

Transportation Action Team | Corvallis Sustainability Coalition

Monthly meeting: January 18, 2023

Ice-breaker: We are losing CAMPO's Steve Dobrinich to Salem, let's say so long & farewell to him; any parting words for our TAT-friend and partner?

(For the acronym-phobic: Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization - more about the org here: <https://corvallisareampo.org/about-campo/>)

AGENDA:

- TAT-hosted public forum on City Pavement Rehabilitation Projects (Starcevich)
- Partner updates
- Recording available: "Great Corvallis Streets: A conversation with Road Diet designer Dan Burden" (Starcevich)
- Back in diagonal parking (Rabinowitz)
- Events & Announcements

ATTENDEES:

Steve Starcevich (TAT)

Judy Dugan (TAT)

Court Smith (Land Use Action Team, Electrify Corvallis)

Wendy Byrne (SAFE Corvallis, Climate Action Advisory Board)

Sylvan Hoover (Corvallis Bicycle Collective)

Marge Stevens (Corvallis Budget Commission)

Rachel Schwindt (Cycling advocate)

Dave Rabinowitz (Land Use Action Team, County Board)

Josh Bjornstedt (Corvallis Public Works Project Manager)

Bree Bendall (Sustainability Administrator, MVBC member coordinator)

Daniel Wood (West Hills Neighborhood Association)

Larry Weymouth (350.org)

Steve Dobrinich (CAMPO)

Dennis Stillwagon (Stewardship)

Jay Thatcher (Man About Town)

Lisa Scherf (COC Public Transportation Services Supervisor)

Kristin Anderson (Land Use Planner)

Annette Mills (League of Women Voters, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition)

NOTES:

TAT-hosted public forum on City Pavement Rehabilitation Projects (Starcevich)

With the demise of BPAB and the Covid pandemic, the city has had limited opportunity to talk about upcoming repaving projects with the active transportation community. Greg Gescher and Jeff Blaine reached out to Annette Mills to ask if the TAT would help city staff facilitate a forum “for communicating upcoming street resurfacing projects.”

Staff presentation (15-20 min) would provide an overview of the project, focusing on short- and longer-term impacts to active transportation; and allow city residents, who have an interest in active transportation, an opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences with the particular corridor.

The projects will have been scoped and budgeted, so there won't be substantial changes. There could be additional improvements to a project if they fit with the project scope and budget. Depending on the issues raised in the forum, there could be a follow-up meeting to close any open questions. In a typical year, staff might hold a forum for 1-2 projects.

In response to Jeff's question about public participation, TAT's monthly meetings are virtual and are open to anyone who has joined the TAT Google group. Since there is no public comment period on our monthly agendas, we recommend that the forum be done as a separate meeting in webinar format, which we would be happy to set up. We believe that a TAT-hosted webinar has the potential to reach many interested people in the active transportation community.

We offered the following ideas for the forum:

1. The webinar could be recorded so it could be shared, reviewed, and viewed by people who were unable to attend the forum.
2. A webinar format allows for a moderated chat, so that attendees can be held to certain guidelines, and we can minimize any airing of grievances and off-topic comments. Also, Zoom has advised the Coalition in the past that Zoom webinars (as opposed to Zoom meetings) are more secure and less likely to be disrupted. A moderated Q&A would be more streamlined and would likely lead to greater attendance and viewing of the recording.
3. All unanswered questions will be organized and submitted to Public Works for review and response. At the beginning and end of the webinar, we would direct people who couldn't attend where to submit comments. That way, all voices will be heard.
4. We would promote the forum to the general Sustainability Coalition and its action teams, the Mid-Valley Bicycle Club, active transportation listservs, Vision Zero google group, and others.
5. We are certainly open to other ideas and assistance from the City's Public Information Office in terms of outreach.
6. Finally, since street designs are complex, we asked that TAT and other interested community members will be able to preview the project design prior to the forum, leading to more informed questions and comments from the community.

So far, Greg and Jeff are amenable to all these recommendations. Greg said that staff would provide exhibits a week before the meeting.

TAT response: Enthusiastic for TAT and city; webinar format through coalition's zoom account; concerned about projects already being scoped and budgeted, please provide a comment period prior to the scoping and budgeting; two ways into the process, 1) CIP budgeted and once adopted and 2) project manager designs the project; SW Corvallis fastest growing part of Corvallis, are

there other projects coming to this area to help with this growth; draft in CIP in February and that is the time to comment; reiterate that it is limited to resurfacing projects.

Bus to Monmouth and Junction City (Rabinowitz)

No notes (Note-taker must have gotten distracted [sorry!], more info later.)

SW West Hills Road Evaluation update (Daniel Wood)

Benton County and City of Corvallis involved in evaluation, scope and cost only, very early in the process. It is good news to see outreach from the city, less involvement from the county. Let the planning department and Rory Rowan, Corvallis Transportation Division Manager, what you will like to see.

World Car Free Day planning kickoff (Larry Weymouth)

Let's start planning for a mass bike ride through the city on September 22, 2023, in honor of World Car Free Day.

Great Corvallis Streets: A conversation with Road Diet designer Dan Burden (Starceвич)

Burden is a national expert on lane reductions now known as road diets, he literally coined in the term with Peter Lagerwey in a 1999 paper, Barack Obama named him a Champion of Change for his 35 years of inspiring leaders to design cities for people first. Recording here:

<https://sustainablecorvallis.org/what-we-do/action-teams/transportation/safer-streets/>

This talk was co-sponsored by the TAT, MVBC, and SAFE Corvallis. Sarah Bronstein moderated the Q&A. Annette Mills, Rob Upson, and Wendy Byrne led the outreach and publicity. A very big thank you to all of them.

Back-in diagonal parking (Rabinowitz)

Washington way was resurfaced without any public notice. Current diagonal head-in parking. Back-in parking is safer for several reasons, easier to pull in and out, load on sidewalk. Suggests adding this to all projects.

TAT response: Let's try it downtown; Police department uses back-in parking; what do the standards allow and what is city policy?; no reason for not doing this, but it is very rare, some challenges with current curb configuration downtown; contact parking coordinator, invite her to TAT meeting; we need to change the Corvallis Land Development Code to include back-in angle parking; some communities (Anacortes, Washington) use it; the Planning Commission/City Planners are changing the parking code right now, so the time is ripe! Now would be a good time to open this parking code, may not be appropriate everywhere.

Action item: Invite parking public works parking coordinator, outline of the problem, bike parking code at the county level, Kris Anderson volunteered to make the outline.

COC Active Transportation Group update (emailed by Josh Capps)

Common Fields/CSC Youth House Bike Parking Pod

The City of Corvallis partnered with Common Fields Brewery and the CSC Youth House to install a bike parking pod in the right-of-way, along Western Blvd, in between 2nd and 3rd street downtown. There are 11 bike racks providing 22 new spaces for bikes, including our second “Oversize Bike Parking” location for cargo bikes, long tails, trike’s, bikes with trailers and other long parking vehicles. Custom stickers are added to the rack and, once the weather dries up, we will add permanent, thermoplastic custom sign on the ground to further highlight the space. This will be similar to what was added at the Block 15 bike corral.

Common Fields provided the removal of the large swath of vegetation and paid for the labor and materials of the new pad. A small 6’x7’ area was left natural where the CSC Youth House will take ownership of. Their volunteer team will maintain the area and fill it with food producing plants and/or low-water/native plants, making sure they adhere to strict guidelines for sight distance issues along with vegetation encroachment into the street or sidewalk.

Attached are four images taken head on from across the street. This is an image of each stage in the construction as I feel it helps tell the story best.



Events & Announcements

- Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Annual Meeting, January 19, Noon-1:30pm, register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DwUY2qFoTFWqUS_crSSByA
- League of Women Voters “Know Your City” event, January 23, at 7pm: Hybrid event (in person and zoom) titled, “Know Your City: Accessing and Engaging with City Resources”. More information here: <https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/cm/page/know-your-city-accessing-and-engaging-city-resources>