



PAC Meeting Summary

PAC Meeting #1: June 9th, 2021

Attendance

PAC Members

- Chris Laity, Tillamook County Engineer
- Dale Shafer, City Manager, Nehalem
- Dan Weitzel, Manzanita
- Deborah Cipolla, Manzanita
- John Morgan, City Planner
- Julie Chick, Nehalem
- Justin Baile, Nehalem

- Melissa Thompson-Kiefer, Assistant City Manager, Nehalem
- Phyllis Scott, Manzanita

Staff Attendees

- Allison Brown, JLA
- Ariella Frishberg, JLA
- Briana Calhoun, Fehr & Peers
- Kara Hall, Fehr & Peers
- Ken Shonkwiler, ODOT
- Sarah Peters, Fehr & Peers

Introductions and Agenda Review

Allison Brown, JLA Public Involvement, opened the meeting by reviewing Zoom tools and etiquette. PAC members and staff attendees gave brief introductions.

TSP Overview

Kara Hall, Fehr & Peers, shared a slideshow presentation reviewing the process and purpose of the Transportation System Plan. PAC members were invited to ask questions, which are summarized below:

Question: What do we expect to get out of a TSP?

Answer: We hope to leave the region with a prioritized list of cost-effective solutions. This list will recognize the constraints (based on geography) and focus on fundable improvements.

Question: How long has the project team had been meeting to prepare for the PAC meeting today?

Answer: The team kicked off in late December and has been working for the last several months to get ready for the public engagement process.

Question: Is there a definition of transportation? And is there a set of criteria we are trying to meet or address?

Answer: We want to be considering all modes of transportation. If we missed something in our overview that touched on auto, bus, bike, pedestrian methods, that's the kind of feedback we will be looking for today.

When we talk about transportation it is usually about getting people from Point A to Point B. We try to differentiate from modes of transportation solely used for recreation.

Question: Is there a timeline on any of these things, or is this more of a long-term goal type of plan?

Answer: As we come up with solutions on the project, we will come up with near-term and long-term suggestions for those. For the TSP process, it should wrap up in 2022, with the goal of circulating draft documents in early 2022 to the cities to get them passed.

TSP Technical Background

Briana Calhoun, Fehr & Peers, reviewed the existing conditions of the region. Full details from this presentation can be found in the slide deck.

There were no questions from PAC members after this presentation.

Discussion: TSP Project Draft Goals

Sarah Peters, Fehr & Peers, presented on the purpose and process of creating goals for the TSP.

Question: I've always wondered why cities like ours don't have things like Lyft or Uber. Seems like it would be a helpful service to have here.

Answer: Not a definitive answer, but because they are private businesses it often has to do with whether they think there will be enough drivers and riders to make it a viable option. However, other options might include on-demand public transit, or looking into ways to make it more viable for those businesses to set up here.

Question: All three cities have existing comprehensive transportation plans, with goals already in them. How will those goals be integrated into this TSP?

Answer: Great question. We do have existing goals for each city, which we will share in the breakout rooms. We also have some draft goals we will be sharing with as a jumping off point. Those draft goals incorporate both the goals that have already been identified in the cities' comprehensive plans and feedback from City staff we've already had a chance to connect with.

The group split into breakout rooms to discuss draft goals for the TSP. Notes from these breakout rooms are included in the appendices of this document. During the report out after the breakout rooms, the following themes were shared:

Nehalem

- What should the transportation system look like?
 - Utilize water taxis as an option
 - Make sure kids going to school can safely cross U.S. 101
 - Challenges around locals accessing downtown (turning left onto U.S. 101)
- Goals
 - More specific goal around improving local access
 - Making sure to think about the connectivity of the three cities
 - Answer the question about what happens if something happens to the bridge, maintaining connection in that scenario. Adding seismic retrofits to the bridge.
 - Opportunities to connect the three communities off of U.S. 101, especially for pedestrians and bicyclists
 - The potential need for an emergency transportation plan
- Misc.
 - Sharing the ODOT communication around what roads to use in the case of an emergency. Potentially publicize this during the TSP process. The strength of the TSP is in its local/regional planning, want to maintain scope of this project.

Manzanita

- What should the transportation system look like?
 - Walking and biking safety, especially on roadways that feel unsafe due to traffic and growth
 - Speeding concerns on U.S. 101, especially travelers heading south
 - Safety and access on U.S. 101
- Goals
 - Safety entering and exiting U.S. 101
 - Parking and traffic are a symptom of the issue – find ways to reduce the need to drive
 - Look into other transit options (e.g. shuttles)
- Misc.

- Would be good if Nehalem Bay OPRD was present for this conversation because they have also been discussing a shuttle (especially in Ecola) and would be a good partner for that piece of the conversation.

Wheeler

- There were no representatives from Wheeler present at the meeting, so Sarah will follow up to continue this conversation.

Public Comment

There was no public comment to share at this meeting. Public comment is welcome and can be shared with the project team in writing by emailing Ken Shonkwiler at Kenneth.d.Shonkwiler@odot.state.or.us.

Next Steps & Closing

Kara Hall reviewed the next steps for the TSP process and the PAC. Next steps include a community engagement process, with a targeted start date in mid-July, including an online open house. The next PAC meeting will be in August, planning to move to an evening time so more people can participate.

Allison Brown thanked members for their attendance and ended the meeting.

Appendix 1: Notes from Manzanita Breakout Room

Manzanita Breakout Group attendees:

- Ken Shonkwiler, ODOT
- Chris Laity, Tillamook County Public Works
- Dan Weitzel, Manzanita
- Deborah Cipolla, PAC member
- Phyllis Scott, PAC member
- Briana Calhoun, Fehr & Peers

Manzanita's Transportation System should....

- Recognize the additional traffic influx of tourism
- Improve parking conditions
- Be safe
- Have walking and bike paths
 - Provide walking paths on/along the roads so that people don't walk in the road, provide safe walking facilities
 - Classic St - bike path connecting to state park would be nice, new housing development, narrow; growth will put pressure on this road; large trucks on this roadway, feels unsafe, sightline issues
 - Residences by Bayside Gardens would like bike/ped path off Necarney City Road to access beach; Necarney City Rd is not very friendly/comfortable to use, bike collisions
- Speeding concerns when turning onto/off of 101
 - When accessing 101, traffic traveling south moves quickly and fears of being rear ended when pull out onto 101

Draft Manzanita Goals

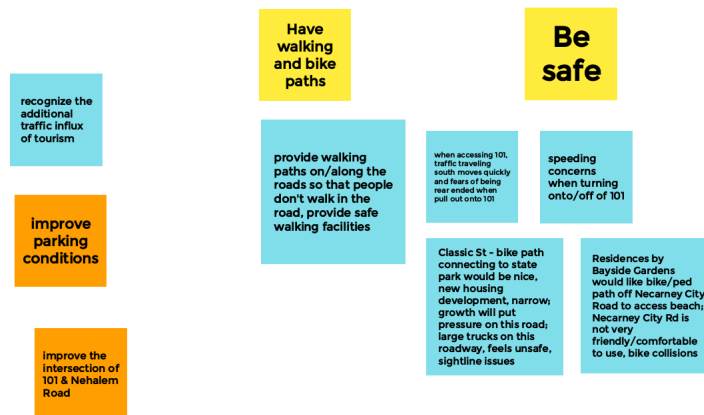
1. Provide a safe and connected transportation system with space for all users, especially pedestrians and bicyclists.
 - a. No additional comments or changes
2. Manage access from Highway 101 to Manzanita and the recreational opportunities in the area to minimize cut through traffic and seasonal congestion.
 - a. Don't see much commercial traffic/freight trucks cutting through, only local deliveries
 - b. Speeding is an issue from travelers on 101 coming down the hill southbound
 - c. Turning off Laneda to 101 is more tricky, crossing in front of those in turn lane
 - d. Geometry/slope from Laneda makes turning more difficult as cars sit on an incline while waiting to turn out

- e. Potentially need a new separate goal - Improving safety on 101 and those entering/existing highway
- 3. Support economic vibrancy by providing walking and biking connections to the commercial core and parking to accommodate visitors.
 - a. Wanted to clarify language, does this mean increasing parking? There is not much land to do this.
 - b. We should instead reduce demand on parking via mode shift - we have a driving problem not a parking problem
 - c. Would be great to have more frequent transit, not convenient now - Pacific City has weekend shuttle service in town and it has been successful
 - d. General discussion that a seasonal circulator shuttle would be useful and might help decrease parking and crowding issues
- 4. Proactively manage the effects of growth on the transportation system by aligning land use with transportation to maintain quality of life for residents.
 - a. No additional comments or changes

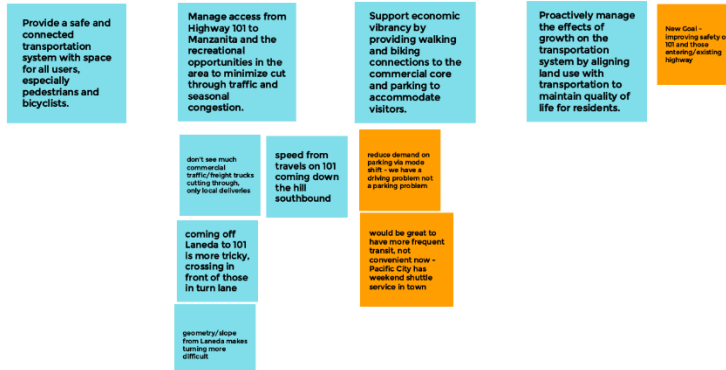
Draft Regional Goals

Did not have time to discuss these in the breakout session

Manzanita's transportation system should.....



Draft Goals



Draft Regional Goals



Appendix 2: Notes from Nehalem Breakout Room

Nehalem Breakout Group attendees:

- Dale Schafer, City Manager, Nehalem
- Melissa Thompson-Kiefer, Assistant City Manager, Nehalem
- Justin Baile, PAC Member
- Julie Chick, PAC Member
- John Morgan, Morgan CPS
- Kara, Fehr & Peers

Nehalem's Transportation System should....

- Provide a safe bike route off US 101 that connects all three cities.
- Utilize water taxis to connect between key destinations in the region.
- Create safe routes to school for students walking and biking.
- Create safer and more comfortable pedestrian crossings.
 - There is not necessarily a need for more, just improving what exists today.
- Maintain access for locals.

- Connect people to services to create economic development opportunities.

Draft Nehalem Goals

1. Provide a safe and comfortable transportation system with space for all users within the existing right of way.
 - a. Should consider highlighting access to 101.
2. Increase connectivity and fill infrastructure gaps for people walking and biking to key destinations such as schools, restaurants, and the commercial core.
3. Increase access to recreational areas while protecting the natural environment.
 - a. This includes maintaining connections if something happens to existing bridge.
4. Maintain the City's small town charm while creating a transportation system that is welcoming and accessible to visitors.

Draft Regional Goals

1. Target improvements to the transportation system to align with the surrounding land use context and balance the needs of local travelers and regional through-traffic on Highway 101 in Nehalem Bay
2. Create connections between the Nehalem Bay communities to provide safe paths for people walking and biking to access key destinations.
 - a. Connecting the three cities with walking/biking path, including access to the water, is very important.
 - b. There have been prior plans and efforts to create this connection, including some informal use today.
3. Maintain the region's quality of life, including the ability to travel to key local destinations on weekends and during the summer months.
4. Create a transportation system that is resilient to extreme weather events and able to safely accommodate evacuation and recovery efforts.
 - a. Could build off of or reference past regional planning efforts.
5. Create a transportation system that is financially viable with consideration for life cycle costs by identifying new funding sources to make local dollars go farther.

Nehalem's transportation system should....



Draft TSP Goals



Draft Regional Goals

Target improvements to the transportation system to align with the surrounding land use context and balance the needs of local travelers and regional through-traffic on Highway 101 in Nehalem Bay.

Create connections between the Nehalem Bay communities to provide safe paths for people walking and biking to access key destinations.

Maintain the region's quality of life, including the ability to travel to key local destinations on weekends and during the summer months.

Create a transportation system that is resilient to extreme weather events and able to safely accommodate evacuation and recovery efforts.

Create a transportation system that is financially viable with consideration for life cycle costs by identifying new funding sources to make local dollars go farther.

Walking, biking, and access to the water.

Need to think about regional evacuations. May need to publicize past efforts

Opportunities to build on existing use