



Highway 93S Corridor Steering Committee

DRAFT Meeting #5 Minutes

October 22, 2018

2:00-4:00 pm, 2nd Floor City Hall, Council Chambers Conference room

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Mark Pascoli, June Hanson, Roger Sherman, Marilyn Nelson, Lisa Post (John Middleton, John Muhlfeld, Justin Lawrence and Ryan Hennen absent)

Staff: Dave Taylor, Hilary Lindh, Adam Hammatt

Public: Dave DeGrandpre, Richard Turbiak, Mayre Flowers, Rhonda Fitzgerald, Tom Thomas, Randy Cogdill

A. Vice Chair Hanson called the meeting to order at 2:00

B. R. Sherman moved and M. Pascoli seconded approval of meeting minutes from August 6, 2018

C. Review of feedback received from public during September 5 open house

Hilary summarized the issues and opportunities identified by the public that the steering committee had not previously identified. There were several comments specific to the corridor south of the Highway 40 intersection, and this segment needs to be the focus of a future discussion with the committee. The public also identified some issues and opportunities in the rest of the corridor that the committee hadn't specifically identified. There was some discussion about how or why the City would plan for areas outside its boundaries, and staff described the urban growth boundary that is part of the Extension of Services Plan. That southern urban growth boundary was intentionally left unchanged during the 2018 update so that its location could be discussed as part of this corridor planning process.

Hilary also showed some of the apparently contradictory views that people seem to have on residential and commercial uses in the corridor. It was noted that single-family/small lot residential is not the same as multi-family residential (and the distinction is important for any surveys or questionnaires about what people want to see in the corridor). There are also some issues and opportunities that seem to have some consensus. Traffic and congestion are widely perceived as an issue in the corridor. There are opportunities for landscaped medians, roundabouts, and an expanded road network.

D. Economic Analysis Presentation & Discussion – Postponed

Due to a plane mechanical, the consultant scheduled to present and lead the discussion on economics was unable to make the meeting. We will try again in two weeks (see meeting schedule below).

E. Next meeting(s)

The group agreed to meet in two weeks, on November 5 from 2-4pm when our consultant can be rescheduled.

The following meeting, and all subsequent steering committee meetings, will be regularly scheduled for the third Monday of the month to aid in predictability and scheduling. Hilary will send a Doodle Poll around to confirm if most committee members are available on November 19.

The group also discussed potential timing of the next public open house, which will involve visioning exercises. In general, it was felt that even an *early* December meeting would be hard to get the public to attend due to the holidays; an early January meeting is preferred. Hilary will contact the Hamptons Inn for the location of the meeting, either January 8 or 9 (Tuesday or Wednesday) evening and confirm with the group once decided. The date of the meeting will be included in the City's newsletter published in November.

A discussion followed concerning public outreach and getting the word out about the public meeting. Notices were mailed to all businesses in the corridor prior to the first public meeting, but not many of those business owners showed up. Committee members expressed an interest and willingness to join staff in knocking on doors to get the word out. Roger thinks we could survey the business owners as part of those visits. Marilyn pointed out that it's not just business owners that should be involved, but we need to determine what the community at large wants the corridor to look like. This larger group is harder to connect with since it's not an organized group or one type of people. Hilary described an online survey she has been working on; she will send it out to committee members as a pilot survey first to get everyone's feedback. Other ideas that could be incorporated into the outreach effort for the next public meeting include providing a summary of the public comments received so far and asking for help identifying other concerns or opportunities from the businesses that the committee members and staff will visit in December. June also suggested grocery stores as a good location to let people know about the public meeting. Dave Taylor and Marilyn both thought some education would need to be included with any grocery store stands.

F. Public comment

R. Fitzgerald clarified that the public does care about this corridor; to get their involvement we need to ask questions with well-defined choices – not open ended. She said making a distinction between single-family or multi-family residential will be important in any surveys. Visitors to Whitefish already have a negative impression of Whitefish when they enter town through the corridor to the south; this is due to the strip and the number of blighted properties. As part of providing good graphics to the public, it might be worth showing a photo of the Issues and Opportunities map with the sticky notes on it from the first public meeting to demonstrate that there are ways to be heard.

Regarding a second open house, Mayre Flowers thought that we have barely scratched the surface of opportunities for the corridor; the presentation for the second public meeting and any surveys need to use a lot of pictures/images rather than text descriptions for opportunities. She also asked about the timing of the survey relative to the open house. Hilary clarified that the open house would be the kick off to the online survey. Conversations with business owners as part of getting the word out about the second open house, as Roger suggested, would be something different.

Dave DeGrandpre suggested giving the committee members a look at some of the corridor options that are available or could be considered prior presenting them at the public open house.

G. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm