



Highway 93S Corridor Steering Committee

Meeting #23 Minutes

January 4, 2021

2:00 pm, WebEx Virtual Meeting

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Mark Pascoli, June Hanson, Steve Kane, John Muhlfeld, Scott Freudenberger, Marilyn Nelson, Roger Sherman (Ryan Hennen, Justin Lawrence absent)

Rhonda Fitzgerald, Mayre Flowers also present

Staff: Dave Taylor, Hilary Lindh

A. Meeting called to order at 2:03 pm

B. Approved December 7, 2020 meeting minutes with addition of public comment

C. Committee Review Segment C Draft Plan Chapter 6

Staff reviewed the goals and objectives for Segment C. Committee members asked some clarifying questions about some of the land use goals. M. Nelson suggested a goal or more emphasis be added about the spacing or frequency of bus shelters and stops that would allow for hop on/hop off trolley-like service since distances between businesses make pedestrian/bicycle access challenging. However, she noted that might be more relevant to Segments A and B than to Segment C. There was some discussion about how the service could be a private business effort since Eagle Transit has a different approach. Staff provided some information about current City coordination with Eagle Transit, the SNOW Bus, and the effort to increase the local service options. M. Pascoli suggested an implementation activity for developing bus pull-outs and shelters be added to the list at the end of the chapter, as well as the implementing activities for Segments A and B.

The committee discussed in some detail the Goal 8 objective relating to a roundabout at the Highway 40 intersection. M. Pascoli, S. Kane, and J. Hanson were not convinced a roundabout would work here and it should be moved further down the list of objectives; J. Muhlfeld, R. Sherman, and M. Nelson believed it is a viable alternative and were very supportive of keeping that option on the table. J. Muhlfeld mentioned that as property develops around this intersection, City Council is looking for ROW dedication to accommodate a potential future roundabout. M. Nelson noted a roundabout would also provide an opportunity to create a gateway entrance to town if no land acquisition is successful. Goal 12 language about drought resistant landscaping was also discussed. Use of native species that are drought tolerant should be used (juniper or ponderosa pines, for example) rather than southwest style plants.

D. Public Comment Segment C Draft Plan Chapter 6

M. Flowers had several comments on Segment C goals, as follows:

Goal 1- broaden to also be consistent with City policy and goals. Add goal about compatible development.

Goal 2, Objective 1 – make part of City policy. Add objective to develop information sheets for County to provide to Segment C developers including advantages of annexation. Add objective to closely monitor and comment proposed rezoning in the County in coordination with City of Kalispell. Add objective to

work with Columbia Falls and Kalispell to create criteria for zone changes along highway corridors in the County. Add objective for City policy regarding tree retention.

Goal 3 and its objectives – include light industrial to what is discouraged, not just commercial.

Goal 4 – reconsider. City may not want infill if insufficient infrastructure to handle it. Add objective to create and maintain a map of areas available for infill to direct development.

In the transitional statement about the Urban Growth Boundary between goals 4 and 5, add goal to Growth Policy about developing criteria for annexations

Goal 5- broaden Objective 1 so not just highway frontage. Provide example of zone to be created in Objective 2. Add timeline to Objective 3 and include language about coordinating with other cities.

Goal 6 – clarify if DEQ policy overrides City policy.

Goal 7 – add objective to oppose reducing these standards and to maintain Scenic Corridors.

Goal 8 – agreed roundabout is viable. Clarify County’s involvement in Objective 7 regarding expanding road network.

Goal 9 – include info on how Kalispell planned for bus shelters, but do not allow advertisement. Create map of where bus pull-outs and shelters should go so developers know what is expected. In Objective 1 indicate how far from the highway shoulder the separated path should be.

Future Land Use Map – Business Service Center is shown as a solid block, show as allowing islands of development, not a strip. Consider reducing depth of Highway Transition designation on west side of highway.

R. Fitzgerald also made several comments:

Since public transit requires federal funding and only one transit provider can be funded in a region, City needs to work with Eagle Transit. She had concerns about a hop on/hop off trolley that would mostly serve tourists; she has heard from visitors that what they like most about Whitefish is it does not seem touristy, so she did not like the idea.

Supported M. Flower’s comments about working in the County.

Wanted language to be more forceful about what the City wants of the County.

Goal 4 – there may be unintended consequences of encouraging infill. Agreed with concept but did not want it to be a free-for-all.

Goal 8 – roundabouts work, keep it where it is in the list.

Transitional Zoning District sidebar – delete personal services from list of permitted uses. In last paragraph, separate first sentence into two to distinguish between building footprint and setbacks.

Goal 10- supported Objective 3 but wanted stronger language.

Goal 12 – agreed that landscaping should be a mix of species that could include drought resistant and/or native species.

Implementing Activities – move items 4 and 5 to bottom of list since further out in timeline, if ever.

E. Additional Committee Comment Segments A and B Chapter 6

M. Nelson had comments pertaining to Segment B:

Goal 4 Objective 4 – signal spacing, moving light to Greenwood has many difficulties.

Goal 5 Objective 5 – said we are a tourist town and would be beneficial to move people between corridor and downtown with a trolley type of service.

Goal 8 – revise drought resistant statement to include or focus on native species.

Implementing Activity 4 – her business has needed all the parking they were required to provide.

In general, she said the committee needs to keep the public comments in mind and to make sure the plan reflects those comments.



Highway 93S Corridor Steering Committee

Meeting #23 Minutes

January 4, 2021

2:00 pm, WebEx Virtual Meeting

F. Public Comment

R. Fitzgerald noted that Goal 7 Objective 2 in Segment B about incentivizing tree retention needs more heft. She suggested a larger setback like the 50 feet mentioned for the potential the Highway Transition Zone.

M. Flowers stated everyone will need more than a week to review the full draft plan. The committee was interested in holding another meeting in the next month prior to receiving the full draft plan to stay engaged.

G. Next Meeting

Review of Chapter 7 Implementation Activities to be scheduled for first half of February pending availability of committee members.

H. Adjournment – 4:03 pm