

# **SUMMARY**

## **St. Helens US 30 & Columbia Blvd./St. Helens St. Corridor Master Plan**

### **PMT Meeting #1**

**July 31, 2013**

**10:30 am – 12:30 pm**

**St. Helens City Hall**

#### **Attendees:**

- Jacob Graichen, City of St. Helens (City)
- Naomi Zwerdling, ODOT
- Chris Brehmer, Kittleson & Associates, Inc. (KAI)
- Robin Craig, GreenWorks (GW)
- Tim Strand, GreenWorks (GW)
- Matt Hastie, Angelo Planning Group (APG)
- Shayna Rehberg, Angelo Planning Group (APG)

#### **Project Overview and Schedule**

Jacob gave the following background on the project history and purpose.

- Landscaping along Highway 30 (budget goal to “Complete Highway 30 Landscaping Plan with ODOT and Portland & Western Railroad”).
- Gateway at Highway 30/Columbia Boulevard, leading to commercial area and downtown.
- Streetscape improvements on Columbia Boulevard/St. Helens Street couplet, plenty of right-of-way, basalt rock and soils challenges for planting and other improvements.
- Potential development/redevelopment in downtown/Olde Towne, industrial land on waterfront, possibly extending First Avenue and connecting to Plymouth Street.
- Arts Commission, bridge sculptures on Highway 30 (not volcanoes).

Chris provided the following overview of issues related to the TSP update, adopted in 2011.

- No vehicle capacity issues on the couplet or in Olde Towne.
- ODOT conducting limited updated traffic counts, including locations with heavier traffic and potential related issues, such as at the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> Street and the couplet (near Lewis & Clark Elementary School), planned for September, Naomi will coordinate with Chris and Jacob to address logistical details and provide results.
- During the TSP process, the city and KAI deferred streetscape recommendations to this project.

- Opportunities for pedestrian improvements, e.g., bulb-outs and pedestrian signals/rapid flashing beacons on St. Helens/Columbia couplet.
- Highway 30 constrained intersections, including Gable and Pittsburgh; still may represent opportunities for intersection improvements and gateway enhancements.
- Railroad-related issues, crossings (major physical barrier), especially pedestrians and bikes, safety, aesthetics.
- Highway crossings, medians and refuges may be accommodated in some cross-sections, where there are extended left-turn or center-turn lanes.

#### Schedule

- Team approves of approach presented by APG.
- Add time to “cushion” hearings process at the end of the project.
- Add DLCDC 35-day notice and key deliverables to the schedule.
- Tim will be on paternity leave during August, Robin will stand in during that time.

### **Background Information and Materials**

- Add budget goals document (Jacob provided Chris with a copy).
- Becky (APG) is coordinating GIS data with the City.
- Traffic impact studies and development proposals:
  - Wauna Federal Credit Union on Highway 30, will improve a “dead” underdeveloped lot, no TIS needed but traffic projections will be included with development application, expected soon.
  - Shopping center proposed at Highway 30/Gable, exceeded highway intersection capacity, dead proposal.
  - Elk Ridge subdivision, consult application for traffic counts.
- ODOT traffic counts available in September.
- KAI traffic models available for use on project.
- Arts Commission and Planning Commission vision documents will be provided by Jacob.

### **TAC and CAC Membership**

- Initial outreach by late August, goal to establish by mid-September.
- TAC – include members listed in scope plus Fire & Rescue and Port.
- CAC
  - Appointed by City Council
  - Planning Commission and City Council representatives
  - Arts, Bike/Ped, Tourism, Historic Committees/Commissions/Boards
  - Health and human services (regarding representatives of Title VI communities)
- Others to reach out to
  - Property and business owners along couplet and Highway 30 and in Olde Towne
  - Chamber of Commerce

### **Project Area Definition / Streetscape Design and Corridor Planning Level of Detail**

Planning Commission prioritized the study area in the following order:

- (1) St. Helens/Columbia couplet and Highway 30 gateway

- (2) Highway 30
- (3) Olde Towne

Level of detail was discussed for each of the planning subareas.

- Columbia Boulevard/St. Helens Street couplet
  - Emphasis Houlton area of couplet, directly east of Highway 30, ample right-of-way.
  - Opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle treatments and facilities.
- Highway 30
  - Challenge of working with railroad.
  - More emphasis on wayfinding and west side streetscape.
  - Possible opportunity for making long-term policy statements about vision for east side streetscape and connections.
  - Focus on gateway intersections with general streetscape design guidance between them (e.g., general opportunities and recommendations for improved landscaping, pedestrian amenities and/or use of medians in selected areas).
- Olde Towne
  - Pedestrian projects included in TSP, work with those and also apply ideas and strategies from Houlton Area to this subarea.

## **Project Area Tour Sites of Interest and Plans / CAC Meeting #1 Agenda and Materials**

Tour

- Hold tour as part of CAC Meeting #1.
- Focus on couplet in Houlton area and gateway to Highway 30.
- Have a van available for people who have trouble or less interest in walking.

CAC Meeting

- Check whether meeting can be held at Chamber of Commerce in that area.
- Potential format: start meeting, take tour, finish meeting.
- Address other parts of the study area in meeting with maps and photos.
- See scope for agenda.
- Time of day, possibly 4-6 pm or 5-7 pm.

Business and property owner meeting(s)

- Either stand-alone meeting (structured or drop-in) or coordinated with Chamber of Commerce meeting (co-host?).

Plug into other community events like school events and Halloween Town for additional outreach.

## **Next Steps**

- Project web site (KAI)
  - Stand-alone web site with link on City web site.
  - App or tool to provide instant Spanish translation? KAI to investigate.
  - Project logo? (Crossed-out volcano?) (Tim/GW).
  - Web site for meeting materials and final work products.
  - FTP site for team materials and internal work products.
- Prepare meeting summary and action items (APG).
- GIS data coordination (APG/City).
- Revise long-term schedule and prepare short-term schedule (APG).
- TAC/CAC formation and rosters (City).

- Contact Chamber of Commerce (City).
- Project area map (APG).
- Start Technical Memorandum #1 (Plan and Policy Summary) and Technical Memorandum #2 (Goals and Guiding Principles) (APG/KAI/GW/City).