

Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes: GTAC/Quarterly Trails Meeting
July 12, 2000
1 to 3 p.m.
Fairview City Hall

Councilor Atherton

Metro Councilor Bill Atherton made a special appearance at the GTAC meeting to discuss his proposed amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan regarding trails. The Metro Council is in the process of adopting a final draft of the Regional Transportation Plan. Councilor Atherton discussed his concept of a regional trails "trunk" system that would further refine and prioritize the Regional Trails Plan in order to identify those trails that should be the highest priority for funding. His idea is to establish a two tiered system in which commuter routes would be funded first, recreational trails second. In this amendment, the trail "trunk" system would be: separate from cars, high capacity, patrolled, controlled and scenic. Councilor Atherton also presented a few of the funding possibilities for the construction and maintenance of these trail facilities, including a regional bicycle registration tax and road rent paid by automobile drivers. The Metro Council has not taken any formal action on this proposal.

Trail Construction Project Updates

Representatives reported on the status of trail projects in their jurisdictions, including the Eastbank Esplanade, OMSI to Springwater, Palmbad to Rugg Rd. in east Multnomah County, Steel Bridge pedestrian crossing, Gresham-Fairview and Salish Ponds and Hagg Lake trails.

Gresham-Fairview Trail Planning

Phil Kidby and Ric Catron from the City of Gresham gave a presentation about the Gresham-Fairview Trail. Two years into a difficult planning process, Gresham hopes to have their master plan for the Gresham-Fairview Trail approved by city council next spring. The trail would connect the Springwater Trail in the south with the 40-Mile Loop on Marine Drive in the north. The trail will cross several major east-west streets including Division, which has presented a significant challenge. They project the cost of the trail to be approximately \$2.5 million; \$1 million has been committed so far.

Draft Criteria for "Regionally Significant Trails"

Charlie Ciecko and Heather Nelson Kent of Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces led a discussion of the draft criteria for determining both "regionally significant trails and greenways" and "proposed additions to the regional trails and greenways component of the regional system plan". This discussion will be continued at the next GTAC meeting.

The following are comments from the discussion:

- the criteria are too confining for urban areas

- need to clarify what we are trying to accomplish
- need to make a distinction between transportation functions and recreational functions and how they impact regional significance
- pedestrian access needs to better addressed
- "backbone and ribs" (regional vs. local trails)
- should we as park providers focus on recreational trails
- need to clarify the funding implications of these criteria
- by creating a regional trails map, you establish priorities, especially for funding
- criteria that is too narrow could have a negative impact on accomplishing our goals
- support goes up if more access is available to a trail network
- what role do local park departments play in on-street bike/trail systems?
- a regional trail and greenway system is only part of an overall trail system that would include bike and pedestrian trails

Salish Ponds Trail Tour

Bill Cunningham and John Andersen, Fairview planning staff, led a tour of Salish Ponds Wetlands Park, just outside Fairview's new city hall. The 70-acre park has picnic areas and fishing docks and offers environmental education opportunities and beautiful views.

important notes . . .

The August GTAC meeting is **cancelled**.

The next GTAC will be **Wednesday, September 13**, from 1 to 3 p.m. in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. The Regional Greenspaces System planning has been on hold all summer. At the September meeting Metro staff will preview the draft Regional Greenspaces System map, discuss proposed additions to the Regional Trails Plan and initiate the discussion about "what it means" to be in the Regional Greenspaces System.

This meeting will set the direction for all of our work this year. You wont want to miss it!
