

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



Michael Kyte
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
December 12, 2019

Bill Belknap
Staff Liaison

trans@ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7011

<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/556/Transportation-Commission>

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Kyte, Chair; Ben Calabretta, Phil Cook, Mary DuPree, Joel Hamilton, Mike McGahan, Don Meyer, Bob Sanders

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Johnson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Bill Belknap, Jared Hopkins (ITD), Anne Peterson, Tyler Palmer, Erik Peterson

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Transportation Commission Minutes from November 14, 2019 (Action Item)

Meyer moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Cook. Motion carried by acclamation.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Commission Communications

- Hamilton reported that Planning & Zoning discussed the Regional Housing Needs Report which he thought included quite a bit of interesting information. Kyte asked Belknap to forward any transportation-related issues to this Commission.
- Kyte received a citizen request about a parking revision along White Avenue. Palmer said the committee that reviews such requests is already looking into it.
- 50 Gotcha bikes are scheduled to be delivered to UI Transportation Services by March, 2020. Palmer said draft sign images are under review and the Streets Department is working on setting up City hub locations.
- Kyte shared the Sustainability Commission's invitation for a Transportation representative on their subcommittee formed to develop a climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience plan. Cook said he is interested but needs to consult his schedule before committing. Kyte encouraged other Commissioners to consider participating.
- Kyte reported there has been no response from City Administration regarding the next steps for the Third Street separated bike lanes.
- Hopkins said he and Doral Hoff are working with a concerned citizen about moving some luminaries along Washington Street near Gritman Medical Center that are impeding mobility.

- 4. Report on Pedestrian and Bicycle Counts for East Third Street Corridor – Bill Belknap**
Following the installation of the Third Street pedestrian bridge this past summer, Staff completed two pedestrian and bicycle counts on the eastern portion of Third Street Corridor at the Third and Blaine, and Third and Hayes intersections to assess

PROPOSED ACTION: *Receive report and provide direction as deemed appropriate.*

Engineering Tech Erik Peterson summarized the data collected regarding the number of bicyclists, how far they traveled and their age/competence level (attached). Video was recorded at both locations on October 7th and 24th. Peterson noted the weather had just turned colder which likely affected the counts. Of significance, 90% of the pedestrians who used the pedestrian bridge in the morning used it as a through route to downtown, but that pattern didn't hold true in the afternoon. The majority of cyclists were adult/confident riders. Kyte requested the vehicular traffic counts in the same area to compare. Peterson thought it would be worthwhile to repeat the study in May when weather is warmer but school is still in session. Meyer thought July would be better when kids aren't in school and days are longer so more people are out recreating. Cook said this provides great baseline data, although he wasn't surprised the majority use was by adult/competent riders because the lack of separated bike lanes closer to downtown is still daunting to less experienced bikers. He added it will be interesting to observe the change in use as the Harvest Hills subdivision becomes populated and more people discover the bridge.

- 5. Vitruvian Planning Report Review (Action Item) – Bill Belknap**

In May of 2019, Vitruvian Planning conducted a two-day walk audit training course called The Looking Glass Academy, sponsored by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding. A report outlining the audit findings and recommendations has been prepared by the consultant for the City's review.

PROPOSED ACTION: *Review the Looking Glass Academy report and provide direction as deemed appropriate.*

Belknap reviewed the report highlights:

- The number of walk/bike accidents appears to be disproportionate to the miles traveled by drivers. Belknap said Moscow's student population causes the commute mode of walking/biking to be much higher than average (20%) which probably affects that ratio.
- Most highway sections have experienced a 15-20% increase in traffic over the past decade, although the Rodeo Drive/Highway 95 area appears to have increased by 52% which could not be explained so Hopkins will confirm it.
- Pedestrian countdown software at flashing yellow turn lanes will help prevent pedestrian/vehicle conflicts in those areas.
- The report recommends some form of flashing beacons or overhead notification regarding the pedestrian crossing near the Corner Club because of the poor visibility, although there is no accident or injury history there so grant funding would not be available. DuPree suggested removing some of the street-side landscaping at the Corner Club would be of assistance.
- A roundabout is recommended at Mountain View and D Street to minimize congestion. Kyte agreed at certain times it is definitely a problem. Creative non-structural changes by the school might help, such as reducing parent drop-off and perhaps changing release times for different modes of travel. A small roundabout could fit and would definitely help the congestion and, therefore, air quality mitigation. Cook said it was the only intersection in town with 11 lanes of traffic to watch at once.
- The consultants met with school district and 1912 Center staff. The separated bike lanes on Third Street don't seem to be an issue for the school district even though they will affect parent

drop off, but it is of great concern to 1912 Center staff with respect to loading/unloading activity.

Commissioners thought there were crosswalks of higher concern than those noted in the report, so they were curious as to why the reported areas took precedence. Cook thought the most worthwhile suggestion was for the roundabout at Mountain View and D Streets. Belknap said if the Commission is interested in pursuing the roundabout idea, staff could pursue initial feasibility studies.

6. E-bike and E-Scooter Policy Development Discussion (Action Item) – Bill Belknap

City Staff and the Pathways Commission have recently undertaken a review of relevant State of Idaho and City statutes and regulations pertaining to electric assist bicycle and electric scooters in light of the recent increase in use of these devices within the community. Staff will provide a summary of this review and anticipated updates to City code to address the use of these mobility devices within Moscow.

PROPOSED ACTION: *Receive report and provide direction as deemed appropriate.*

Belknap said two aspects to this discussion include: 1) where the devices can be appropriately used, and 2) policy issues regarding commercial shared equipment. To address the first item, he reviewed current City Code regarding use of walkways and bike paths and the recent change to State Code regarding the same. The Moscow Pathways Commission has already developed recommended definitions for e-bikes and e-scooters, using the City of Boise's quite comprehensive Code as a guide. City staff would like to amend current Code before the shared equipment arrives, but Belknap cautioned the quickly evolving technology will make it difficult to write comprehensive code amendments that encompass all potentials. Cook thought the Code should be based on the method of operation rather than the capability of the equipment. Commissioners were conflicted on whether it would be best to start with Boise's code and discuss which pieces should be retained/eliminated, or to start out small with State Code and add to it. A completely separate discussion from personal device use is how the City will contract with the shared equipment companies.

REPORTS

1. Development Projects Report – Bill Belknap

No report.

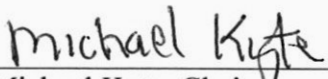
CONTINUING EDUCATION

Kyte announced shared readings have been posted to the Commission webpage regarding separated bike lanes, small town and rural multimodal networks, and an AASHTO guide for bicycle facilities. He encouraged Commissioners to peruse the information for future discussion.

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next scheduled meeting is December 12, 2019. Commission members should submit agenda items directly to the chair by Wednesday, December 4, 2019.

ADJOURNED: 5:41 pm


Michael Kyte, Chair