

## **Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) III**

### **March 29 Meeting Minutes**

April 4, 2011

#### **Public Comment**

- Crown Hill resident stated that he lived in an active community with many children present and advocated for constructing sidewalks in the west Crown Hill area
- Another community member distributed a three page handout and requested the CTAC address the damage occurring to Seattle's roads as a result of heavy vehicles using them such as garbage trucks, buses and vactor trucks

#### **Co-chair Report**

- The co-chairs distributed a decision-making chart
  - ACTION: Members requested 'needs assessment' and 'project prioritization' be added
- The group then discussed the importance of understanding each other's values
  - Recommend checking in at each meeting (i.e. what percentage of funding should go to operations and maintenance (O&M) versus new projects and would you vote for this package)
  - Member's preferences could change meeting to meeting based on discussions, community feedback, presentations, etc.
  - When should the group start having the check-ins?
    - Several members indicated they needed a little more time to process all the information being provided to them, but agreed it was a good idea
    - ACTION: Start holding this discussion at the April 7 meeting
- The committee then revisited the discussion of when to present a ballot measure recommendation to Council and the Mayor
- There are several items to consider:
  - Reaction to the Mayor's letter and funding rail (Lindmark passed a copy of the letter around for members who had not had a chance to review it)
  - Reaction to the idea of giving Council and Mayor criteria providing guidance should any decisions be made on an August 2011 transportation ballot measure
  - Bridging the Gap renewal—should we wait until 2015 and offer a large package (similar to Families and Education Levy concept)
  - Seawall Ballot Measure timing
- The Council staff mentioned that Councilmember Rasmussen reviewed the CTAC III Resolution and reiterated the group's mission: full review of data and information about potential transportation projects and funding options, broad community outreach, develop possible criteria for project selection, pros and cons of moving forward with ballot measure and timing
- Although the Rasmussen might had made comments in 2010 that a ballot measure in August might be considered, given that we are now in March 2011 completing all these tasks mentioned above in time to make an August ballot measure recommendation seemed unlikely, especially when combined with the fact it would take three to four weeks to process
- Rasmussen was able to poll the other Councilmembers except for Harrell to see what they thought. O'Brien was optimistic that something could be developed, otherwise there was not much interest
- There is concern about what taxpayers are willing to tolerate

- Rasmussen also wanted to reiterate that folks not lose site of the \$20 Vehicle License Fee (VLF) prioritization while contemplating how to handle a ballot measure recommendation
- Someone asked what items would be on the on an August ballot.
  - There could be an Alaskan Way Viaduct/Tunnel Referendum
  - Political candidates
- What about the Seawall?
  - A Seawall ballot measure could be on the August ballot. It would be fairly easy to pull together
- Some felt if the Seawall was on the ballot an additional transportation measure should not be added
- Is the Seawall a property levy and for how much?
  - It could be a \$230M property levy, which is about \$50 to \$100/household. Could also consider, VLF, Commercial Parking Tax and General Fund Bond
- If the Seawall isn't on the August ballot, would it go in 2012?
  - The Seawall is a big priority for the City
  - The Seawall design is fully funded through 2012. If the City goes to construction in 2013 there would need to be a 2012 ballot measure
- Can we consider having more than one transportation ballot at a time?
  - A measure that is complete and well thought out would be the most likely to succeed
  - Bridging the Gap renewal is also a priority
  - The committee has to consider if having a transportation ballot at a different time, or the same time as the Seawall is the best solution
- Sometimes ballot measures sharing the same values can support each other. For example, Pike Place Market and the Parks Levy
- CTAC feedback to Council and the Mayor could be to put the Seawall on the ballot in 2011 rather than 2012
- Getting to back to the Mayor's letter, the \$20 VLF could be used to start rail planning or vice versa be used for other items and free up dollars for rail planning
- ACTION: CTAC will finalize this decision at the next April 7 meeting

#### **Transit Communities Report and Complete Streets Presentation**

- Dave Culter from the Planning Commission presented
- Culter suggested if there was one take-away it would be to combine capital programs and funding with planning efforts to makes sure investment is happening in the 'right' place
- Focus the dollars where transit is or is coming
- This approach is an option for how the CTAC might consider prioritizing investments

#### **Complete Streets Presentation**

- Complete Streets is another way to consider how to prioritize investments. All members received the Complete Streets Checklist for reference
- In looking at the checklist, primary design does not seem to address accessibility on sidewalks and crossings for all types of pedestrians
  - The Pedestrian Master Plan has prioritization criteria and the Right of Way Manual has design standards
  - ACTION: Send links to information to Karen Braitmayer

- Accessibility is more than adding curb ramps, it has to do with location of furniture, utilities and lighting as well
- Freight access and pedestrian access together needs to be carefully addressed. The Complete Streets checklist is a tool for doing this analysis. There can be push and pull between policies
- For example, how to implement Complete Streets along Airport is not a funding issue, it is a policy issue
- If SDOT had more funding, more Complete Streets would be implemented, however, SDOT is making better decisions using this tool. It makes for a more successful project

### **Bridging the Gap Presentation**

- The division of funding between maintenance and other projects reflects the prioritization of CTAC II
- This can also be used as an example of how CTAC III can consider prioritization
- The committee has been presented with bits and pieces of what SDOT can do with existing funding and what it might do with more. Can we have this compiled into one place and include a 'best guess' for expected revenue over the next decade?
  - ACTION: At the April 26 meeting, provide the group with small, medium, large packages illustrating what could be done with additional funding

### **Community Engagement Process**

- Final edits to the survey were taken
- A survey pretest will be made April 5 and any adjustments required made
- Once the survey is finalized it will be posted online
- ACTION: Get the group a link to the online survey for distribution
- Six roundtable meetings are being setup during the month of April focusing on: Public Health/Disabilities, Business/Freight, Ethnic/Newcomers (2), Environmental, Neighborhood Interests
- Two members were asked to attend each roundtable and help present on the CTAC process
- Roundtable invites will come from the group
- As roundtables are setup and based on interest, members can let Dawn Schellenberg know which ones they are able participate in
- Three public workshops will be held in May. Four to five CTAC members will be expected to attend each event to help answer questions and facilitate break-out groups

### **Action Items**

- Send links to pedestrian accessibility guidelines to Karen Braitmayer
- At the April 26 meeting, provide the group with small, medium, large packages illustrating what could be done with additional funding
- Forward the group a link to the online survey for distribution
- Finalize dates and locations for roundtables
- Forward roundtable invite to CTAC for approval
- Gather commitments from group on which roundtables they will be participating in
- Provide a status update on the Seawall project to the committee