

Complete Streets Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: 5pm, Wednesday, 3/23/2022

Location: Auburn Community Room

Members Present: Bob Rand, Vice Chair (Lewiston), Christine Murray, Secretary (Lewiston), Joe Gray (Auburn), Tobin Williamson (Lewiston),

Staff Present: Kris Bennett, Ron Landis, Paul Niehoff

Community members: Jonathan LaBonte (Auburn), Paul Jacques (Auburn), Scott A. Harriman

Agenda Items

1. Welcome/Check-In

2. Public Comment

3. Mount Auburn Avenue 50% Plans (Kris)

- MPI project
- Timeline: putting out to bid next month
- Concept like Gracelawn, 10 ft travel lane 5 ft bike lane with sidewalk on one side
- Gracelawn intersection will have rapid flashing beacon
- Bump out plans distributed by email
- Dead ending street by Whiting
- Area from BJs to Turner is a proposed mill and fill
- In future will upgrade signals to fiber optic
- Joe: how will this be affected by increased traffic?
 - This was approved by Planning
- Bob: this area is currently very dangerous for cyclists
 - Within the area of this project it will be somewhat improved
- Jonathan: Southern Link Study included some of this area (Jonathan will email us this study)
- Joe: Can we recommend that a trail be built as part of new development of sand pits?
- 35 mph speed limit

4. Trail updates (Jonathan)

- Some new trails in Lewiston/Auburn
- Lewiston Lower is the rail trail that would connect to Lisbon, still actively being looked at

5. Five Corners (Paul)

- Project with Lewiston Middle School with Heads Up DOT funding
- “education and encouragement” (no infrastructure involved)
- Partnered with students and bicycle coalition
- Students doing an “expedition” to learn about public service

- Engaging 6 classes of students about road safety, providing information about pedestrian accidents, signal timing, and other activities and demonstration projects
- Aims to encourage students to cross at Vale before getting to Five Corners
- Capital funding to make physical improvements to Five Corner (a different project)
- Lewiston's arborist willing to work to include trees as part of "Complete Streets"

6. Future Topics

- Presentation in May by Sue Ellen Bordwell, President of Casco Bay Trail Alliance

7. 6:06 motion to adjourn by Bob, second by Christine. Unanimous.

Complete Streets Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: 5pm, Wednesday, 4/27/2022

Location: Auburn Community Room

Members Present: Jeremiah Bartlett, Chair (Lewiston) Bob Rand, Vice Chair (Lewiston), Joe Gray (Auburn), Tobin Williamson (Lewiston),

Staff Present: Kris Bennett, Jonathan LaBonte, Ron Landis (ATRC/MPO)

Community members: Dana Staples (Auburn), Paul Jacques (Auburn), Scott A. Harriman

Agenda Items

1. Welcome/Check-In

- Dana Staples – Upcoming Council Ordinance on Protecting Street Trees

2. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

- Rob Landis Not absent
- Tobin motion, Bob second: unanimous votes

3. Public Comment

- None

4. Feedback on Mt. Auburn Avenue Project

- Comments back and forth – Gorrill-Palmer to provide updated striping plans
- Additional work on Mt. Auburn Avenue to be placed in contract as a bid alternate
- May be more discussion in the future on green conflict markings for bike facilities, along the lines of Portland's annual work

5. Arterial Safety

- Street Plans Study – How is Lewiston addressing these outcomes with regards to active project? Case in point would be Main Street
- Minot Avenue/Center Street – Active work on Center Street project, potential safety outcomes on Minot Avenue
- Safety project on Turner Street that may be coming to life
- Request specific work items on specific Arterials, discussion on Arterial items themselves

6. Gamage Avenue Update

- Looking to do work this summer – striping and construction – 10' lanes and 8' parking with crosswalk
- Crossing to be relocated from original location to at Wilson

7. Complete Streets/emergent land use/zoning change Area

- Zoning changes in Auburn are taking place similar to the Comp Plan – the transportation items related to these issues have fallen behind
- Bob asked what the best way to bring this forward is to create linkages between Comp Plan
- Jeremiah will check in with Lewiston leadership regarding recent inactivity on Complete Streets goals, objectives and outcomes
- The discussion came to a topic of where and when and how the CS Committee chimes in on topics, including policy and planning
- This matter will be further discussed in Maine

8. Other Complete Streets/Staff-Related Updates

- CSX is acquiring Pan Am as of June – more to come
- Heads Up Campaign coming to Court Street and some locations in Lewiston this year - Auburn planning to deploy the mid-crossing Yield to Peds signs – R1-6 signs
- Rail Use Advisory Council had first meeting this week on use of Berlin Subdivision rail between Portland and Auburn
- Updates desired on Edward Little – an updated memo will come out

9. Adjournment

- Bob/Tobin – adjournment at 6:40 PM

10. Future Topics

- Do approval of February minutes
- Policy Discussion

11. 6:06 motion to adjourn by Bob, second by Christine. Unanimous.

Complete Streets Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: 5pm, Wednesday, 5/25/2022

Location: Auburn Community Room

Members Present: Jeremiah Bartlett, Chair (Auburn), Bob Rand, Vice Chair (Lewiston), Christine Murray, Secretary (Lewiston), Tobin Williamson (Lewiston), Joe Gray (Auburn)

Staff Present: Kris Bennett (Auburn), Ron Landis (ATRC), Paul Niehoff (Lewiston)

Guest Speaker: Dick Woodbury (Casco Bay Trail Alliance)

Community members: Paul Jacques, Dana Staples

Agenda Items

1. Welcome/Check-In
2. Approval of 2/23/2022 meeting minutes. Motion: Tobin Williamson, seconded Bob Rand. Motion passed (5-0)
3. Approval of 4/27/2022 meeting minutes. Motion: Christine Murray, seconded Bob Rand. Motion passed (5-0)
4. Public Comment: None.
5. Presentation by Dick Woodbury, President of Casco Bay Trail Alliance
 - In the last two years, the CBTA developed a vision for trails working with DOT to understand what is needed to turn a rail corridor into a trail
 - Rail Corridor Preservation Act retains rails for potential train use
 - 2021 bills passed:
 - Rail Use Advisory Council (RUAC) process
 - Mandated creation of statewide active transportation plan
 - Vision for arterial network connects major population centers (largest 25)
 - Casco Bay Trail Loop will connect Yarmouth, Lewiston/Auburn, Lisbon, and Brunswick, among others
 - Extensions of existing trails in Freeport and Lisbon
 - Two different rail corridors connect Lewiston and Portland, so one could be converted to trail even if rail service was resumed
 - Rail Use Advisory Council process initiated in a number of cities, including Lewiston
 - Second meeting on Tuesday, May 31
 - Council will make recommendation about what should happen with the Saint Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad corridor
 - Bob: Do RUACs do economic impact studies?
 - Some costs assessed, but not a full economic impact study

- Paul Jacques: What can we do?
 - Let our policy makers know that this is something the Committee wants to see focus on
- 6. Discussion and Vote on Veteran's Memorial Bridge Bike Facility Provisions
 - Committee is not in a position to change this project, which is already underway
 - Motion by Jeremiah: Committee will ask staff to secure feedback from MaineDOT on their timelines and adherence to MaineDOT Complete Streets policy in future projects, as well as work to add MaineDOT projects within the urban compact to ordinance and process for project review. Motion passed (5-0).
 - Motion by Jeremiah: Committee will support the pursuit of a Safe Streets and Road for All Action (SS4A) Plan process for the connecting corridor. Motion passed (5-0).
 - Bob: Could the SS4A application be multi-jurisdictional?
 - Most likely; SS4A is very new
- 7. Discussion on CS Committee's current and future role in the Twin Cities' transportation goals, visioning, and outcomes in May
 - Jeremiah: Spend time creating a higher-level vision for what should be, policy, priorities
 - Because there are more funding opportunities, can we articulate what want in order to pursue that funding
 - Paul Niehoff suggests pursuing funding to develop Active Transportation Plan
 - Bob: we have no way to influence speed issues. We need to be less reactive and could spend less time on details of city plans.
 - High-level planning would require dedicated time in every meeting
 - Dana: it makes sense for Committee to make list of areas that need attention
 - Motion by Jeremiah: Committee will focus more on active planning and decision-making for the cities, creating options for future funding, and leading to support for and participation in creating Active Transportation Plan. Motion passed (5-0).
- 8. Other Complete Streets staff-related updates
 - Potential Initiative for Lewiston/Auburn Active Transportation Plan
- 9. Future Topics
 - Edward Little HS access improvements
 - Park Avenue School (Auburn) access/management alternatives
 - Site walk/evaluation on rail access and Complete Streets
 - Possible discussion with law enforcement about their perspective on safety issues
 - Engagement with community about concerns (Tobin)
- 10. . 6:40 motion to adjourn by Bob, second by Tobin. Unanimous.

Complete Streets Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: 5pm, Wednesday, 6/22/2022

Location: Auburn Community Room

Members Present: Jeremiah Bartlett, Chair (Auburn), Bob Rand, Vice Chair (Lewiston), Christine Murray, Secretary (Lewiston), Joe Gray (Auburn), Heather Barnett (Auburn)

Staff Present: Kris Bennett, Ron Landis, Paul Niehoff, Jonathan LaBonte

Community members: Paul Jacques, Dana Staples, Scot Harriman, Alex Pine

Agenda Items

1. Welcome/Check-In
2. Approval of May Meeting Minutes, motion: Bob Rand, seconded, unanimous approval
3. Public Comment
4. Staff Follow up on Vet's Bridge and Lewiston/Auburn bike/ped access (Jonathan)
 - There was notice to the city in December
 - Jonathan communicated with DOT that the committee desires improved safety for this corridor
 - Complete Streets policy used when reconstruction involved
 - Ron: AVCOG staff supports multi-jurisdictional interest in Safe Streets for All (SS4A) funding, ultimately for Active Transportation Plan
 - i. Apply for a grant to make an Active Transportation Plan (ATP), or for an implementation plan of things in the ATP (up to \$5 mil)
 - ii. Due Sept. 15, emphasis on corridors, local match is 20%
 - Scot: High incident intersections are on Russell
5. Next steps on Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Active Transportation Plan/Project
 - No updates (Ron)
 - MTP updated every five years, but this will be a full rewrite
 - Determination and Complete Streets Role
6. Edward Little HS area bike/ped access improvements (Jonathan)
 - Jonathan shared traffic plan
 - i. Plan as awarded will dead end Forest, circulation will drive traffic back to Western Ave., 40% increase in traffic using Western Ave.
 - ii. Sidewalk location not in plans at this moment
 - iii. Not implementing recommendations of Court Street safety study that was done
 - iv. City Council put \$200,000 in CIP for crossing improvements, may tap faculty member for community outreach as part of course work
 - v. Snake Trail will re-open after construction. Unknown whether trails are maintained during the winter.
7. Gamage Avenue Ped Safety (Jonathan)
 - Wed. Jun 29 informational meeting to talk about planned improvements
 - Excessively wide street makes it difficult to cross

- This is one of many locations in the city that could use improvements, for example Turner and Dennison, which will be evaluated
- 8. Turner Street: Court to Hampshire Street
 - Potential safety funds for locations with high incidence in crashes
 - Extending curb lines, upgrades in signal equipment
 - Cost benefit analysis needed to access funds
 - Other projects upcoming in area
 - Plan does not include improvements for biking
 - Joe: Should there be ordinances giving preferences for sidewalk materials?
 - i. There are factors including maintenance costs and contractor availability
 - Medians cannot be any narrower
- 9. Union Street and Library Avenue project upcoming
 - Joe: Could phones be used to collect origin-destination data for students?
 - i. There could be privacy implications because they are minors
 - ii. There has been prior use of Strava data for some purposes
- 10. Future Topics
 - a. Lewiston Projects Update in July
 - b. Rail Adjacent Walk
 - c. Lewiston Lower Rail Trail project
 - d. East Coast Greenway – Letter of Petition
 - e. SS4A
- 11. Adjourn. Motion by Jeremiah, seconded by Bob. Unanimous. Adjourned 6:44.

Complete Streets Committee

Meeting minutes

Date: 5pm, Wednesday, 9/28/22

Location: Training Room, Lewiston Public Works

Committee Officials: Jeremiah Bartlett, Chair (Auburn), Bob Rand, Vice Chair (Lewiston), Christine Murray, Secretary (Lewiston)

Members: Heather Barnett (Auburn), Tobin Williamson

Community members: Scott Harriman

Staff: Kris Bennett, Ron Landis, Paul Niehoff, Jonathan LaBonte

Agenda Items

1. Welcome/Check-In

- Gendron bought Longchamps, slowing down constructions (Kris)
- Clean Water Act celebration
- Ron is currently the only AVCOG staff working on transportation (Ron)
 - SS4A grant connecting arterials, applied for ~\$250,000
 - Hiring consultant

2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes

- Motion by Bob, seconded by Heather, passed with one abstention

3. Public Comment

- Kate Snyder conveyed concerns about intersection where fatality occurred
- Paul spoke to LPD about conditions of incident
 - Public outreach needed (Paul)
 - We should avoid victim-blaming of pedestrians and cyclists (Bob)

4. Lewiston Project Updates

- Main St. mill and fill from Longley Bridge to Strawberry Avenue, in PDR stage
 - Paving, upgrading pedestrian ramps to meet ADA requirements
 - RFB at Mount Avenue
 - Shared lane markings and “bikes may use full lane” signs because of width restrictions
 - Looking at better signage for East Coast Greenway and Bike Route 1

connections

- RRFB at Montello and Landry, tightening radius on Landry to shorten crossing, proposing island for traffic calming on Main Street at Landry
- Looking Ahead Clubhouse on Main Street, mid-block crossing with RRFB
- Pedestrian projects are funded through Heads Up program
 - Lisbon and Scribner and Lisbon/South Heads Up funding applied (high visibility access and ADA compliance)
- Mill and fill East Avenue Tampa to Fairlawn
- Sabattus, Oak and Bartlett intersection improvements, RRFP and bump out
 - Piano key crosswalk where there is an RRFP, parallel lines where not, Gorrill Palmer convention
 - Should design of crosswalks be standard, and is there something to keep in mind to suit self-driving cars? (Bob)
 - They do react to pavement markings, but varies by manufacturer, federal law will require minimal reflectivity. Piano keys are superior because more visible when seen from a distance or by an angle. Auburn only uses piano key, or continental style (Jeremiah)
 - DOT crosswalk policy is available
 - What is Lewiston's crosswalk marking standard? (Jeremiah) Paul will investigate.
 - Right of way issues on crosswalk projects impede construction.
- Five Corners
 - High visibility crosswalks, may be concrete
 - Exclusive pedestrian phase will stop all vehicular traffic during crossing
- Lisbon at East Ave. and Lisbon at Essex Street (by Burger King)
 - High visibility concrete crosswalks
- Looking at mid-block crossing on Ash Street
- Mollison shared lane markings
- Data on East Coast Greenway usage?
 - East Coast Greenway dropping section of ECG that connects Lewiston toward Monmouth
- Questions about Pineland Lumber development (Sunnyside neighborhood), workforce housing for hospital

5. Court Street Pedestrian Safety

- City Council allocated funding for Court Street safety in response to zoning changes and residential development
- Few crosswalks in that area
- Public engagement, launching online survey next Monday with door-to-door outreach
- More engagement proposed between committee and community
- Could public comment remain open to Nov 1? (Jeremiah)

6. Future Topics

- East Coast Greenway issues
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan

7. Adjourn

- 6:28 (unanimous)

Complete Streets Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: 5pm, Wednesday, 12/7/2022

Location: Lewiston Public Works

Members Present: Jeremiah Bartlett, Chair (Auburn), Bob Rand, Vice Chair (Lewiston), Christine Murray, Secretary (Lewiston)

Staff Present: Kris Bennett, Paul Niehoff, Jonathan LaBonte, Shelly Norton, Larry Allen (AVCOG)

Community members: Paul Jacques, Dana Staples, Scot Harriman

Agenda Items

1. Welcome/Check-In
2. Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council – St. Lawrence and Atlantic Corridor (Jonathan)
 - a. Context
 - i. Rail Preservation Act mandates that any trail conversion would be labeled “interim”
 - ii. MaineDOT is working on long range plan through 2050
 - iii. Portland to Auburn and Lewiston Passenger Rail Economic Evaluation
 - iv. Rail corridors include CSX (PanAM), SLR (Berlin Subbdivision), MDTT
 - b. SLR Berlin Subdivision segment acquired by state (2007, 2010), related to I-295 and passenger rail
 - c. Only Portland and Auburn have land use plans with focused areas for industrial/logistics uses
 - d. Recommendations made to Auburn by Jonathan LaBonte
 - i. Rail with trail should be advanced through the RUAC process
 - ii. Possible to largely protect rail corridor as well as trail
 - iii. Could also involve high frequency bus service
 - e. Commuter rail on SLR could be totally different from service currently offered on CSX (Jeremiah)
 - f. RUAC has nine months to issue report to commissioner, who can accept or reject, which could then become legislative action
 - g. Accommodations needed for long-distance cyclists in Maine (Bob)
3. Public Comment - none
4. Lewiston Riverfront Island Master Plan (Shelly)
 - a. Updated in July 2022 with consultant team
 - b. Feedback option on Master Plan website
 - i. Including most needed pedestrian/bike connectivity
 - c. Public meeting in January; the primary public meeting for the designers to share with the public
 - d. Now that city owns canals, design can focus on those areas
 - e. Bike/ped connection possibilities

- i. Protected bike lane along Canal St.
 - 1. Could be one- or two-way bike lane
 - 2. Question: How would two-way Canal St. bike lane connect to Main St.?
 - ii. Connection from Ash to Lincoln challenging
 - iii. Sunnyside Park connection, including underpass beneath bridge
 - f. Comment: protected bike lanes are key (Bob)
 - i. Is there a possibility for protected trail between Riverwalk and Multi-Purpose Trail-rail?
 - g. Comments can be emailed to Paul
- 5. Gorrill Palmer Main Street project is meeting about bike lanes on Longley Bridge, but needs traffic modelling (Lewiston)
- 6. Future Topics
 - a. More discussion of St. Lawrence and Atlantic Corridor
- 7. Adjourn
 - a. Motion to adjourn: Jeremiah, 6:31 pm