

Transportation Action Team | Corvallis Sustainability Coalition

Monthly meeting: March 15, 2023

AGENDA:

- Open Streets update (Lindsey Almarode)
- Log Volunteer Hours: Why & How-to (Kris Anderson)
- TAT @ Sustainability Townhall and Fair (Annette, Kris, Larry Weymouth)
- Update & Debrief: Public Forum on Corvallis Pavement Rehab Program (All)
- Webinar: Vision Zero Action Planning (Starceвич)
- Webinar: Walking, Biking, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Starceвич)
- Mid Valley Bicycle Club (Upson)
- Strong Towns Office Hours (Montes)
- Events & Announcements (All)

ATTENDEES:

Steve Starceвич (TAT)

Judy Dugan (TAT)

Sylvan Hoover (Corvallis Bicycle Collective)

Marge Stevens (Corvallis Budget Commission)

Dave Rabinowitz (Land Use Action Team)

Daniel Wood (West Hills Neighborhood Association)

Larry Weymouth (350.org)

Kris Anderson (Land Use Planner)

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

Rob Upson (Mid Valley Bicycle Club)

Lindsey Almarode (COC Active Transportation Support Specialist, Open Streets Coordinator)

Lisa Scherf (COC, Transportation Services Supervisor)

Eric Montes (City Planner)

Rachel Schwindt (Alternative/Active transportation advocate)

NOTES:

Open Streets update (Lindsey Almarode)

Open Streets is scheduled for August 20, 2023, 11am to 3pm. The route goes from Central Park to Peanut Park and includes the SW 11th St neighborhood bikeway and a third activity hub on OSU campus (11th & Washington).

Volunteers are needed: <https://openstreetscorvallis.org/volunteer/>

Do you have any fun interactive parade ideas? Suggest them here:

<https://openstreetscorvallis.org/parade/>

Log Volunteer Hours: Why & How-to (Kris Anderson)

The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition benefits from volunteers logging hours each month for any work they do for the coalition. This information can help the coalition qualify for grants and

other funding. It is done through the Volgistics program. Fill out a volunteer application and set up your own volunteer account at this link:

<https://sustainablecorvallis.org/get-involved-2/volunteer-opportunities/>

TAT @ Sustainability Townhall and Fair (Annette Mills, Kris Anderson, Larry Weymouth)

TAT presented a poster and quiz and provided other TAT related information. Kris Anderson, Larry Weymouth, and Dave Rabinowitz tabled for the TAT at the fair. Steve Starcevich, Jay Thatcher, and Rachel Schwindt hauled bike racks to and from the event and the Public Works yard using pedal power.

Update & Debrief: Public Forum on Corvallis Pavement Rehab Program (All)

The TAT hosted the inaugural “Public Forum on the Corvallis Pavement Rehabilitation Program” on Zoom on March 14, 2023. Corvallis Public Works Josh Bjornstedt gave a 30-minute presentation on the city plans for the “NE Circle Boulevard Reconstruction & Resurfacing Project” and then fielded 25 minutes of community comments and questions. The Q&A session was expertly moderated by CAMPO transportation manager Nick Metzler. About 40 community members attended the live event and more than 50 comments and questions were typed into the Q&A function. Community comments were saved and organized by the TAT and submitted to Public Works staff. The recording was posted for public viewing on the coalition’s TAT webpage on March 16 and the public comment period remained open until March 24 at 5pm, allowing those that couldn’t attend the live event to watch the recording and submit comments. The recording is available here: <https://sustainablecorvallis.org/what-we-do/action-teams/transportation/safer-streets/>

TAT attendee response: Presentation clear and comprehensive, appreciated, the use of “amenity” for sidewalks/bike lanes/crossings rubbed the wrong way, protected bike lanes are a necessity; PW may be the most open of city admin, moving in the right direction, are city standards for development tied to traffic counts?; did PW reach out to HP and other businesses about how to make it easier to bus, ride, walk to work; speed is an issue, lots of examples; HP was contacted; cringed a couple of times, but openness was much appreciated; how to even address ingrained assumptions, prioritization of freight over people and safety; reducing lane width was great; chick-fil-A development wasn’t addressed in the presentation.

Webinar: Fundamentals of Vision Zero Action Planning (Starcevich)

The Vision Zero Network has begun a webinar series about how communities can get grant funding to develop a safe systems approach to their transportation system. The first session was entitled, “Fundamentals of Vision Zero Action Planning.” The first step is developing a comprehensive system system plan, which can be funded through the federal grant program Safe Streets & Roads for All (SS4A). SS4A is in the 1st in 5 years of funding. City of Corvallis, Benton County, and CAMPO are eligible to apply for grants. Here are some of the highlights from the first webinar.

Eligible activities: 1) Develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan); 2) Conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan, and 3) Carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.

Core strategies: 1) Prioritize roadway design and focus on speed management, and 2) Safe Systems, NOT traffic stops; self-reinforcing streets is the ultimate goal.

First Steps: 1) Broaden circle of stakeholders, 2) Build internal buy-in for Safe System approach, and 3) Bring it back to the people.

You can watch it here: <https://visionzeronetw.org/building-a-strong-foundation-for-safe-mobility/>

Webinar: Walking, Biking, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: What you and your community need to know (Starceвич)

Intersections Initiative is a collaboration of America Walks, the League of American Bicyclists, and Safe Routes Partnership. Their goal is to teach people how to get involved with federal programs for walking and biking infrastructure, the upcoming opportunities you need to know about, and the initial steps you can take to prepare your community to apply for funding. The intersections website coming soon. Webinar: <https://youtu.be/ke8gCDiozKE>

Mid Valley Bicycle Club (MVBC) update (Rob Upson)

MVBC is sponsoring scholarships for the Environmental Center's Bike Summer Camps, Corvallis Bicycle Collective is a co-sponsor. For more information and to support these programs, here is a link to the EC:

<https://www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org/summerscholarships>

MVBC is also looking for May & June bike education volunteers. For more info, email MVBC here: advocacy@mvbc.com

MVBC hosted the advocacy group Bend Bikes at their monthly meeting. This group has been active in Bend for 10 years. You can watch the recording of their fascinating and super timely talk here: <https://www.mvbc.com/calendar/meetings>

Strong Towns Office Hours (suggested by Eric Montes)

Chuck Marohn and Strong Towns often come up in TAT discussions. Strong Towns advocates for (among other things) transparent local accounting, and end to parking mandates and subsidies, and shifting local streets from automobile throughput to safety and wealth creation. Strong Towns Action Lab is hosting "Office Hours" on how to build community resilience and prosperity – ALL of the talks look interesting and relevant to Corvallis. You can watch these talks here:

<https://actionlab.strongtowns.org/hc/en-us/articles/11813665595796-Office-Hours-Schedule-and-Intro>

Events & Announcements (All)

Green Living: Home & EV Expo: April 15 11-3pm. The TAT will have a table for the EV show (Dennis, Judy, Rob, Larry). For more information, check out these websites below.

Electrify Corvallis: <https://www.visitcorvallis.com/eventdetail/3466/green-living:-home-ev-expo>

TAT EV Show: <https://driveelectricearthday.org/event?eventid=3699>