

February 10, 2020 – City Council Meeting Minutes

WORKSHOPS

4:00-6:00 p.m. A Stronger Vancouver: Finalization of Programs and Services Package, Preview of Levy Design

This workshop was held in the Aspen Room (1st floor) at City Hall

Summary

Council continued discussion regarding proposed programs and services to be included in the Stronger Vancouver initiative, providing feedback regarding homelessness services, public safety programs, and programs supporting economic vitality and neighborhood vibrancy. Council also discussed several proposals for levy and bond measures to fund portions of the Stronger Vancouver projects and programs. This work session was continued following adjournment of the Consent Agenda Meeting, as summarized below.

COUNCIL DINNER/ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES (6 PM)

COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA MEETING

Location: City Council Chambers (2nd floor)

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order and Roll Call

The consent meeting of the Vancouver City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 415 W. 6th Street, Vancouver, Washington.

Present: Councilmembers Fox, Paulsen, Lebowsky, Glover, Stober, Hansen, Mayor McEnery-Ogle

Absent: None

Proclamation: Black History Month

Mayor McEnery-Ogle read and presented a proclamation to Jasmine Rucker-Tolbert, Vice President, NAACP Vancouver Chapter, proclaiming February 2020 as Black History Month.

Citizen Forum

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle opened the Citizen Forum and received the following testimony:

- Alyná Muñoz, Vancouver, expressed concerns about safety issues along 112th Avenue following the deaths for two Vancouver teens who were hit by a vehicle while crossing the street, and urged the City to make safety improvements to this corridor a priority.
- Jill Campbell, Vancouver, representing the Uptown Village Association, spoke regarding the Westside Bike Mobility project. She spoke in opposition to any route option along Columbia Street that includes loss of on-street parking, and stated route options 4 and 5 along Daniels Street are the most favorable of the options that had been presented.
- Glen Yung, Vancouver, stated he had learned a lot by speaking to and working with many people from different perspectives over the past year. In regards to the Westside Bike Mobility project, he stated he has looked at the project holistically and still does not see Columbia Street as a viable route option.
- Logan Eberhard, Vancouver, expressed concerns about safety issues along 112th Avenue following the deaths for two Vancouver teens who were hit by a vehicle while crossing the street, and urged the City to make safety improvements to this corridor a priority.
- Tim Emineth, Vancouver, expressed concerns about the pavement condition along Evergreen Boulevard and requested the City make this street a priority for paving as soon as possible.
- Jeffrey Stanton, Vancouver, spoke regarding the constitutional authority and responsibilities of elected officials.
- Teresa Hardy, Vancouver, expressed concerns about the composition of the City's Planning Commission and a perceived conflict of interest of residents who represent development companies being appointed to serve on that commission. She also urged the City to consider raising Park Impact Fee rates to match the proposals from Park and Recreation staff.
- Rachel Webber, Vancouver, expressed concerns regarding the behavior and negative impact of clients from the Navigation Center in the surrounding neighborhoods. She urged the City shut down the Navigation Center.
- Clifford McFall, Vancouver, urged the City to convert available industrial land into a location for a tent city as a resource for people experiencing homelessness.
- Todd Brochu, representing the Hough Neighborhood Association, read and submitted a letter (attached) from the neighborhood association regarding the Westside Bike Mobility project, and stated the neighborhood association's position in support of options 4 and 5 along Daniels Street and in opposition to removing any parking along Columbia Street, and requesting the City lower the speed limit along Columbia and other surface streets in the Hough neighborhood to 20 miles per hour.

- Dina Hovde, Vancouver, spoke regarding the Westside Bike Mobility project. She spoke in opposition to any route option along Columbia Street that includes loss of on-street parking, and stated route options 4 and 5 along Daniels Street are the most favorable of the options that had been presented.
- James Clute, Vancouver, representing the Sierra Club, urged the City to enact a climate action plan and set long-term objectives to become carbon neutral.
- Marsha Maupoux, Vancouver, representing the Citizens Climate Lobby, urged the City to enact a climate action plan and set long-term objectives to cut carbon emissions.
- Den Mark Wichar, Vancouver, urged the City to enact a climate action plan by Earth Day 2020 and set objectives to become carbon neutral.
- Laura Ellsworth, Vancouver, representing the Westside Neighborhood Coalition, spoke regarding the Westside Bike Mobility project. She spoke in opposition to any route option along Columbia Street at this time, and stated route options 4 and 5 along Daniels Street are the most favorable of the options that had been presented.
- Lisa Nelski, Vancouver, spoke regarding the Westside Bike Mobility Project. She stated she regularly commutes by bike, but spoke in opposition to developing Columbia Street as a route for this project due to safety concerns.
- Susan Sanders, Vancouver, spoke regarding the Westside Bike Mobility Project. She spoke in opposition to developing Columbia Street as a route for this project due to safety concerns, and stated routes along Daniels Street are more favorable.
- Steve Tubbs, Vancouver, urged the City to enact policies and take action to reduce carbon emissions.
- Julie Glasgow, Vancouver, spoke regarding the Westside Bike Mobility project. She spoke in opposition to any route option along Columbia Street and urged the City to pave Columbia now and lower speeds to 20 MPH, and stated route options 4 and 5 along Daniels Street are the most favorable of the options that had been presented.
- Caroline Ceravolo, Vancouver, stated the Council has a moral responsibility to address climate change as soon as possible.
- Caleb Ceravolo, Vancouver, urged the City to prioritize climate action in all actions that are taken and policies that are enacted.
- Jennifer Hatcher, Vancouver, spoke in opposition to Columbia Street as a route option for the Westside Bike Mobility project. She expressed concerns about developers who receive a tax exemption not being required to stay in Vancouver for a set amount of time. She also stated her belief that global warming is not a serious problem and can be attributed to natural occurrences.
- Alona Steinke, Vancouver, expressed concerns about crude oil trains traveling through Vancouver and the potential easing of federal regulations regarding the transport of liquefied natural gas by rail. She urged the City to support policies leading to 100 percent clean energy as soon as possible.

- Pip Allen, Vancouver, spoke in support of the Columbia Street as a preferred route option for the Westside Bike Mobility project.
- Jason Seybold, Vancouver, representing the Lincoln Neighborhood Association, stated the neighborhood association is opposed to the Westside Bike Mobility project because the neighborhood's action plan and neighborhood input was not considered in the project. He stated the project does not embrace inclusivity of all transportation users in the neighborhood.
- Don Steinke, Vancouver, urged the City to commit to becoming 100 percent carbon neutral as soon as possible and no later than 2050.
- Janet Hedgepath, Vancouver, stated clean energy technology is improving and gaining momentum and the City needs to take steps now to be in a position to take advantage of that in the future. She urged the City to enact a Climate action plan and set ambitious goals for becoming carbon neutral.
- Scott Murphy, Vancouver, spoke regarding the Westside Bike Mobility project and expressed concerns that the Columbia Street route option would severely impact the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center and the clients it serves.
- Ryan Welch, Vancouver, urged the Council to take action now to enact a climate action plan.
- Terence Ibert, Vancouver, spoke regarding the Westside Bike Mobility project and stated the project needs additional time for key questions to be answered and route options to be fully developed.
- Laurel Whitehurst, Vancouver, thanked the Council and the City for putting in place the Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission.
- Peter Fels, Vancouver, enact a climate action plan as soon as possible and set objectives to become carbon neutral, including prohibiting developments from vesting current building regulations.
- Chris Dickinsen, Vancouver, representing the Carter Park Neighborhood Association, stated the neighborhood association had previously voted to oppose the Westside Bike Mobility project Columbia Street route option and could not endorse any option at this time without more information about mitigation and budget.
- Kevin Todd, Vancouver, stated Vancouver has changed significantly over the past 30 years, and that driving and parking a car should not be considered a right and that climate change is a relevant concern underlying the Westside Bike Mobility project.
- Monica Zazueta, Vancouver, representing the Sunrise Movement and the Sierra Club Loowit, urged the City to reduce greenhouse emissions within 10 years and enact a climate action plan this year.

- Danielle Jokela, Vancouver, representing the Sunrise Movement, expressed concerns about a lack of infrastructure investment citywide, and urged the City to enact an ambitious plan to address climate change as soon as possible.

There being no further testimony, Mayor McEnerny-Ogle closed the Citizen Forum.

Adjournment

8:15 p.m.

WORKSHOP continuation

8:25-9:38 p.m. A Stronger Vancouver: Finalization of Programs and Services Package, Preview of Levy Design

This workshop was held in the Aspen Room (1st floor) at City Hall

Summary

Council continued discussion regarding proposals for levy and bond measures to fund portions of the Stronger Vancouver projects and programs and provided feedback to staff regarding details they would like to consider further at their next work session on this topic.

Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

Meetings of the Vancouver City Council are electronically recorded on audio and video. The audio files are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six years.

**Mayor McEnerny-Ogle and Vancouver City Council Members,
Re: Westside Bike Mobility Project Hough Special Meeting 2020-02-09**

In early 2019, the Hough Neighborhood formed an official position regarding this project. It was as follows...

“Hough Neighborhood welcomes a diversity of residents and uses, however, we cannot support the Westside Bike Mobility Project in its current form. This project was designed and completed without our involvement. It poses a risk to the integrity and vitality of our neighborhood and lacks a demonstrated understanding of the widespread damage and disruption that is likely to occur. We are disturbed by the poor efforts at outreach and neighborhood involvement. We strongly urge the City Council to delay implementation of this project and continue work to ensure it represents a collaborative and inclusive solution as part of a comprehensive vision for our city and neighborhood.”

The Hough Neighborhood Association convened a special meeting on February 10, 2020 for the purpose of holding a formal discussion among our members regarding the city's Westside Bike Mobility Project. This meeting was called in response to discussions that took place during our January quarterly meeting, at which city staff presented the current routes and answered questions to our members. The special meeting was very well attended. There were Forty-one Hough residents in attendance as well as four visitors.



During our special meeting, we briefly reviewed the routes that are currently under consideration and discussed them as a group.

After deliberation, the Hough Neighborhood Association members voted on and passed three motions:

Our neighborhood strongly opposes removing large amounts of parking on Columbia, and will *only* support routes four or five, which are the Washington/Daniels and Daniels/Franklin routes. Our members furthermore highly urge that the speed limit on Columbia and all other surface streets in Hough Neighborhood (excluding Fourth Plain and Mill Plain) be reduced to 20MPH to create a safer environment for all users of the streets within the boundaries of the Hough neighborhood.

We respectfully request that this letter be entered into the public record as the formal position of the Hough Neighborhood Association.

Respectfully,


Todd Brochu


Co-chair
Secretary
Co-chair



Dear Mayor McEnerny-Ogle and Councilors

The Westside Neighborhood Coalition appreciates the city's willingness to examine and explore multiple options for locating an "all ages and abilities" route on the west-side. We were privileged to have a seat on the Citizen's Advisory Committee to work toward an equitable solution.

The Westside Neighborhood Coalition strongly favors the route #5, Daniels-Franklin as the choice for development at this time. Development of this route provides a north-south route that is truly for all ages and abilities.

We do not recommend development of Columbia Street as a route at this time. The removal of parking, along with the removal of traffic calming devices create a strong probability the plan will result in increased speeds along this route. Increasing speeds will jeopardize the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, school children and people who live and work on Columbia. Mitigation required for this route has not been developed and included in the plan. This is the route likely to cause the most damage to our existing uses and vulnerable neighbors, as well as our veterans, therefore requiring the highest level of mitigation.

Although there might be a time in the future when the potential to provide appropriate mitigation (traffic calming, lowering the speed limit, and aesthetic considerations and improvements) become more feasible, the Columbia route has the highest impact to existing uses and represents a decrease in safety for many.

We also note these plans offer no improvements for our failing sidewalk system. Will there be requirements for property owners to repair, replace, and otherwise

provide costly improvements to damaged areas including City owned tree trunk and root damage to the City owned sidewalks in front of private property?

The Westside Neighborhood Coalition notes that improvements to pedestrian and cyclist safety and the safety of the people living and working along this route is the most important consideration and is part of Complete Streets strategy.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with our Mayor and Councilors to fully detail our concerns regarding this plan and our support of the #5 Daniels-Franklin option.

Kind Regards

WNC Executive Board