



CITY OF OREGON CITY CITY COMMISSION JOINT WORK SESSION WITH THE CITY OF WEST LINN MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 6:00 PM

JOINT WORK SESSION WITH THE CITY OF WEST LINN

CONVENE WORK SESSION AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Walters convened the meeting at 6:04 PM.

West Linn

PRESENT: 5 - Councilor Todd Jones, Councilor Mary Baumgardner, Councilor Rory Bialostosky, Council President Bill Relyea, Mayor Jules Walters

STAFFERS: 4 - City Manager Jerry Gabrielatos, Deputy City Manager John Williams, City Attorney Tim Ramos, Assistant City Engineer Erich Lais

Oregon City

PRESENT: 5 - Mayor Rachel Lyles Smith, Commissioner Adam Marl, Commissioner Denyse McGriff, Commissioner Frank O'Donnell, and Commissioner Rocky Smith, Jr.

STAFFERS: 6 - City Manager Tony Konkol, Public Works Director John Lewis, Community Development Director Laura Terway, Assistant City Recorder Jakob Wiley, City Engineer Dayna Webb, Economic Development Director James Graham

CITIZEN COMMENTS

The attendees took note of two written comments provided by Andwele Castleberry and Ray Atkinson prior to the meeting.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Council & Commission Introductions

Mayor Walters provided opening comments.

2. Staff and Consultant Introductions

Mr. Lewis introduced consultant Mr. Butorac with Kittelson & Associates

3. Work Session Overview

Mr. Butorac provided the overview of the work session agenda.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Oregon City – West Linn Pedestrian & Bicycle Bridge Concept Plan

Nick Gross provided an outline of the Concept Plan that was developed and refined by the project advisory committee, project leadership team, project management team and the general public. Tribal consultations were conducted and two themes were evident, that Willamette Falls and the vicinity are historically and contemporarily significant and protection of cultural resources are important. Extensive public outreach and survey was conducted with 80% of the participants approving a pedestrian/bike crossing. The alignments where a crossing could be placed was reviewed and the two downstream and upstream corridors were outlined, with benefits and burdens for both. Of concern is the environmental and traffic impacts of the bridge placement.

Mr. Butorac outlined why two corridors for bridge placement were recommended and reviewed the steps to actual construction of the bridge. Mr. Butorac reviewed the potential outcomes of adopting the concept plan into the transportation system plan. Mr. Butorac reviewed funding sources, including federal grants.

Councilor Baumgardner commented that public feedback that she has received have been positive.

Commissioner McGriff deferred comment for later in the meeting.

Councilor Bialostosky asked if any homeowners were concerned their property could be seized as part of a condemnation process if the bridge were on the downstream corridor and Councilor Baumgardner indicated there was one homeowner that expressed concern when spoken to.

There was discussion regarding the homeowners that could be affected and how they could build the bridge with existing homes in the pathway using aerial rights and easements, if needed.

Mayor Walters asked who is responsible for constructing the access points. Mr. Butorac provided information on how the connection points would be done and that the determination as to responsibility would be done after adoption and funding.

Mayor Lyles Smith commented that this process is a starting point and is only a concept plan and that she does support development of this bridge. Mr. Butorac indicated that initial funding may be for the environmental study and later work on funding for the actual build, as costs could be very different dependent on the bridge design that is finally determined. Federal grants might be possible at some point.

Commissioner Marl asked about the methodology of the public survey that was done. Mr. Gross indicated there was outreach through newspaper and media outlets. 40% of respondents were from West Linn and 45% from Oregon City. Commissioner Marl felt the survey results were somewhat one sided, as participants were asked to reach out to the entity, rather than the entity reaching to members of the public that might not otherwise be accessible.

Commissioner Smith agreed with Commissioner Marl's comments and supports the general concept plan but felt there are other priority waterfront and transportation projects that Oregon City should consider before moving forward with this bridge.

Councilor Jones asked about how the bridge concept started and Mr. Butorac responded that the public partners determined the need as pedestrian/bike access across the I-205 was not workable. Also asked was the individual that came up with the concept, but that information was not known.

Commissioner O'Donnell commented that he felt the bridge would be a nice addition at a future date but felt like Commissioner Smith that there are more immediate needs and projects that are priority and that the survey information was not reflective of the Oregon City population.

Councilor Jones asked how the work to date has been funded and Mr. Butorac indicated that ODOT has funded the work. Councilor Jones also asked if there were other questions asked in the survey that were

not presented and Mr. Butorac indicated there were other questions, but it was focused on the need for ped/bike access and did not compare the bridge plan against other priority projects.

Mr. Lewis indicated this current effort was largely because bike/ped options had not been incorporated in the I-205 project because of height issues.

Councilor Bialostosky commented he agreed with Commissioner Smith's earlier comments and had concerns regarding funding but did feel the bridge will be a good tourism addition at a future time.

Councilor Relyea felt there needs to be more public outreach and information gathering and had concerns regarding the two corridors and felt the bridge is premature.

Councilor Baumgardner asked what the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde's input was on the project and Mr. Butorac indicated they had a mixed reaction and appreciated the project had not been narrowed to one corridor and would like to see more information as it comes forward.

Commissioner McGriff commented that the project is future-looking and that there is much more investigation and research to be done in order to make the bridge a reality.

Mr. Butorac reviewed next steps and potential adoption of the concept plan and addition to the cities' transportation systems plans.

Both City Managers agreed that the bridge topic should be discussed within each city and determine the interest to move forward.

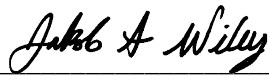
Commissioner McGriff commented that she would like to see further collaboration meetings between both cities.

Councilor Bialostosky agreed with comments regarding future collaboration meetings between the cities.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Walters adjourned the meeting at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jakob Wiley, Assistant City Recorder