

UTC Minutes – January 12, 2022

Members in attendance: Valerie Dobbs, Ellynn Bannan, Steven Meyer, Abe Herman, Athena Fouts, Diana Rooney, Shana Wade, Orin Zyvan, Andrew Gingerich, Ross Mittleman (attended virtually).

Staff in attendance: Greg Caton, Eric Mocko, Dani Acosta, Kalli Saavas, Trent Prall, Rob Davis (attended virtually), Felix Landry.

Guests: Bernie Smith (expressed interest in what committee does), Kathryn Ventling (One Riverfront Co-Chair)

RTPO in attendance: Sarah Brooks

Call to Order/Announcements

Diana R. called meeting to order at 5:30

Approval of Minutes

Diana R. made a motion to approve the December 8, 2021 minutes. Valerie D. seconded the motion.

Strategic Plan + Action Items

Diana R. provided a recap about the transition workshop held on January 10, 2022.

Dani A. and Greg C. fielded questions regarding the Colorado Open Meeting Law and how it applies to subcommittees and email threads.

Abe H. recommend to not hit “reply all” to ensure that it does not constitute a meeting.

Diana R. asked what the process is to review the strategic goals document. Orin Z. responded with a history how the strategic goals document was developed. Orin Z. suggested reading it over and getting folks to comment. January is the month to take a pause and solicit other items committee wants to talk about beyond the concrete items listed in the annual plan.

Diana R. opened the floor for discussion.

Shana W. expressed that in last couple of year there has been s a lot of focus on inclusivity – all ages and abilities – and suggested including inclusivity as a goal or in the mission

Andy G. concurred about inclusivity. Andy G. suggested the need to add something about geographic equity.

Orin Z. wondered whether or not inclusivity is too specific and if it should be left open. Diana. R remarked that inclusivity is covered by the usage goal.

Abe H. expressed that since goal three is focusing on increasing the number of riders, that goal might inadvertently target discretionary riders and not captive riders (i.e., those who do not have a choice).

Bernie S. remarked that inclusivity is a good thing to consider and suggested that instead putting it in the goals document consider channeling it through communications and who you are communicating with (i.e., taking into account language barriers, etc.)

Andrew remarked that goal 1 is really about internal processes and goal 3 is focused on promotion.

Diana R. suggested that goal three be edited to increase the accessibility to increase usage.

Kathryn V. posed to the group about what does improving inclusivity mean and how do you measure it. Abe H. answered that the focus should not be exclusively on recreational trails but also commuter trails to get people to jobs. Steve M. remarked that it is important for the committee considers the entire geographic area and include people who leave far from the core.

Shana W. suggested change the mission statement to include all users regardless age or ability.

Committee decided to keep the goals in the document as they are. Valerie D. made a motion to approve, Steve M seconded.

Action Plan

Diana R. reminded the group about the infrastructure priorities list and opened the floor to ideas that people want to work on.

Valerie D. shared that it would be helpful to know what CDOT is doing and how UTC can coordinate or provide input, talk about using orchard as an alternative route to North Ave. Valerie D. asked is there are any alternative routes south of North Ave being considered like Grand Ave or Gunnison. Diana R. recommend that be put on the infrastructure priorities list. Andy G. suggested that the committee start using physical maps and make the process more or an interactive activity.

Dani A. provided update about the Bike/ped master plan and gave timeline.

Diana R. suggested that the committee continue walk audits and to coordinate walk audits with upcoming City projects.

Diana R. shared that City of Fruita down thermoplastic markers similar to what the City of Grand Junction did. Diana R. suggested getting Fruita looped in to Grand Junction's wayfinding efforts and finding out where those key connection points are. Trent P. shared that the wayfinding effort went all the way to Fruita and Palisade and that those efforts were all coordinated.

Andy G. asked if there should be an all-encompassing metro group. Orin Z. suggested that RTPO COULD organize a group like River Front does for IGA meetings.

Rob D. shared that the new Fruita Parks and Rec Director was previously at Grand Junction and that there is already an established relationship there.

Greg C. shared that UTC could rely on staff as a resource for identifying partnerships and coordinating across the region.

Trent P. shared that staff members are in constant contact with the County to ensure coordination and there are staff members who will be able to provide updates.

Dani A. suggested that interdepartmental updates could occur at the beginning of meetings.

Diana R. asked what action items UTC should consider that would be most beneficial to the City. Greg C. share that staff would keep UTC abreast so that input is aligned to be most impactful (e.g., input for

2022 is mostly operationally related, input for 2023 is capital related). Greg C. shared the following opportunities for UTC input:

- Council strategic plan that is being finalized – opportunity to explore where the synergies lie.
- Strategic plan implementation matrix – Many items based on mobility
- Ped & Bike Plan

Eric M. shared that the Annual Roadmap schedule the Infrastructure Priorities list in April, which tees that activity up nicely for when the City is looking at the budget for the 2023 CIP.

Abe H. expressed that UTC tends to be focused on physical aspects but not so much policy and asked if UTC should be advocating for more programmatic, and policy oriented

Orin Z. reminded the group about the policy memo and suggested using that as a starting point.

Diana R. also mentioned the opportunity for input on the TEDs update.

Eric M. shared that the City's resurfacing program is also another opportunity to tackle low-cost improvements like bikes lanes. Addressed through street maintenance program.

Updates

Sarah B. provided an update on Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project. Funding was awarded last March. RFP was posted in October and in December RTPO awarded the creative part of the project – non-infrastructure piece that would enhance educational elements and marketing for SRTS. The technical side of the project would eventually take all SRTS PDFs and make them live like in a Google Maps app to help users identify the best SRTS. The creative portion was awarded to Ryan Sawyer Marketing. Sarah B. shared that she is looking to stand up a committee for 5-7 people to decide what the messaging would be and create messaging for different user groups (i.e., drivers vs students). Committee would meet regularly for 3-4 months.

Sarah B. shared that RTPO approached CMU to potentially have graphic design and computer science students to create the web application piece. Sarah to send the Google form for those who want to participate.

Sarah B. also shared that the RTPO walking audits are part of grant with the goal to update walking audits. Andy opportunity to integrate with committee updates.

Dana B. shared that there would be a transportation engineer opening at RTPO and that the position will be posted on Mesa County employment opportunities page.

Abe H suggested that folks think about who is not represented on the committee for the next meeting

Kathryn V. shared that the One River Front Commission is reviewing their strategic plan and revamping it. New committee members coming online. Part of the action plan is to develop specific goals and targets. One River Front was contacted by the American Discovery Trail (coast to coast trail utilizing the work done across the country) and shared that they have been critically looking that Act/legislation, which contains some things that One Riverfront has concerns about like eminent domain.

Steve M. made a motion to extend the meeting by 10 extra minutes and Athena F. seconded that motion.

Crosby Avenue – Revitalizing Main Street – Opportunity 1 Grant Submittal

Trent shared an update on 12th street. Message boards to communicate lowering speed limit from 35 to 25 mph. Also working on procuring equipment to provide better lighting display on outside lane and inside lane and the back of those signs to make it clearer that pedestrians may be crossing. The speed limit drop will occur a week from Friday.

Not successful the first time – Crosby Ave near El Poso – resubmitting grant getting councils approval. 5' bike lanes, 11' travel lane, 8' planting, 10' detached sidewalk.

Orchard Ave

Orchard Ave active transportation corridor 12th to 28th. Currently an active corridor that connects Clifton retail to Mesa Mall. Important for school, hospital, human services connectivity. Started with request to add outside strip multipurpose biking lane and parking lane. Now the thought is to create just bike lanes. Lots with no alley access or side street access – City will be doing outreach to properties. Sidewalk and curb ramps inaccessible for those with mobility aids. Next steps – council briefing last week of January, memo coming out, webpage/ public outreach in February. Trent will update the UTC in February.

Adjournment

Valerie D. made a motion to end the meeting. Shana W. seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.