



February 13, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Planning Committee

From: Eleni Tsivitz, Campus Planning
Campus Planning and Facilities Management (CPFM)

Subject: **Record** of the February 5, 2019 Campus Planning Committee Meeting

Attending: Dean Livelybrooks (CPC chair), Mark Donofrio, Hilary Gerdes, Michael Harwood,
Diana Libuda, Krista McGuire, Steve Robinson, Christine Thompson, Chuck Triplett

Staff: Eleni Tsivitz (Campus Planning)

Guests: Emily Eng, Allen Hancock, Brent Harrison, Bill Madden, Aaron Olsen,
Matt Roberts, Bitty Roy

CPC Agenda:

1. City of Eugene South Bank Path Enhancement Project - Considerations Review

Background: The CPC chair introduced the city project and Aaron Olsen (Campus Planning) described the boundaries of the UO property and the existing city path layout through the UO property. He reviewed the Principles of the *Campus Plan* that are applicable to this project.

Olsen showed a diagram of the proposed recommendations to the City of Eugene (per the presentation and meeting mailing). These include the following considerations:

- Moving the path (and any lighting the city adds during this project) further away from the river than the current alignment of the path- within the 200-foot setback for the most part.
- Increasing the safety of users of the path by removing tight, blind curves and moving it away from eroding banks
- Minimizing impacts to the area which may contain vernal pools.
- Avoiding potential future building sites in the area.
- Installing the UO standard light fixture (which meets dark sky requirements) and using a 3000 Kelvin lamp which is more friendly to ecological areas while still ensuring accurate color rendering for users.

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- Removing as much of the chain-link fence around the old pole yard as possible.
- Converting the existing path to a 6-foot gravel walking path using the existing rock base. This will provide a secondary pedestrian path closer to the river for views and access and will also be useful for maintenance and service.
- Carefully assessing construction impacts to ground nesting birds and using best management practices to minimize any impacts.
- Expanding paving at a number of points throughout the path to accommodate amenities such as trash cans (to minimize littering), bike parking, campus standard benches, and map stations.
- Reconstructing the eastern third of the path in its existing alignment.

Staff explained that the university will provide these considerations to the city, but that there is no guarantee that these will be realized in the city's final project.

Discussion: The following is a compilation of questions and comments from the committee members and guests:

- Introducing two flows of traffic at the blind corner on the east of the outfall might create problems.
- The CPC chair conveyed the comments of a member who was unable to attend the meeting. Please see the following section for project team responses to these comments.
- A guest to the committee recommended the following:
 - Stay outside of the 200-foot setback where possible.
 - Rather than keeping the entire gravel path along the bank, consider having a shorter, 2-foot-wide gravel path to the river bank to minimize ecological impacts.
 - Recognize that a gravel path would likely be used by mountain bikers.
 - Consider adding a trail to the fossil beach and potentially placing a bench nearby.
- A guest had the following comments:
 - Take advantage of any additional funding the City of Eugene might have available to further restoration efforts in the area. In particular consider incorporating educational signage related to the ecology of the area.

In response to questions from committee members and guests, Olsen provided the following clarifications:

- There could be some impacts or changes to the path improvements in the case of a major enhancement/restoration project in the future.
- The proposal to move the paved path away from the river's edge is in the interest of preserving/enhancing the river's edge which is the most ecologically sensitive area within the region. The trade-off is that there would be fewer views to the river from the new path. However, part of the beauty of the entire trail is that there are "moments of reveal" when the path moves closer to the river's edge and opens up to views of the water.

- The intent of retaining the existing path as a gravel pedestrian path is to minimize construction activity in the area (for ecological benefit), to convert the path to a material that is more pervious than what it is currently, to maintain a connection to the river, and to allow for maintenance and service access.
- The city will pay for this project through a combination of grant funding and parks bond funding.
- The existing path is currently in an easement for the city and the city has no requirement for keeping the existing path in place. Once the new path is constructed, the easement in the current path location will no longer exist. Therefore, it is uncertain how receptive the city might be to the idea of adjusting the layout of the existing path, or in creating other paths. If there was a desire to repave the existing path in place for accessibility, the city would likely require the University of Oregon to take on the repaving project. However, the idea of ADA access to the river certainly merits careful consideration.
- The city has design standards for multi-modal paths. Narrowing the width of the new path would not be consistent with the city's goals of promoting biking and walking, particularly on such a heavily-used path. A narrower path could create safety issues.
- Lighting the path is a priority for the city particularly because there is no lit path on the other side of the river.
- The exact placement of the benches would be carefully considered as part of the city's design process.
- Consideration was given to the idea of the new path following the current gravel service road. The drawbacks of that approach are that the service road is very close to the railroad tracks, far from the river's edge. It is also very close to the area which may contain vernal pools (sensitive ecological areas).
- Providing a soft path to the fossil beds in the future is a good consideration for the UO.
- If the city has funding available for further restoration, the UO would certainly be in support of that.

Action: The CPC agreed unanimously to recommend to the president that the city consider the UO's recommendations as presented with the following refinements:

- Carefully study the exact placement of the proposed benches.
- Assess the relative benefits of the footpath location as well as its design (dimensions, materials, etc) .
- The UO is supportive of the use of any additional city funds that could add to ecological restoration efforts between the bike path and the river's edge.

In addition, the university will consider providing pedestrian access to the fossil bank in the future.

2. Campus Planning Updates

a) PE + Recreation Field Location Options Study

Background: Aaron Olsen (Campus Planning) gave some background information about the project (included in the meeting mailing) and discussed the process diagram which lays out the project phases and planned outreach. This study will be the first step in the *Campus Plan* amendment process to incorporate the area between the railroad tracks and the Willamette River into the *Campus Plan*.

The first level of analysis will be done by Campus Planning and will identify key site evaluation criteria and a wide range of potential sites. In an initial meeting with interested parties (including Dean Livelybrooks, George Evans, Brent Harrison, Bart Johnson, Bitty Roy, and Ed Whitelaw) many of these issues were discussed. Key criteria will be used to narrow the list of potential sites. In the second phase, consultants will be hired to perform a more in-depth analysis of the primary sites and there will be engagement with stakeholders and the university community.

CPC staff stated that ideas are being developed about a possible advisory committee to the CPC. This committee would provide feedback to help prepare for full CPC review. While the details of advisory committee membership have not yet been determined, it is likely that it would be composed of a number of CPC members along with members from interested stakeholder groups. Staff invited interested CPC members to email the CPC chair and staff indicating their interest in serving on this committee.

Discussion: The following is a compilation of questions and comments from the committee members and guests:

- The CPC chair conveyed the comments of a member who was unable to attend the meeting. These included the following points:
 - The Framework Vision Project (FVP) is laconic on the topic of recreation fields, stating only that "land north of the railroad tracks is only needed for playing fields", and projected that these might only be needed after enrollment reaches 28,000.
 - The FVP did not specify the use of artificial turf playing fields, which are typically fenced and flood-lit. These would "create a large dead zone and heat island next to the riverfront, destroying habitat and reducing and degrading the riverfront land as a natural area and open space enjoyed by walkers, bikers, and others".

Action: No formal action was requested.

b) Franklin 959 - Pedestrian Crossing (City of Eugene and Private Developer)

Background: Aaron Olsen (Campus Planning) reviewed the background information about the pedestrian crossings which will be completed by the developer of the Franklin 959 student housing project on the former Louie's Village site. He showed a diagram of the proposed design of the crossing. Approximately 400 students will be housed in the new building. The project goal is to provide a safe pedestrian crossing from the development to The University of Oregon at Dads' Gates across Franklin Boulevard. Many options were studied by the city for the location of the crossing and given the topographic challenges in the area, the

identified location was determined to be the best option. The Franklin Boulevard right-of-way crossing will be signalized using red, yellow, and green lights (unlike the HUB project further west on Franklin). A six-foot-wide concrete pedestrian sidewalk will be funded and constructed by the developer through the UO-owned portion of land. Upon completion, ownership will be transferred to the university. There will be no impact to existing UO parking spaces.

Discussion: The following is a compilation of questions and comments from the committee members and guests:

- Does the city have any data on how the HUB crossing is working? Is that the reason there are different proposals for how this crossing will be signalized?

In response to questions from committee members and guests, Olsen provided the following clarifications:

- Given the Franklin Boulevard Redesign Project that has recently launched, there could be some changes to this crossing in the future.
- The new sidewalk on UO land would not have any restrictions or limit future development plans. The UO is granting the developer a temporary construction easement.

Action: No formal action was requested.

c) Capital Plan - Update

Background: Mike Harwood (CPFM) presented the 2018 Capital Plan (as presented to the Board of Trustees).

Discussion: In response to questions from committee members and guests, Harwood provided the following clarifications:

- Some minor ADA improvement projects are managed using the CPFM budget, but most are managed through the Capital Improvements budget which also deals with re-roofing, electrical upgrades and repair issues. Occasionally, some ADA upgrades fall into the 10-year Capital Plan if they are part of a major project (e.g. a new elevator is needed for Friendly Hall once a portion of that space is vacated after the completion of the Tykeson Hall project).
- There is no anticipated state funding for the Classroom and Faculty Office Building. Funding will be from a combination of philanthropy and bonds that the UO will be fully responsible for repaying with UO revenue, fees, etc. This project (along with additional UO student housing) is needed to accommodate growth in enrollment.

Action: No formal action was requested.

Please contact this office if you have questions.