

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Update on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and Transportation System Plan

Meeting Date: July 11, 2011
Department: Public Works
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: B
Staff Contact: Rob Inerfeld
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ISSUE STATEMENT

This work session will provide status reports on the updates to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and the Transportation System Plan (TSP). The last council work session on these processes was October 27, 2010.

BACKGROUND

The Eugene Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan provides the City of Eugene with the projects and policies necessary to create a first-class city for bicycling and walking, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, and provide for a well-designed, integrated, safe, and efficient multi-modal transportation system. The Eugene Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan serves as the basis for the pedestrian and bicycle element of the city's Transportation System Plan.

There has been an extensive amount of public involvement for the plan including a collection of other input gathered over the past several years, an interactive web-based mapping tool, an online survey and comment form, neighborhood toolkits, two open houses, and six meetings of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC).

To establish the existing conditions of the City's pedestrian and bicycle system, there were a number of activities including field review by the technical team, analysis of the City's geographical information system (GIS) and crash data from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), review of public plans and policies, and public input. The draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan was developed using input from the community, review of the existing conditions framework, and input from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which consists of staff from the City and other agencies.

The primary elements of the plan are as follows:

- A proposed set of pedestrian and bicycle policies that are recommended for adoption as part of the TSP update;
- A Design Toolkit that serves as a best practice guide for updating the City's design standards and guidelines;
- The list of proposed capital projects and feasibility studies that will replace the pedestrian and bicycle projects in the current TransPlan;

- A list of intersections that have been identified for further analysis to identify safety issues and potential improvements; and
- Recommended code revisions.

A draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan will be available for public review around late July, and staff will provide copies of the plan to the council at that time. Staff will also be getting input on the draft plan from the TAC, PAC, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). Staff will present a final draft of the master plan to the council at a work session in the early fall and request that the council initiate a TransPlan amendment to update the project list in TransPlan to reflect the project list in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. More information about the plan can be found at www.eugenepedbikeplan.org.

The Eugene Transportation System Plan (TSP), like Envision Eugene, will provide a strategy to accommodate this city's growth and mobility over the next 20 years. The Eugene Transportation System Plan will replace *TransPlan* as Eugene's local comprehensive transportation strategy. It will contain goals and policies to direct future changes to the transportation systems and a list of projects that are needed to implement these directives. The Transportation System Plan will weave together direction from the Airport Master Plan, Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, and Lane Transit District's long-range transit plan (which is not yet completed). In addition to the local Transportation System Plan there will still be two regional transportation plans as required by state and federal regulations.

Work on Envision Eugene and the Eugene Transportation System Plan is being coordinated so that they may be adopted as an integrated, mutually supporting package. This past February the public involvement process was expanded to allow the community dialogue begun in Envision Eugene to continue in the transportation planning processes. The transportation advisory committee, called the Transportation Community Resource Group, or TCRG, now includes people from the Envision Eugene Community Resource Group (CRG), the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Project Advisory Committee, the City's standing Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), and others. The TCRG attendees are self-selected from the afore-mentioned groups, and the meetings are open to the public. All attendees may participate in the discussion. After several meetings, the TCRG attendance seems to be holding at about 40 participants.

ODOT agreed to fund the development of the first phase of Eugene's Transportation System Plan and an updated regional plan. Phase One of the City's transportation planning process takes the City from initiation through identifying a viable, preferred land use and transportation directives. Phase One will provide an evaluation of existing conditions, review of current policies, coordination with Envision Eugene's land use analysis, and a set of criteria and priorities by which transportation options will be evaluated. Phase One should be completed around the end of calendar year 2011. Phase Two, to be completed in 2012, will identify the transportation projects, implementation strategies, and cost estimates to implement the preferred scenario.

ODOT also funded the creation of an integrated local/regional transportation planning website for the Eugene Transportation System Plan, Eugene Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, Springfield and Coburg's transportation system plans, Lane Transit District long-range transit plan, Regional Transportation Options Plan, and the Central Lane Regional Transportation System Plan. The site advertises key meetings from all the participating agencies and provides background documents

relative to local transportation planning (e.g., the *Community Climate and Energy Action Plan for Eugene*). An interactive map allows participants to post comments about local and regional transportation issues and points of concern, and comment on different modes, such as transit, cars, and pedestrian travel. Survey information collected through this site is shared by all the participating agencies. The map will remain active for another year. This site may be viewed at www.EugeneTSP.org.

A new “Conversations” feature was recently launched to invite participants to continue the TCRG meeting conversations directly on the website. There is an online project library where TCRG participants can recommend links to other documents, blogs, and videos that inform our transportation discussions.

Community conversations to date indicate that sustainability is a core value to be reflected in the Transportation System Plan. City staff is exploring the use of STARS – the Sustainability Transportation Access Rating System—to help evaluate the transportation planning process through a sustainability filter. STARS is an effort, still in its formative stages, led by the City of Portland to more precisely address issues relevant to transportation planning and transportation systems than a more general tool like the City’s triple-bottom-line form. STARS is reminiscent of the LEED rating system where “credits” are granted for sustainable elements of the project or plan. The STARS program requires a training session in sustainability principles that could be beneficial to the local process.

The concept of using the STARS program for the City’s Transportation System Plan was favorably received by the TCRG, Planning Commission, and Sustainability Commission.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

The Transportation System Plan is being updated as directed by the City Council in 2008, to provide an integrated land use/transportation plan with the development of Envision Eugene. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan is an element of the TSP.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

No action is requested of the council at this time.

CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable, as no action is requested at this time.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Not applicable, as no action is requested.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Transportation System Plan Project Timeline

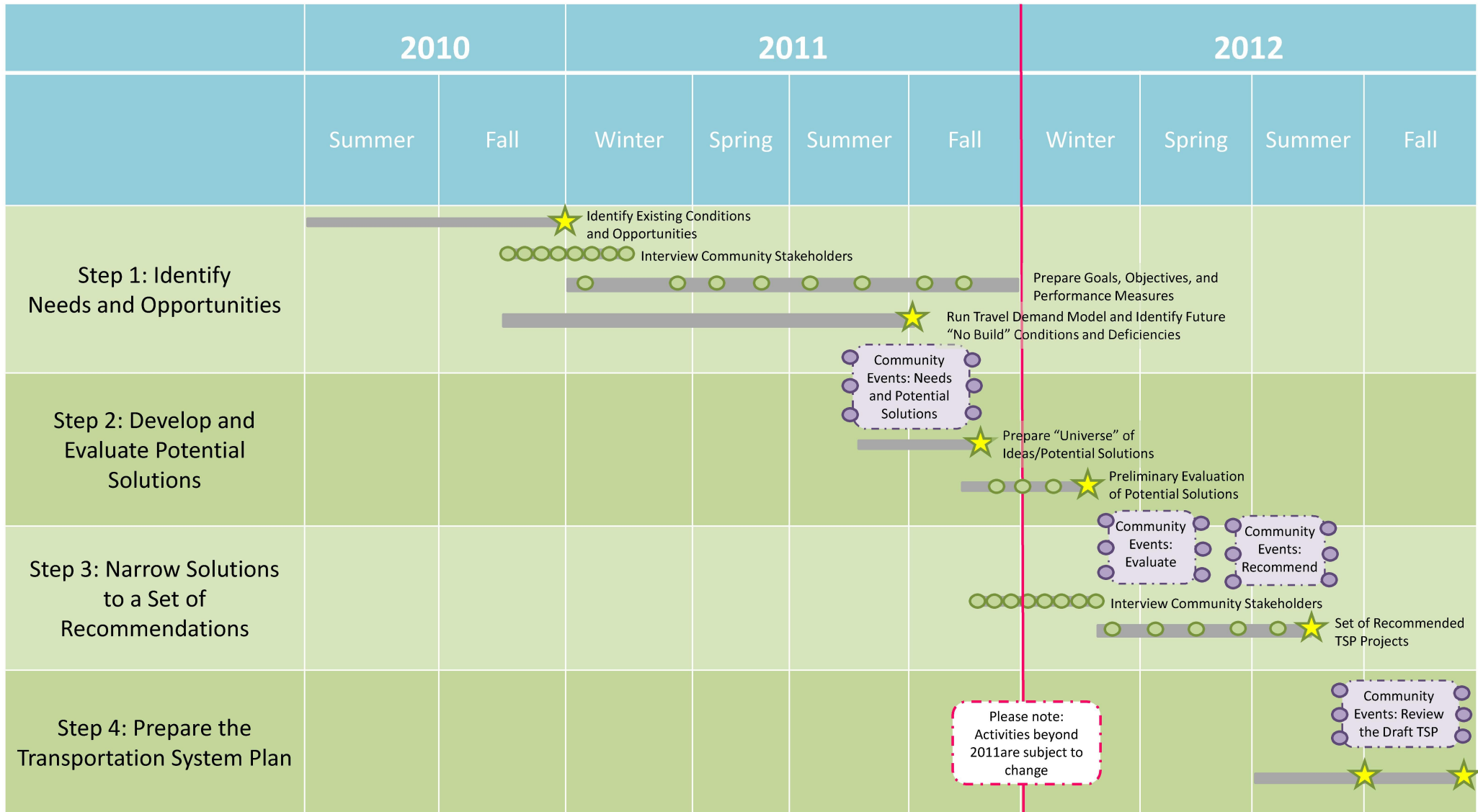
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Eugene Transportation System Plan Timeline



★ = Technical Work Product ○ = Small Group Stakeholder or Resource Group Meeting ⊕ = Community Event(s)