

Ad Hoc Committee Meeting #7
September 3, 2019 – Hood River Public Works

NOTES

- Introductions
 - **Janice Bell**, Downtown Business Owner
 - **Marbe Cook**, Board Vice Chair of Columbia Area Transit (CAT)
 - **Leanne Hogie**, Board Chair of Columbia Area Transit (CAT)
 - **Sean Hallissey**, Business Owner, Developer
 - **Mark Zanmiller**, City Councilor
 - **Kate McBride**, City Councilor / Energy Council
 - **Hannah Ladwig**, Hood River Farmers Market
 - **Gary Bushman**, Downtown Building Owner
 - **Dustin Nilsen**, City of Hood River
 - **Laura Garcia-Rangel**, City of Hood River
 - **Annika Cardwell**, City of Hood River
 - *Consultant Team*: Rick Williams, William Reynolds
- Approve Meeting #6 Notes
- Overview of Upcoming Strategy Discussion with Council
 - **Council Member McBride**: Fee-in-Lieu discussion will likely grow into a larger discussion of relevant parking strategies.
 - **Council Member Zanmiller**: Final decision on fee-in-lieu may not emerge from meeting, but Council will provide clear direction on what potential tools belong in the toolbox to provide more clarity/direction to the Committee.
- Discussion of Each Strategy Category
 - *Policy and Code*
 - **Gary Bushman**: Are there options to greatly simplify fee-in-lieu and simply match residential and commercial fees?
 - Council will have a discussion of the fundamental goals of fee-in-lieu as well as other potential long-term funding strategies. Once Council sets more clear direction regarding fee-in-lieu, parking minimums, and funding strategies (essentially what options are on the table and what options should not be considered), the Committee will have better direction of potential strategies paths to pursue.
 - *Management and Administration*
 - **Dustin Nilsen**: It is important to reinforce that all decisions made in the development of the strategy document will need to be revisited.
 - **Dustin Nilsen/Marbe Cook**: The document will be a *living document*, with ongoing data needs, etc., but even specific decisions and parking requirements will need to change over time.

- *Improve On-Street Parking*
 - Under current conditions, the Port is entirely independent from Downtown, and payments made at the Port are not transferable to Downtown and vice versa. However, both the Port and the City use Cale hardware/software, so there may be an opportunity in the future to facilitate a more seamless transition between areas for users. It may be important to include the Port on a future Parking Management Committee.
 - **Marbe Cook:** Consider opportunities for combination zones to accommodate buses in Downtown—a permanent bus zone may not be necessary given limited frequencies but transitioning to a bus-only zone during certain time periods may help improve transit options in Downtown.
- *Improve Off-Street Parking*
 - **Janice Bell:** In addition to renaming lots (to make it easier for visitors to locate parking), consider coordinating with Google Maps/Apple Maps, etc. to locate the specific lot address at the lot entrance.
- *Integration with Other Modes*
- *Residential*
 - **Dustin Nilsen:** To date, no neighborhood has pursued a parking study; they would be required to hire a traffic engineer to lead a study.
- *New Capacity*
- Discussion of Public Outreach/Survey Results
 - In the write-up, consider explaining that the bike/walk mode split, particularly among employees who live less than 5 miles from Downtown, is actually very high; most readers will not have the context to understand that a drive alone rate of less than 65% (for local employees) is actually fairly low for a small town.
- Discussion of Open House
 - When presenting strategies, be sure to put the potential cost of new parking supply in proper context, including both the cost per stall of construction as well as the ongoing maintenance costs; increasing parking “supply” can come in many forms, including shared parking to make use of underutilized parking, freeing parking space through active management and mode shift, as well as construction. All approaches require capital investment, but different amounts.
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 9th @ 5:30 pm
- Adjourn