



Transportation Advisory Group Meeting #6 Summary

Date: March 30, 2023

Location: Nampa City Council Chambers

Attendees: Rick Hogaboam, Randy Haverfield, Victor Rodriguez, Tom Points, Crystal Craig, Mark Steuer, Heather Tafoya, Kaitlyn Votroubek, Rodney Ashby, Nicole Fletcher, Matt Sipple, Lisa Bachman, Matt Stoll, LaRita Schandorf, Kate Dahl, Jean Mutchie, Joey Palmer, Kathleen Tuck, Don Wixom, Ashlee Teeter, Rachel Larson (Online)

Meeting Notes

Follow Up from January 2023 Meeting

- Mitigating Traffic Congestion at Ford Idaho Center
 - VRT will give update later in meeting
- National Guard Rocket Donation
 - Nathan Cleaver has been following up on that and looks promising
- Interactive Map for Projects
 - Kaitlyn will give update later in meeting
- Ranking Criteria for Strategic Placement of RRFB
 - Going to use ranking system similar to one developed by ACHD, but with more categories and different point system (see slide 6)
 - Next TAG Meeting – Will have written plan in place for review
 - Comment: Please look at connectivity of sidewalks – sometimes there are sidewalks only on one side and that is why kids are crossing the street
 - Will add connectivity category
 - Will develop a top 10-15 project opportunities list and pick priority projects first
- Accomplishments Since Last Meeting:
 - Reagan Elementary School had RRFB installed 3 weeks ago
 - Based on TAG recommendation, next installation (in May) will be at Carriage Hill, near Middleton and Iowa

Transportation Updates

- Franklin Rd Widening (FY 23-24) – Intersection of Star & Franklin east to SH-16
 - 5-lane roadway with pedestrian paths both sides
 - Broke out into two projects
 - Moving utilities – June completion expected
 - Road widening will happen this year – completion expected in 2024
 - Currently on schedule
- Franklin & Birch
 - Utility delays forced temporary pavement before winter – open during winter
 - Closed again two weeks ago to put in permanent pavement
 - Have been paving this week
 - Will open May 7th-9th, but are slightly ahead of schedule

- Idaho Center & Cherry
 - Granite Construction is the apparent low bidder
 - Will be closed after Franklin and Birch re-open
 - The detour uses 11th Ave
 - Will be closed for 3 months (June-Aug)
 - Concurrent with Franklin widening project
 - First roundabout with artwork in the center
 - Horse and Foal was selected by City Council for art install
- Midland & Iowa
 - Found additional money for this project this year
 - 90% design plans
 - Will go out for bid and project will start this season
- Question about donating artwork for roundabout near Endeavour Elementary at *Kings & Victory*
 - Military is willing to donate, just working with the school to finalize plans
 - Endeavor has suggested capturing school slogan instead of rocket
 - Will follow up with design at next TAG meeting

Design Update

- Franklin & Karcher – LHTAC project
 - Has had ROW challenges
 - Will be out to bid late this year and constructed next year
- Northside & Cherry – partnership between Nampa and NHD
 - First concrete roundabout for City & NHD
 - Partnering with NHD – great opportunity to share costs and test the life cycle and maintenance of concrete
 - Construction in 2024

Philosophy

- Previously have targeted asset management zones for planning projects
- With additional grant money and funds, able to do more projects
- Would like to plan at the corridor level instead of intersections in different parts of the city
- Also targeting intersections that can partner with local agencies to get projects completed
 - Will allow more work for less cost than in past
- Focus on intersections first and then work on widening in between
 - Question: Where are we on the Midland Corridor Study?
 - Will be done in next month or two and will give prioritized list to implement projects
 - Will present it to TAG first and then present to Council

Long Range Planning

- **JUB Update**
 - Presented 5-year transportation plan website that will allow citizens to get an insight into what Nampa has planned
 - 5-Year Transportation Projects: Web map lists all project in 5-year plan; gives description of specific projects or the city as a whole
 - Active Projects: Current active projects on a separate map
 - Interactive detour map mentioned by TAG group could be added
 - Will give the city how to use the website so they can use it year to year

- Question: Does this interface with the utility matrix map used by Public Works, or was this just surface improvements?
 - Will just be for transportation currently; utilities in the future
- Comment: Council would like to see the overlay of utilities that are available so they can see it in conjunction with the planned projects
- Clarifying question: What type of projects will be seen on the map? Concern that citizens will understand what project is funded and being constructed vs not funded
 - Will show projects in “preliminary development” for projects without funding identified, projects that will be or are funded will be shown in specific construction years
- Comment: Public Works is working on a capital improvement plan with finance highlighting the 5-year plan and funding sources – will have all revenue sources that will be utilized for years 1-5
- Question: Will the project description show why the project is being done?
- Comment: Citizens might ask for an explanation of why project is needed. They tend to get overwhelmed when they see a lot of projects in one specific area of the city
- Comment: Connect transportation plan back to the comprehensive plan - giving a summary would be beneficial to connecting the dots for infrastructure, roads, utilities. Maybe we need to change the word from comprehensive
- Discussion was held on what the different plans are. The 5-year plan is a capital-improvement-based plan that is a subset of the transportation master plan. Suggestion to make connections back to comprehensive plan was greatly supported by the group. Growth projections were also suggested.
 - The 5-year plan will be updated every year with a 5-year look-ahead; master plan updated only every 5-10 years

Partner Updates

ITD Update - Mark Wasdahl

- All of these projects were on the last TAG group handout
- Everything is up to date on new handout
- Coming up
 - April 12th site meeting on railroad projects
 - District 3 coordinator has changed but former project manager will stay on for now for continuity
 - Ustick Overpass Project
 - Project should be finished in 2023 - Approaches are getting finished
 - Question: Where is the Cherry Lane & UPRR Crossing and who is funding?
 - Federal and state rail funding was available
 - Comment: SH55, Farmway to Middleton Road needs to be addressed
 - ~125-175 Parcel acquisition is needed
 - Question: Timeframe?
 - ITD is starting work on Karcher Interchange this fall (a 2-season project) and then move onto the Karcher Road/SH-55 widening project

VRT Update – Kate Dahl

- Working on 2023 service changes – Created a communication initiative called the Better Bus initiative

- Engaging public through website, surveys and open houses (next one is in Caldwell on April 24, 4:00-8:00)
- Working on SOW for Nampa-Caldwell Corridor Project
 - RFP will be out in a couple months
 - Will focus on transit-oriented development
- Will prepare a new SOW update for Valley Connect 2.0
- Treefort was last weekend – Provided free shuttles because Treefort was funded by VRT. Tripled ridership from last year
- Last TAG meeting, event shuttles in Nampa were mentioned
 - Easiest way for VRT is to expand existing services and under the same fare system
 - If service is being funded by a third party for a specific event, then its considered a charter service and is only open to riders for that event – can create issues because VRT has to advertise to see if there are other charter companies that would be willing
 - Treefort was a demonstration project – Nampa could hold a similar project in conjunction with the Snake River Stampede.
 - Question: Did Treefort help VRT determine the routes?
 - Yes, Treefort events were spread throughout the city
 - Possibility bus service could take eventgoers to different locations in Nampa

Strategic Initiatives – Mark Steuer

- \$14.2m dollars received in grant money remains the same
- \$13.9 in pending was reduced due to not receiving a couple submitted grant opportunities
 - A second round of funding under each grant will allow us to reapply
 - Staff is receiving feedback about how to improve and will decide whether to move forward with same projects or substitute projects that might be more competitive
 - Mark will bring projects to TAG to receive input and feedback on which projects to apply for
- Grant Successes
 - Sherman Elementary Pedestrian Improvements (under the Child Pedestrian Improvement Program)
 - \$250K fully funded – no city matching required
 - Will be completed this summer before school begins in the fall
 - Stoddard Pathway Phase 3 Extension (under Transportation Alternatives Program)
 - Required only a 7.34% match
 - \$700,000 worth of grant funding with about \$31,000 city contribution
 - Construction began this week and will be completed in May
 - Streets crew added four-way stop at 2nd St and 22nd Ave S and will install RRFB on Sherman and Powerline to improve pedestrian safety

Discussion Topics

- **GO Bond**
 - Was submitted 20 years ago - ~\$40M initially
 - Comes up in 2024 – opportunity to go for another one
 - Allows large projects to be funded now that would have over a 20-year life span
 - One way to say this to citizens is that their taxes wouldn't increase while still continuing moving forward with Transportation projects
 - Looking at a 20 or 30 year funding options
 - Creating presentation to present projects to council
 - Current projects being considered (draft):

- Freeway Access & Congestion Management
 - SH-16 south connection
 - Garrity WINCO Block Improvements
 - SH-45 Realignment
 - In the NEPA process currently
- Safe Routes to School
 - Comment: Pedestrian overpass for Lake Lowell and 12th
- Road Maintenance
 - 2 miles per year of arterial road rebuild or resurfacing
 - 20 miles per year additional chip seal
- Corridor Road Widening
 - Middleton Road
 - Midland Road
 - Franklin Blvd
 - Ustick Road
- Economic Development Infrastructure
 - Joplin Sewer Expansion
 - Ustick/Purdam Sewer Expansion
 - Downtown Improvements
- GO Bond Project Recommendations (see slide 33)
 - SH-16 South Connection (\$70M-\$90M)
 - SH-45 Realignment (\$25M)
 - Purdam Sewer (\$24)
 - Roadway Rebuilds – 8 Miles a year (\$100 M)
 - Corridor Widening (\$\$ Varies)
 - Questions and Comments:
 - Do we know what the average homeowner is paying?
 - Answered later: Approximately \$60-\$70 per year
 - Opportunities to vote – in the fall and spring
 - Is the GO Bond Money Urban Renewal Money?
 - Answer: No
 - Is the voting 2/3 or majority?
 - Answer: unknown
 - Current interest rate on bond is 4.5%
 - Won't know what interest rate will be until it is passed so can only estimate what property owners will experience by way of an increase
 - Intent is to not have an increase
 - The last citizen survey they said Transportation was the number one concern
 - Discussion was held on partnering with the Urban Renewal Agency on projects
 - Is it possible to get a commitment from other local agencies to partner on some of these projects to advertise with the bond?
 - Local agencies agreed to write letters of support
 - In looking at projects that benefit the entire community, SH-16 would have the biggest impact on the community for 20 years
 - Priority was given from the Governor about local funding
 - Question was asked about one bond replacing another bond
 - Cannot overlap – vote would be November this year or next May
- **House Bill 132**
 - It has been passed

- A way for local governments to mitigate the impact of state highway projects on local roads
- 50/50 urban/rural split
- Continuous appropriation
- ITD is the managing entity of the money
- City of Nampa pre-met with ITD and local legislators to offer project plan if the money was passed
 - Presented list of projects (SH-16 impacts; widening Ustick and Franklin; Idaho Center/Cherry Ln intersection, Ustick/CanAda, Ustick/Star, Franklin/McDermott)
 - Overall, projects will cost \$33M; already allocated \$5.8M from impact fees and partnerships; coming with an 18% match
 - Appreciated that our plan was logical and sound
 - ITD District 3 mentioned to ITD Director that Nampa has a plan
 - Will have to compete with other local agencies, but believe all projects are contenders
- Nampa has allocated money to start designing some of the projects, so when money becomes available we can try to get to the front of the line – we're ready!
- Comment regarding GO Bond: Property tax relief was approved by the Senate and the House. Governor vetoed but the House and Senate have overridden it
 - There is going to be property tax relief in tax bill – about \$500-600/year per homeowner
 - Might give incentive to vote for bond
- **Public Involvement – Kaitlyn Votroubek**
 - TAG had concerns that public was involved, especially in North Nampa area with different jurisdictions and development
 - Created a 3-month snapshot on closures and detours in North Nampa the provides a broad overview of upcoming projects
 - Social media: Facebook is the farthest-reaching platform; Instagram is close second; Next Door will get the most citizen feedback about changing things
 - Will create a new 3-month snapshot
- Improving Future Communication to People
 - Would like feedback and ideas about a story map to convey the information we are needing to share
 - Story map will be linked on City website
 - Will be able to sign up for project specific updates
 - There is currently a road closure map maintained by ROW Technician
 - (Kaitlyn shared the sections of the Construction Projects website)
 - Feedback: North Nampa Sharing
 - Comments:
 - Website is great, but might be a bit much
 - Partnering with schools to get information out might be good way to get the word out; the school districts can get PDF virtual flyers out and translate them into Spanish
 - A lot of Spanish speakers – Spanish radio is an excellent resource
 - We demonstrate on a social media a video of how to get there
 - Vallivue school district would be happy to partner in a video to share how to get to the resources; website is great, just need to steer people there

- Nampa will create a new flyer this year; newspaper ad also
- Going to park events can be helpful
- Schools are still trusted partners for information
- Recommendation was made to translate in “common language” Spanish
 - Connect with Councilman Rodriguez and Lottie Ramos

Closing

Next meeting date: July 18, 2023