready to make a formal recommendation of that plan.

Motion: Rachel Otto moved to recommend the Sugarhouse Circulation Plan to the Planning Commission. Xuesong Zhou seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ground Transportation Committee-The board previously discussed the requirements of House Bill 104. There must be a formal board to review age and appearance standards. What was described last meeting was that a sub-committee of this board would study the issue and prepare a recommendation that would come back to TAB and then move through that recommendation process to Mayor/Council. TAB would then appoint a five member sub-committee that would discuss in detail the section of the ordinance that pertains to safety and appearance. Since that time the City has had some time to think about the appointment process and what makes sense in terms of the composition of that group. There is an active Ground Transportation forum that addresses a huge range of issues that would also be a part of this sub-committee on this specific item. Ed Rutan said that under the ordinance at least one member of this sub-committee must be a TAB member and all others can be non-members. However

the Mayor did commit that at least one member would be from a small ground transportation business. Robin said she is looking for feedback from this board that they agree with the composition of the group they are about to appoint and solicit any feedback they have about that group at this time. Secondly she is hoping to have a volunteer and if not a volunteer then a motion to recommend someone to represent the TAB on the House Bill 104 sub-committee. This assignment is not to tackle all ground transportation issues. This assignment is to fulfill only the requirements of House Bill 104. Robin said this is a manageable task that is limited in scope and should only last for a couple of months. Hal confirmed that House Bill 104 does not apply to UTA. Brian volunteered to be the TAB member on this sub-committee since he has a lot of background information on this bill. The board agreed to come back in November and make the formal appointment of the sub-committee possibly even being able to have an informal get together of that sub-committee prior to November in order to get going on the issues and bring everyone up to speed. Robin will send a short bio of each person prior to this meeting so the board can make a decision on whether they all agree on the proposed members. Robin introduced Mike Barry and said he has accepted the assignment of administering the sub-committee Ground Transportation group.

The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Monday, November 5, 2012. Tentative agenda items include: TAB elections, feedback from Community Councils discussion, Bike Share, Ground Transportation sub-committee appointments, UTA Traffic Lab presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 05:45 p.m.

(A recording of the meeting will be available for one year)