



To: West Linn Planning Commission

From: Ken Worcester, Parks and Recreation Director

Re: Summary of Edits and Changes to the Draft 2013 West Linn Trails Plan

Date: October 3, 2013

Background:

Public comment at the 2011 Planning Commission hearings on the Draft 2011 West Linn Trails Master Plan (TMP) revealed three “pinch points” (I-205 Trail, Tualatin River Trail, and the Willamette River Trail) in the draft plan, so the Planning Commission asked Staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Parks Board) to take the TMP back for further refinement. The Parks Board split up and formed 3 sub-committees with the local neighbors of each of the 3 pinch points and attempted to work out resolutions to all the concerns aired at the hearings.

Subsequently, the City Council asked the City’s Transportation Advisory Board to also review and assist with the plan.

That work has been completed and the Parks Board jointly hosted a Public open house style meeting with the City’s Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) on Tuesday July 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. The purpose of this joint meeting was to re-launch the TMP with the proposed revisions, to the community, and then take public testimony on those revisions. The goal was to see if the revisions to the plan resolved the major concerns that arose during the Commission Hearings.

Revisions centered on the I-205 Trail generally consist of:

- We are proposing moving the preferred route as much as 900 feet to the South, and lowering it as much as 225 ft. in elevation rendering it invisible from Barrington Drive, Imperial Drive or Riverknoll Way.
- Likewise, the houses on those streets cannot be seen from the trail.
- The proposed route closer to the freeway basically avoids any of the areas neighbors identified as potential valuable habitat.
- The trail will be designed utilizing the current wildfire defensible space guidelines and recommendations and standards in place.
- The proposed trail will also serve as a fire break and /or fire suppression access in the event of a fire.
- We have and will continue to engage in a ladder fuels reduction programs in areas outside of the proposed trail on the ODOT property.
- Further discussion under the implementation section provides additional safeguards to ensure adequate public involvement prior to design, land use and eventual construction of any new trail.

Revisions centered on the Tualatin River Greenway Trail generally consist of:

- We are removing the primary route along the Tualatin River Greenway not currently built or in Public Parks from the maps.
- In the small amount of text describing the Tualatin River Greenway Trail, the trail will be referred to as a secondary route, and will be described as a combination of on-street, off-street routes.
- There is discussion about the possibility of adding kiosks for renting kayaks via a smart phone application, for those who would prefer to travel on river as opposed to on street to get around the non park areas.
- A statement is included regarding the acquisition of any private property for trail easements or right of way will be based on negotiations with willing sellers.
- Further discussion under the implementation section provides additional safeguards to ensure adequate public involvement prior to design, land use and eventual construction of a new trail.

Revisions centered on the Willamette River Greenway Trail generally consist of:

- We are removing the primary route along the Willamette River Greenway below Willamette Falls not currently in Public Parks from the maps.
- In the small amount of text describing the Willamette River Greenway Trail, the trail will be referred to as a secondary route, and will be described as a combination of on-street, off-street and on-river routes.
- There is discussion about the possibility of adding kiosks for renting kayaks via a smart phone application, for those who would prefer to travel on river as opposed to on street to get around the non park areas.
- A statement is included regarding the acquisition of any private property for trail easements or right of way will be based on negotiations with willing sellers.
- Further discussion under the implementation section provides additional safeguards to ensure adequate public involvement prior to design, land use and eventual construction of a new trail.

General revisions and edits to the plan maps include:

- The Plan Maps were revised to reflect the comments above and to better delineate the on-street and off-street routes.
- A new map added to include those routes identified as “Safe Routes to Schools” by the West Linn/Wilsonville School District.
- The deletion of a trail connection off of Rosemont Drive to Marylhurst Circle.
- The addition of a trail connection from Maddax Woods Park to the West Linn Public Library.

Edits to the plan text include:

- Those made to reflect the comments above.
- A bit more on the process and outreach etc.
- A Statement including the Transportation Advisory Board in the process.
- A statement acknowledging that safety is as much of a value for trail users as it is for trail neighbors.
- A statement of assurance that the West Linn Police Department will respond to any call generated on or off of a trail.
- A statement endorsing the “safe Routes to Schools.”
- A statement that final trail alignment, configuration, and design will come as trails or trail segments come up for development which could happen years down the road if at all.

- A change in dates throughout to acknowledge the current year.
- Statements describing the trail costs and funding to more accurately reflect the reality of trail construction in West Linn e.g. volunteers, trails as part of other projects etc. and routes developed only by the addition of signage and markings

Updates to the plan tables:

- Those necessary to compliment the other revisions e.g. the revision of on-street vs. off-street trails etc.

Outreach for this phase of the TMP Process and Notice of this Open House meeting included:

- City Council Meeting – Announcement July 15, 2013
- Paid Advertisement West Linn Tidings – July 18,2013
- Paid Advertisement Oregonian – July 19,2013
- Press Release westlinnoregon.gov
- Press Release oregonlive.com
- Web Page – westlinnoregon.gov
- City Calendar Item westlinnoregon.gov
- Email newsletter – July 17, 2013
- Home Page Promotion westlinnoregon.gov
- Facebook post #1 – July 18, 2013
- Twitter tweet #1 - July, 18, 2013
- Facebook post #2 – July 22, 2013
- Twitter tweet #2 – July 22, 2013
- Facebook post #3 – July 23, 2013
- Twitter tweet #3 – July 23, 2013

Staff had also personally sent out a letter either by e-mail or US mail to everyone on record as having testified before the Planning Commission regarding the TMP. In that letter, we tried to identify all of the proposed revisions to the TMP specific to the concerns of each person that testified, and also extended an invitation to come to the meeting on the 23rd to learn further about the revisions and provide comment.

As a result of those meetings, we felt we completely resolved the issues centered on the two river oriented pinch points.

We don't feel we were as successful resolving all of the neighbor's concerns with the I-205 Trail because at least to those who commented at the open house, the only resolution is no trail. Other folks (non neighbors) who did testify on the I-205 Trail commented that the connectivity was important and that the trail itself would serve as a fire break and as fire suppression access, in the event of a fire.

Given all the input we received both the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Transportation Advisory Board passed motions recommending the City Council adopt the new version of the Trails Master Plan.

Subsequently both the Sunset Neighborhood Association and the Willamette Neighborhood Association, two of the neighborhoods that would benefit directly by this connection passed motions in support of the most recent I – 205 Trail conceptual alignment.

I have not heard of, or been invited to a BHTNA meeting in a couple of years so I do not know where they stand as a group, but a recent homeowner association newsletter article by the President of BHTNA requesting comments on the trail did generate one letter, and that was in support of the trail.

Recommendation:

It is my recommendation that the Planning Commission also pass a motion recommending the City Council adopt the 2013 Trails Master Plan.