



BOLTON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

DRAFT MINUTES: Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Zoom Monthly Meeting

Meeting Called to Order: Robert McCarthy, 7:00 PM

Welcome to attendees and get acquainted with Zoom: Attendees: 15 + 4 Presenters

Draft March 15, 2022 Minutes: Approved.

Draft Agenda: Approved.

Treasurer's Report: \$4,097.03 per BNA checking account as of 3/28/2022.

Old Business and Updates:

- **Jet Ski Noise: Mike Arthur:** The Oregon Marine Board has issued a temporary ruling, for this summer, to lower the current 84 dBA (decibel) to 75 dBA for personal water craft only on the Willamette River. The area affected is from Waverly Marina to the Willamette Falls.

Mike noted: (1) Washington and Idaho current state laws: "not to exceed 75 dB measured from any point on the shoreline of the body of water on which the vessel is being operated." (2) 84 dBA is 3 times louder than 75 dBA.

There were 240 public comments sent to OMB, most from boat owners, for the need to lower and revise this law. Also included were comments from the surrounding cities on the Willamette including the City of Gladstone, City of Oregon City, City of West Linn to reduce the decibels for personal water craft in this area.

Because there is a temporary standard set by the State OMB, local jurisdictions are able to enforce the state noise ordinance at this time. For noise complaints on the Willamette River in our area, call **Clackamas County Sheriff Dept.** who can now respond and address noise complaints on the river... particularly at Meldrum Bar Park where the noise limit has been excessively abused.

A Concern was raised of the possible negative impact this ruling might have for those who live on the river, who have a boat and are dock owners for the potential of "opening the door" for more restrictions in the future. However, this rule has no negative effects on these issues.

- **Skyline Circle and Skyline Drive Members – Finally!** The Sunset N.A., in their March meeting, voted and approved for this portion of their neighborhood to join the Bolton N.A. This is due to its location abutting Bolton with the same on-going neighborhood issues. The City Manager, Jerry Gabrielatos, stated that this change will be made permanent in May with the redrawing of the City map.
- **Invitation to City Department heads to attend monthly meetings:** Jerry Gabrielatos will join us at our May meeting and will follow-up with his Department Heads to attend a meeting to talk 10-15 minutes about what's happening in their department and conversation as a basis for conversation.

- **Proposed policy for better coordination between City and N.A.'s:** The purpose of this policy statement is to develop a more collaborative relationship without surprises. This will be revised and voted on at N.A. Presidents May 22nd meeting.

New Business: ODOT Presentation of latest tolling and diversion plans:

Presenters: Garet Prior, ODOT Oregon Toll Policy Manager; Hannah Williams, ODOT Toll Program Community Engagement; April Deleon, ODOT I-205 Improvements Community Engagement; Chris Wellander, WSP Transportation Modeler

Questions, Answers and Insights from April 19, 2022 BNA Meeting with ODOT

- ODOT is preparing an Environmental Assessment which includes many aspects of tolling on communities. This includes the impacts on businesses, diversion, equity, environment, etc. The Assessments will be voted on by the Federal Highway Administration and the Oregon Transportation Commission. There after there will be a 45 day comment period for written and oral comments.
- Improvements to I205 include adding additional lanes, seismic upgrading the Abernathy Bridge, sound walls, etc.. *Note: See I-205 Improvements and Toll Project Update on "Hot Topics."* <https://westlinnoregon.gov/bolton/hot-topics>
- All lanes will be tolled 24/7 in both directions with variable rates tolls estimated to be from at \$.60-\$2.00 depending on the time of day. Tolls will be collected electronically using transponders, or photos of license plates. Tolling is likely to begin on I-205 in late 2024.
- A low income toll program is being reviewed with a report due to the Oregon legislature in September 2022.
- At present there is no plan to deal with diversion to local streets. A plan will be Considered if justified by ODOT's assumptions and modeling of increased diversion following tolling.
- Note: While information is being gathered about the greater effect of tolling on residents and businesses of West Linn and surrounding cities, there is not, as yet, any plan to mitigate inequitable costs.
- **Q - Can IJA funds be used to pay for the I-205 Improvements Project?** The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) determines where IJA funds (Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act) will be spent. Oregon will receive at least \$4.5 billion over the next five years, \$412 million of which is available for general purposes statewide. On March 30, 2022, OTC did not direct any of these funds to be spent on the I-205 Improvement Project.
- **Q - Is there any movement at the state level to generate additional tax revenue from electric vehicles?** No, owners of electric vehicles in Oregon already pay higher title and registrations fees compared to other passenger vehicles. ODOT is not aware of a proposal to increase taxes or fees on electric vehicle owners.
- **Q - Can I-205 mitigation funds be used to make improvements on OR 43?** Maybe. Mitigation to address negative impacts of the I-205 Toll Project is still being analyzed and discussed. If improvements to OR 43 are determined to offset a negative impact from tolling and supported locally, improvement would be included as part of the I-205 Toll Project. Additionally,

the OTC could choose to allocate future toll revenue toward improvements on OR 43. ODOT has maintenance planned this summer for three locations on OR 43. Two of the locations are relatively close to I-205. There is also a joint effort with ODOT and the City of West Linn, which is currently in the design phase. Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2023 and will include paving.

- **Q - Can tolling revenue be used to pay for the pedestrian/cycling bridge between West Linn and Oregon City?** I-205 Toll Project revenue was not identified as a potential funding source for the Oregon City – West Linn pedestrian-bicycle bridge in the concept plan.

NOTE: The Environmental Assessment is not yet written, however the answers to our questions reflect issues that are already decided by the legislature and ODOT. There will be tolling.

Serious concerns were raised for West Linn residents of the burden of tolling with few choices for travel: to work, health care, shopping, and for small businesses that require the use of I-205 numerous times a day. Our current public transportation system is not, in the least, adequate to relieve the burden of time and costs that will be placed on our community.

Recognition to fellow Bolton Neighbor, Mike Watters: Mike received the West Linn 2022 Robert Moore Award. He “has dedicated more than 3 decades of service to the West Linn community...He has been involved in the Friends of McLean House and Park, West Linn Lions Club, Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation, Bolton Neighborhood Assoc., Friend of Maddax Woods and the West Linn Historical Society.” Well deserved, Mike.

Future Agenda Items:

- Bolton Day Occasion

Note: upcoming webinars to register for: Oregon Community Paths Program (OCP):

- May 18 – OCP 2022 Solicitation webinar (11 a.m. – Noon) – Registration required: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Programs/Pages/OCP.aspx> to register
- August 1 to September 15 – Pre-Application accepted.
- November 1 to January 31, 2023 – Applications accepted.

For more Information:

- <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Programs/Pages/OCP.aspx>
- <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/RPTD/RPTD%20Document%20Library/2022-OCP-Program-Guidelines.pdf>

- **Status Highway 43 repairs and how you can help – suggested scripts:** Suggested scripts are available on “Hot Topics” to ease communicating with local and ODOT officials about the need for immediate repairs to Hwy. 43.

Go to Hot Topics and Announcements: <https://westlinnoregon.gov/bolton/hot-topics-announcements#:~:text=Hot%20Topics%20%26%20Announcements>

Unhappy about Highway 43? Here's who to contact:

https://westlinnoregon.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/bolton/page/43051/priority_bna_issues_and_goals_july_20_2021.pdf

Reflections, Appreciations and Meeting Feedback: Thank you. Great participation from everyone. See you all next month.

To receive BNA updates/announcements, send your email to:

Robert McCarthy at: BoltonNA@WestLinnOregon.gov

Adjourn: 8:50 pm Thank you, everyone, for another great meeting.

Bolton Neighborhood Association Board Members
Robert McCarthy, President; Erich Kunrath, Vice President
Walter Swan, Treasurer; Janet McCarthy, Secretary

See BNA Hot Topics: <https://westlinnoregon.gov/bolton/hot-topics-announcements>