

Minutes of Foundation for Ada-Canyon Trail Systems
COMPASS Conference Room
May 20, 2015

Attendance:

Jeanne Barker, Garden City
Tom Chelstrom, Citizen
Mike Cusack, Garden City
Jay Gibbons, Meridian Parks Department
William F. Gigray, F.A.C.T.S. President
Jerry Hastings, Ada County
Sharon Hubler, F.A.C.T.S. Treasurer
Tom Laws, COMPASS
Robert Minch, Citizen
Steve Noyes, Eagle Parks and Recreation
Gary Payne, Citizen
Tim Richard, Canyon Highway District
Gary Segers, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance
Don Stockton, Eagle
Cody Swander, City of Nampa Parks
Charles Trainor, F.A.C.T.S. Secretary
Mark Wasdahl, Idaho Transportation Department District 3
Randy Zollinger, Eagle Parks/Pathway

1. Call to order at 3:01 by President William Gigray. A round of introductions was made.
2. Action Items.
 - a. William Gigray asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. There were two items: the resignation of Nancy Merrill was added by President Gigray as an action item and a discussion of the website was added as Item 3-g. Upon a motion to approve with changes by Gary Payne and seconded by Mark Wasdahl, the agenda was approved on a voice vote.
 - b. William Gigray noted the minutes of the April meeting had been disseminated and he ask if there were any changes. No changes were proposed, and Sharon Hubler moved and Gary Payne seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion approved on a voice vote.
 - c. Sharon Hubler said the only change in the bank account was an expense for a recorder by Charles Trainor. With that expense, the current bank balance was \$12,193.62. Upon a motion by Don Stockton and seconded by Jerry Hastings, the financial report was approved on a voice vote.
 - d. William Gigray noted that Nancy Merrill had resigned as vice-president. Charles Trainor said he had received an email from Nancy, who stated that she did not have time to continue with F.AC.T.S. William asked for a motion to accept the resignation. Charles Trainor moved to accept the resignation, which was seconded Gary Payne. Motion was approved on a voice vote without dissension. Gary Segers nominated Gary Payne, which was seconded by Charles Trainor. Sharon moved to close nominations and Jerry seconded. By unanimous consent, Gary Payne was elected as vice-president. William Gigray proposed that the officers have a conference call to establish the June agenda.

3. Special Information Items.

- a. Idaho Transportation Department Pathway Planning. William Gigray discussed the background of this issue and introduced Mark Wasdahl. He said there was a need to understand the planning and design process for roads and how they intersect with pathways. He said he had talked with Brian Shea, who is new to the pathway planning for ITD and has more of a role in the statewide system versus local pathway planning. Brian had pointed to District 3 as the best source for interfacing with local plans. Tom Laws discussed the COMPASS mapping and asked how this could affect the state process, especially during state highway planning and design, possibly getting ITD to approve this map. He asked how F.A.C.T.S. could be part of the process.

Mark described the state's Idaho Transportation Improvement Program. This document is being accelerated due to recent state legislation and funding. He said there is normally no publication or notice of the start of design, a process that could take 1-4 years prior to construction. The assumption had been that pathway needs would be picked up during the environmental process, which generally precedes any new construction or widening project. He cautioned that this process only picks up on planned pathways in local jurisdiction documents (i.e., must be something formally approved). He noted the City of Eagle as providing pathway plans for the state corridor plans. He said ITD is now working on environmental documents on Chinden (US 20/26) from Eagle Road into Canyon County. There would be public sessions on June 23-25, 2015 to receive comments. There is another study on SH 44 from Eagle west. This is the time to get information on pathways into ITD. Only statewide plans and policies go to the ITD Board. More localized corridor plans and designs do not. Mark also noted the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), for which a guidebook has been submitted to the Federal Highway Administration for concurrence. This will affect the 2018 project submittals. He said he did not know if ITD would go out for a five year programming similar to COMPASS.

Don Stockton asked if there were any dates for the US 20/26 and SH 44 work. Mark said these were not yet in the ITIP. Mark said some projects are moving up in the schedule if they are ready to go, noting advancement of some bridge projects. Don asked about SH 16 and Mark noted the Environment Impact Study on ITD's website. It has an alignment on a parcel map, along with overpass and interchange locations but no designs. He said there was no schedule to build it given the cost of \$400-500 million. The Interstate work in Canyon would take precedence.

William Gigray asked how the work COMPASS is doing on a regional pathway plan could be used. It would demonstrate a well-connected future system. He would like to get this plan to District 3 as soon as possible. Mark noted ITD is going through a reorganization to avoid the silo effect where some ITD staffers don't know what others are doing.

Gary Segers noted the challenge of Chinden in Garden City in terms of pedestrians and bicycles. How does this interface with local and state plans. How much does ITD know of the livable street plan? He saw no mention of pathways or bike facilities being coordinated with ITD.

Tom asked how COMPASS gets involved in the design process to communicate the pathway needs using the regional map. Tim Richard cautioned that the design process is too late, the need is to incorporate pathway needs earlier in the process—the budget is already set. The programming process is more appropriate. Mark noted ITD is trying to integrate the programming/design process versus the current separation.

William Gigray noted the need for a draft protocol on how the coordination of pathway and road planning/design would work. There would be one set of documents for pathways for consideration by ITD. Tom said the current work is to line up the plans. William asked Tim and Gary Segers to be involved in developing a protocol. Mike Aho asked about the SH 44 Linder to Ballantyne work, with some concern about the quickness of the process. The group would be Tom Laws, Tim Richard, William Gigray and Mark to develop some protocols. Mark said there would be some open house meetings in June in Notus/Parma for the US 20/26 corridor. *(These are on June 8 and June 15, 2015. <http://itd.idaho.gov/NewsAndInfo/mediaCenter.asp>)*

- b. Laguna Pointe Pathway Report. Don Stockton said this group has been work on the issue and should have a report by the next meeting.
- c. F.A.C.T.S. Mission Statement. Gary Payne said he had met with Sharon Hubler, Charles Trainor and Gary Segers (a.k.a. standing committee) to draft a new mission statement. Gary Payne presented the draft statement:

Our mission is to close the gap on the greenbelt along the Boise River, creating pathways from Lucky Peak Dam to where the Boise River meets the Snake River; and, to promote coherent corridors for active transportation throughout the valley

There were several changes suggested, resulting in the following statement:

Our mission is to close the gaps on the greenbelt along the Boise River, creating connective pathways from Lucky Peak Dam to the Snake River confluence; and, to promote coherent corridors for active transportation throughout the valley

The “standing committee” moved collectively to pass the resulting missions statement, which was passed on a voice vote without dissent.

- d. COMPASS Update Progress Report on Mapping. Tom Laws said staff is continuing with feedback on the map. There are meetings scheduled next week with Middleton and Parma. He should be able to show a map by the next F.A.C.T.S. meeting.
- e. Exploratory Maintenance Committee. The cost data are being evaluated by the parties. William Gigray said a joint powers agreement is essential. He was impressed by the cost evaluations done by Boise. He noted Garden City was reluctant to expend on facilities outside its boundaries, while Ada County is hard pressed for funds. There will be a follow-up meeting this year, perhaps in August. There is the potential for some in-kind assistance, e.g. use of facilities. Gary Segers noted the challenge facing F.A.C.T.S. given the future maintenance costs, with the potential of relinquishing ownership to some public agency. William Gigray referenced the exemption for liability since it is a free pathway for recreational purposes.
- f. COMPASS Mapping. Tom Laws said the agency continues to seek feedback on the regional map.
- g. Website. Gary Payne said the website is dated. It is a fairly static provider of information, while current websites are designed for mobile devices and are interactive with mobile apps. People want to look up information. This is not likely to be cheap. We need to vary the content—Twitter, Facebook, etc. Current organization is coordination oriented—not oriented to new constituencies.

This gets into fundraising and definitions of mission according to William Gigray. There was discussion of fundraising, e.g. GoFundMe.

4. Reports

- a. Ada County Highway District (ACHD). No report.
- b. Ada County Parks & Waterways. No report
- c. Boise Parks and Recreation - No report
- d. Boise Public Works - No report
- e. Caldwell Trails and Pathways Committee. – William Gigray handed out a newspaper article from the Idaho Press Tribune dated May 18, 2014. It described Caldwell’s accomplishments in connecting the Indian Creek pathway to the Boise River. Brian Billingsley is quoted extensively. William talked about the Caldwell Committee, interaction with the Canyon Highway District, and efforts to increase funding for planning and construction. Tom Chelstrom asked about a portage on the Boise River around a diversion canal. William said there was a need to identify these opportunities. He asked Tom to send him something identifying specific needs.
- f. Canyon County Development Services Dept. - No report
- g. Canyon County Parks Recreation & Waterways – No report.
- h. Canyon Highway District #4 – Tim Richard said the Lowell planning group received comments on the draft plan and held a public meeting in late March/early April. Got some feedback. Western Federal Lands agency is the manager of the project and wants to fund an interactive website. He said the project is late for the Federal Land Access Program but they could seek TAP funding if available. William Gigray noted the old Highway 30 access as a future project for a pathway.
- i. City of Eagle Parks and Recreation – Steve Noyes said the project to pave the path on the north side of the North Channel from Eagle to Garden City is on track. There is a private section that would be done by developers. There are some bank stabilization issues. One section involves some issues with a gravel access road crossing the path. Gary Segers noted an issue with a No Entry sign on one part of a path in Eagle. He said the developer was cooperative and the sign is now gone.
- j. Eagle Parks and Pathways Development Commission - Randy Zollinger said there is a Great Potato race along the Boise River to end at Eagle Island. Laguna Pointe is still unresolved. They are in discussion with Boise to access Lakemoor Park from Boise. Gary Segers asked what ITD knows about this plan. Don Stockton said ITD knows about this.
- k. Garden City West Bridge – Jeanne Barker said the bridge is in place and the contractor is ready to pour concrete the next week. The project should be done by the end of June. There will be a ribbon cutting event. She noted the floodplain map that will affect the area. Perhaps there is a need for a detour map in the event of flood for pathway users. Gary Payne asked about an area that appears to be a boat take out. Jeanne said it is for the irrigation district to get equipment in and out.
- l. Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation - No report

- m. Idaho Oregon Snake River Water Trail - Tom Chelstrom said there would be a public event on June 13, 2015 at Celebration Park in Canyon County. Big family event.
- n. Meridian Parks & Pathways – Jay Gibbon said Meridian is updating their parks map as part of the comprehensive plan. The number one priority is to connect pathways. Update is to be adopted by next Wednesday after the meeting. Locust Grove to Heroes’ Park is connected.
- o. Nampa Parks Department – Cody Swander said Nampa is working with Nampa Meridian irrigation District to stabilize Wilson Drain by June. Also working on the Edwards Lateral pathway on the south side around Middleton Road. William Gigray complimented the Nampa Meridian Irrigation District for their progressive attitude.
- p. Kuna – No report
- q. Other – Tom Chelstrom spoke about the Boise River Enhancement Plan. They are looking to have public meetings in June or July. Would like to come to F.A.C.T.S. to present. William Gigray asked for the Board’s preference, and the consensus was to have this presentation in July due to an expected heavy agenda in June. Gary Payne asked about the recent visit by Union Pacific and their attitude toward rails with trails. Tom Laws said the UP was “hesitant” about this issue, concerned about safety and liability. UP encourages agencies to apply, but will not give out the guidelines under which applications are reviewed. Tom said there is room on the corridors to have other uses such as pathways. Jay Gibbons said there are a number of questions to be addressed, and he intends to get these answered soon and not let it sit.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Next meeting was set for June 17, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Trainor, Secretary

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