

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



Bob Sanders
Commission Chair
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Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

Cody Riddle
Staff Liaison
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<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/556/Transportation-Commission>

**Thursday
April 14, 2022**

4:00 PM

**Council Chambers
206 E. Third
Street**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Sanders, Chair; Randy Baukol, Ben Calabretta, Rebecca Couch, Mary DuPree, Joel Hamilton, Mike McGahan, Scott Sumner
MEMBERS ABSENT: Erin Bacon
OTHERS: Ben Aiman, Maureen Laflin, Janet Zarate (virtual)
STAFF: Todd Drage, Jennifer Fleischman, Cody Riddle

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of February 10, 2022 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Presentation of minutes for approval.

Hamilton moved for approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Calabretta. Vote by Acclamation: Ayes: Baukol, Calabretta, Hamilton, McGahan, Sanders, Sumner (6). Nays: None. Abstentions: DuPree, Couch (2). Motion carried.

2. Public Comment

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and city of residence for the record and limit remarks to three (3) minutes.

None.

3. Continued Discussion Regarding Inter-City Transit Services (ACTION ITEM) – Cody Riddle

A survey regarding potential transit service between Moscow and Pullman was distributed to key stakeholders earlier this year. Staff will provide a summary of the results.

Riddle gave an overview of the proposed discovery project, as described above, and reviewed the results from the survey sent to major stakeholders. The Commissioners were disappointed that funding continues to be the aspect that prevents support of an inter-city transit service. Conversation followed regarding the responses that seemed to corroborate a decrease in greenhouse gases if there was an available public transit service. The difficulty would be in funding the ongoing operational costs required to sustain a transit service: grants could cover the purchase of buses and a facility. There was discussion about who responded to the survey and whether it was someone in upper management or on the ground floor of the agency.

There was talk about how other states and cities have enacted a similar transit service, mostly provided through grant programs. The University of Idaho continues to get requests from students about transportation options between Moscow and Pullman. The Commission reviewed previous transportation programs and how it was created for students but faculty and staff were the biggest users. Grant funding seems to be the most plausible answer and the Commission would like to pursue that.

4. Update on Downtown Streetscape Project (ACTION ITEM) – Cody Riddle

The City recently selected a team to provide design services for an update to the downtown streetscape. Staff will provide a brief introduction to the project and an anticipated schedule.

Riddle updated the Commission on the project as indicated above, explaining that Commissions and the public will have ample opportunity to provide input on the design. Construction would depend on the phasing plans and funding, as well as the impact on businesses and the community. The project would encompass nearly everything from the north couplet to the south couplet, with flexibility on how far east and west it would go from Main Street. Farmer's Market would be taken into consideration for the construction phase. The major goals are focused on surface improvements for pedestrian traffic, but also parking and transportation concerns, and ADA accessibility.

5. Request for Vacation of 324 N Asbury Street Right of Way (ACTION ITEM) – Todd Drage

The City has received a formal request to vacate the undeveloped right of way located at the north end of Asbury Street from Residence Street, north of Residence Street to Robinson Trailer Park Gated Community, and the leg east to the Asbury alley. Staff will present the request for the Commission's review and recommendation.

Drage requested input from the Commissioners regarding a vacation of a section of right-of-way by D Street and North Asbury. It is staff's recommendation that the right-of-way be vacated with the two conditions that a utility easement be left for Avista and some of the right-of-way remain for an emergency service turn-about. A portion of Asbury Street, next to Residence Street, has a 22% grade and it is not developed for traffic use. There does not appear to be any informal uses for that portion, but one of the adjacent properties might use it as a driveway. There was discussion about vacating the remainder of the right-of-way to the south. Commissioners continued talking about the fire truck turnaround at the end of Residence Street.

Some of the residential properties next to the subject right-of way, only have access point through the alley to the east. Staff will look into that and provide a report on how every property would comply with street access. The Commission asked about the possibility of extending D Street to connect with Almon Street. There is not public right of way between Rosauer's and the property directly to the south.

Calabretta moved to recommend that City Council vacate the proposed right of way, seconded by DuPree. Vote by Acclamation: Ayes: Sanders, Baukol, Calabretta, Couch, DuPree, Hamilton, McGahan (7). Nays: None. Abstentions: Sumner (1). Motion carried.

REPORTS

- Zarate gave a brief update on some ITD projects, including the US 95 highway realignment. The contractor is scheduled to begin construction in May.
- The Commission requested information about the Public Avenue project.
- ITD communicated with WSDOT about the proposed Sand Road ring-road, but they did not have any information. Zarate will schedule a meeting with the Traffic Engineer from Washington and will attempt to find out more regarding the group behind the alternate route proposal.
- US 95 Underpass is in the design phase with proposed construction next summer.

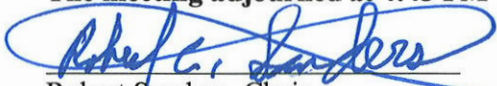
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bird E-Scooters scheduled to be ready for deployment in June 2022.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

The next regularly scheduled Transportation Commission meeting will be May 12, 2022.
Climate Action Plan workshop for public input is scheduled for April 25, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM


Robert Sanders, Chair