

**Transportation Advisory Board
Summary Notes
Monday, April 20, 2009**

Members Present: Chairperson David Newell; Eric Gakstatter; Joyce Jackson; David Rittenhouse
Members Absent: Tim B. Collins; Eric Underwood
Visitors: Carol Yates; Beth Kieres; Kevin Bryck
Staff: Dennis Wright, Engineering Manager; Richard Seals, Finance Director

1. Chairman Newell called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.
2. The March minutes were approved.
3. Richard Seals discussed City finance topics and answered questions from the Board. He said that the annual financial report summarizing the audit was filed with the Secretary of State in February, completing the 5 or so catch-up audits and received a totally clean opinion. He clarified that the road improvement fees are to be spent in FY08-09, not in FY07-08. The City has received grant money for the Blankenship project and stimulus money for Salamo Road. Currently the FY10-11 budget is being prepared. The Citizen Budget meetings are one or more weeks out.
4. Dennis Wright checked with the City Recorder, the applications for board membership are in and the City will consider appointing the new member to the TAB position at the next meeting, on April 27.
5. In other business, David Rittenhouse has taken calls from people in the Willamette area, including Beth Kieres, Willamette HOA President and has talked to Councilors Jody Carson and Terry Cummings, regarding concerns about opening up 8th Ave., when other mitigations in the task force report probably should be implemented at the same time the street is opened. Some things they are suggesting are:
 - Right in/right out on 10th and 8th
 - Establishing 12th St. as a 4-way stop
 - Right in/right out on the other end of 8th Ave., so that it is not a complete through street, but still semi-functional for fire and police traffic.
 - Signage program off of Willamette Market Place saying I-205, 10th Southbound you need to get onto 12th and get on Willamette Falls Dr. to go that way. Once you get the right in/right out at the 10th and 8th intersection you won't be able to make a left turn any more to get to the freeway.

Dennis Wright explained that what came out of a Willamette Neighborhood Association meeting was a desire to set up a focus group to look at alternatives and mitigation measures. Dennis explained how the TSP gets implemented and how it depends on the funds in place to accomplish the improvements identified in the TSP. In this instance this was a connection that was identified in the plan, not a lot of cost involved, so the

thought was to go ahead and begin implementing the TSP, so the City started the process of notifications, getting involved with the neighborhood and has looked into the historical record of the closure that was approved by the council in 1998. There was a lot of citizen involvement at that point. There was speeding on 8th Ave. so it was closed at that time. Some conditions have changed since the council's action in 1998. The reopening was approved when the council approved the TSP.

Beth Kieres recalled several accidents led to the closing. Also, people were diverting from WFD, speeding down Dollar, down 8th, to make the connection to the freeway without going through town. After the closure they noticed traffic dispersed through neighborhoods more evenly. The concern now is that when traffic backs up, drivers will go up Dollar and make a right on 8th to bypass that traffic.

Dennis noted that space is 40-50% occupied at this point and the traffic is working ok.

David Rittenhouse he has heard complaints from tenants. One tenant is not happy because the developer promised there would be a light installed.

Dennis said ODOT is standing by their decision that they don't want a signal there. He said there is a plan for 10th St. for an additional lane going out to Willamette Falls Dr., a connection from 8th Ct. to Willamette Falls Dr., with right ins/right outs to draw traffic away from that intersection.

Beth asked if she could get assistance from the TAB to show the Neighborhood Association what is going to happen in the Willamette area that they need to get prepared for and educated on. David Newell explained how she could get information from the TSP and explained how it is organized by mode of transportation; bicycles, pedestrian paths, transit, and roads, with maps to see each area graphically.

Beth asked when the fire department would have to have access from the bays on 8th. Will there be a temporary light on 10th so that they can get out? What is the process for getting involved with the fire department to find out what their needs are? Dennis said the fire department is close to getting their permit and there are no traffic lights now so they would use their siren and flashing lights to get out into traffic.

6. Kevin Bryck, from the Hwy 43 task force, says the Council asked them to get started. First they will figure out what is the scope of the task force work and figure out the plan of action, so that will be a few months out. They are looking at the existing Hwy 43 plan and the existing TSP. He said a group of people are pushing to install bus shelters on Hwy 43 and since TriMet won't be installing bus shelters the city should look at installing them.

David Newell said he had talked to Mayor Galle again regarding Hwy 43 and they are interested in moving forward rather restudying the plan.

Kevin said the conceptual design plan did not look at half of the intersections that had had vehicle accidents in 2008. It also didn't look at anything past Hood St. The plan doesn't look at anything off of Hwy 43, such as changes to intersections, alignments, changes to pedestrian paths. Only looked at ODOT's right of way, because ODOT said

they would look at designs for Hood St. Those are the things that the task force wants to look at.

David Newell asked if there is anything actionable for the TAB to vote on here. He asked whether the City staff have been given any direction from the City Council or Mayor to the TAB as to what they should focus on. Dennis said he has not received any information.

7. Chairman Newell adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm.