

# TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



Michael Kyte  
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~  
January 9, 2020

Bill Belknap  
Staff Liaison

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

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

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ben Calabretta

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Bill Belknap, Jared Hopkins (ITD), Brandy Sullivan, Nate Suhr, Scott Bontrager, Bob Buvel

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **1. Approval of Transportation Commission Minutes from December 12, 2019 (Action Item)**

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

### **2. Election of Officers (Action Item)**

McGahan nominated Kyte to continue as Chair. Motion was seconded by Hamilton and carried by acclamation. McGahan nominated Meyer as Vice Chair, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously.

### **3. Public Comment**

None.

### **4. Commission Communications**

- Brandy Sullivan was welcomed as the new City Council Liaison.
- Hamilton expressed concern about the corner at Jackson and D Street and suggested the City Engineer be instructed to assess the configuration. Belknap said it could be added to their list to determine if any enhancements or safety improvements could be made to that site.
- DuPree asked if the condition of the sidewalk in front of Taco Time is being considered for improvement. Belknap said that area is included in an LSIP project involving new ped ramps, widened sidewalks and improved tree placement. The project is currently in design and is scheduled for 2021 construction.
- Kyte asked about the schedule for Central Business District improvements. Belknap will provide a report in February.
- Kyte said next month's agenda will include discussion of Commission membership and drafting a letter to Council regarding Third Street separated bike lanes.

**5. Request for Vacation of North Howard Street Right of Way – Bob Buvel (Action Item)**

*The City has received a formal request to vacate the undeveloped right of way beginning on North Howard Street between E Street and Homestead Street. Staff will present the request for the Commission's review and recommendation.*

Bob Buvel presented the application from neighbors who wish to do infill development of single- or two-family dwellings. The area is very steep and would be difficult to develop without using the ROW area to create flag pole lots. Buvel said approval of any ROW vacation must show a benefit to the public. In this case it would provide the opportunity for infill development and increased tax base, without the need for additional City-maintained infrastructure. Additionally, the Street Department currently has to conduct weed maintenance on the property. Disadvantages to the public would include the loss of the property for any future street, path, or utility placement, and there would be a slight increase in traffic on Homestead Street which is currently an inferior road. The infill development would require an easement from an adjoining neighbor in order to provide access, and sewer connectivity would be difficult. Belknap added the access easement would need to be developed to private driveway standards. Buvel said the ROW was previously studied for cul-de-sac construction but the fire truck turn-around requirements made that unfeasible, and achieving an acceptable grade would require up to 15 feet of fill and retaining walls. Utility operators have confirmed there is no current or anticipated need to use the ROW. Hamilton noted that Google Maps identifies that area as "E Street Sledding Hill" and Buvel acknowledged that loss of such use would be an additional detriment to the public. Buvel said three of the four adjacent property owners have agreed to the vacation. The fourth neighbor told the Commission he would like to see additional vegetation in the area. Buvel said loss of the ROW would not affect the public transportation system and staff does not object to the proposal. Belknap explained City Council will need establish that a vacation would be expedient for the public good. DuPree said the Sustainable Environment Commission is studying climate change mitigation which includes increasing the urban forest, so although infill is preferable to sprawl, loss of this pocket of greenery would be also be detrimental. Cook cautioned against limiting the ROW's transportation potential to vehicular traffic. He inquired whether infill development required vehicular access and Belknap replied it would require City Council waiver of the driveway improvement requirements. Johnson said although there are multiple modes of transportation to consider, he didn't believe the corridor won't serve the purpose for which it was intended, and he moved to recommend that Council vacate the ROW. Meyer seconded the motion but it failed 2-4-1 (Ayes: Johnson, Meyer; Nays: Cook, DuPree, McGahan, Saunders; Abstentions: Hamilton). Lacking any further motions, the Commission did not provide a recommendation to Council. Hamilton said he was highly reluctant to give up public rights-of-way without absolute necessity. Based on a question from Sullivan, Kyte confirmed it was the Commission's desire to neither recommend nor oppose the vacation request.

**6. A and Baker Local Safety Improvement Program Application (Action Item) – Nate Suhr**

*During the Engineering Division's annual review of accident history within the City, the intersection of A and Baker Street was identified as having several vehicular and pedestrian accidents with significant injuries within the last five years. This accident history makes the intersection potentially eligible for grant funding through the State of Idaho's Local Safety Improvement Program (LSIP) which would fund 92.66% of the project costs. The intersection size and geometry appear to make it a good candidate for a compact roundabout which would significantly enhance both pedestrian and vehicular safety at the intersection and provide traffic calming on the A Street corridor. The grant application is due by January 16, 2020. Staff will present the project concept and is requesting a letter of support from the Commission.*

Nate Suhr said this intersection has a higher-than-normal percentage of pedestrian and injury accidents. He showed illustrations of staff's recommendation for a compact roundabout with splitter islands. It

will eliminate a little on-street parking, narrow the lanes to slow traffic in both directions on A Street, and provide pedestrian refuge islands. The cost-benefit analysis is on the low side of what they see funded but it's definitely within the range. If funded, construction would occur in 2023 and existing bike lanes would be retained. DuPree moved to recommend proceeding with the grant application, seconded by Hamilton. Motion carried by acclamation.

**7. Continued Discussion Regarding Vitruvian Planning Report (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. The report was reviewed by the Commission at the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and is back for further deliberation and discussion.*

The report's recommendations included a change in operation of the yellow turn signal at Main and D Streets. Staff have assessed the light's current operation and do not think any change is necessary. Additional signage enhancements were recommended at Highway 95 and A Street (although there are no accident data to suggest a problem there), but Hopkins suggested it might be better to simply remove the crosswalk at that location. A roundabout was recommended at Mountain View and D Street, and Belknap noted that the compact roundabout suggested for A and Baker Streets would fit at Mountain View and D Streets. The report also made recommendations about 1912 Center loading areas and code enforcement of vegetation in sight triangles. Kyte appreciated that the report gave him a new perspective for vehicular/pedestrian interactions, but was disappointed that it did not address the US95/State Highway 8 intersection. DuPree thought pedestrian safety on North Main needed attention; Cook was interested in seeing pedestrian counts for that area. DuPree moved to accept the report with a second by Cook. Belknap said the Commission wasn't being expected to endorse the report but if they have any priority among the report's recommendations that should be stated. Kyte thought City staff should make a presentation to Council similar to the workshop Commission members attended. Hamilton thought the A and Main crossing was important, and Kyte said D & Mountain View and the south couplet. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Continued Discussion Regarding E-bike and E-Scooter Policy Development (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 provided an overview of the issue at the Commission's December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and the matter is back for the Commission's continued discussion.*

State law currently categorizes e-bikes as non-motorized vehicles so the prohibition of motorized vehicles on City pathways does not apply to e-bikes. State law is silent on e-scooters. Remaining questions include how to categorize vehicles based on wattage. Belknap said current state law identifies only bikes and motorized vehicles as being allowed on streets. Cook thought current state code was sufficient, but he thought the Commission could address the operation of scooters and e-bikes on streets, bike lanes, pathways and sidewalks without going into the minutia within the Boise code. The Commission directed staff to propose a draft ordinance that affirmatively addresses where these vehicles are allowed.

**9. Senior Design Project Low-Stress Bikeway Project – Michael Kyte**

*The University of Idaho Civil Engineering Program will be conducting a senior design project class with a focus upon developing concepts for low-stress separated bikeways in Moscow. Michael Kyte is the project sponsor and will provide the Commission with a report on the project.*

Kyte said students will be studying the area from the Student Recreation Center to Rosauer's to identify opportunities for separated bike lanes.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Sustainable Environment Commission Climate Change Task Force Report – Mary DuPree**

DuPree said the subcommittee will be working on an impact statement and vulnerability assessment with the goal of conducting public workshops by April. Think about the impacts of transportation on climate change. She will continue to update the Commission.

### **2. Complete Streets Discussion – Michael Kyte**

Kyte distributed information and references to website resources that could be discussed at a later date.

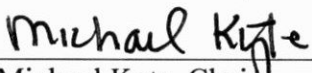
## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

None.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS**

The next scheduled meeting is February 13, 2020. Commission members should submit agenda items directly to the chair by Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**ADJOURNED: 5:58 pm**

  
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Michael Kyte, Chair