

Mayor David Sims called the special council meeting of June 27, 2018 to order at 6:30 pm. Present for the meeting were: Council President Rick Alonzo, Council Members Valerie Thompson, Ron Smith, and Adam Arthur, Clerk/Treasurer Christine McNair. Also present were: Elaine Clegg, Deanna Smith, Scooter Drake, Olivia Drake, John O'Conner, and Dennis Weed.

Elaine Clegg and Deanna Smith from Idaho Smart Growth (ISG) gave a presentation for Low Stress Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.

ISG has completed several bicycle/pedestrian plan. They will be working with High 5 to help improve health. The bike tourism component can be a large economic part of the plan. A low stress route is when an 8 year old or an 80 year old feel comfortable and safe on the route. The first part of the plan is to find low stress connected routes that are parallel to the highway, so people feel more comfortable biking or walking. They will also look for routes throughout the town. Identifying safe connections and crossings is another component of the plan. Directional signage for key destinations, as well as how far it is and how long it will take to get to the destination is important for a successful plan.

ISG has already reviewed existing plans and data, formed an advisory group, mapped a potential network and created a list of potential destinations for the way-finding signs. This week they will walk and bike the potential routes, to see if they are the best ones for the network.

Phase II – III will consist of developing a draft plan using the information they gather during their visit this week. They will be working with local people to create branding for the wayfinding signs. Elaine is hopeful that the group will agree on the branding for the signs, if not three alternatives will be presented. Elaine and Deanna will visit Bonners Ferry again and present the draft plan. They will make any necessary changes to the plan and finalize it. Then present the plan for adoption. The final plan will actually be a part of the transportation plan that JUB Engineering is working on. It will not be a stand-alone plan.

Val asked if ISG and JUB are already working together. Deanna said they have been working together for a while. ISG was involved with the interviews and creating some of the survey questions.

Mayor Sims said many of the comments received about the transportation plan have validated the items talked about and the ideas have been high quality.

Deanna gave her presentation

The bike/pedestrian plan will help the bike tourism that is growing in this region to capture the economic money generated from that. The better connected and safe a network is, the more likely people will choose to walk or bike instead of drive. The south hill is fairly well connected. One of the reasons for this plan is to give people a choice, so they do not always have to drive. Shared roadways are the main focus. Deanna showed a variety of shared roadways. Bike parking is an essential part of the network. Wayfinding signs are also an essential part of the network. Signs that have the distance and the amount of time to a destination are helpful for people to decide if they want to bike or walk. The ultimate

goal is to create a system where people will be mostly off Highway 95 and have crossings that are safe and comfortable. The network will also help bike tourists want to come and spend time here.

Elaine said ISG will try to help create this plan so that it is attainable without being too costly. A good place to start may be with just some paint on the streets to indicate it is a shared roadway and then continue to add to the network as funding is available.

Mayor Sims said that snow removal is something to consider when designing the network. Deanna said that is definitely something to plan for.

Ron asked if the path that is being planned on the north side of the Kootenai River will be part of the network. Elaine said it will be.

Dennis said it is important to look to the future and connecting the Northside to LaBrosse Hill. Elaine said it is a good idea to include items in the plan that may not be necessary now, but may be in the future. If those items are included in the plan, then it may be easier to apply for funding.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.