

Complete Streets Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday October 4, 2011

6 PM

Attendance:

<i>Steering Committee</i>	<i>City of Fairbanks</i>	<i>Kinney Engineering</i>
Eric Stoner	Mike Schmetzer	Randy Kinney
June Rogers	Jerry Cleworth	Jeanne Bowie
Donna Gardino (FMATS)	Amber Courtney	<i>Crandall Arambula</i>
Mary Nordale		George Crandall
Scott Allison		Don Arambula

(Note: Tim Cerny was not in attendance. He met with the mayor, Kinney Engineering, and Crandall Arambula on October 3, 2011)

Meeting Notes:

Mayor Jerry Cleworth introduced the project. He said there is about \$6.5 million dollars allocated to the Complete Streets project for Cushman and Barnette and there is not a particular design or plan already in place. The steering committee will help to determine how that money is spent. It can be used for both streets or one street.

The mayor mentioned several points that he thinks are important:

- Slow growth is expected in the downtown area for the life of this project, the Complete Streets plan should be based on this reality.
- It is important to design the streets so that buses can make all of the turns that would be desirable.
- The plan needs to accommodate snow removal.
- Tree vaults are generally viewed positively.
- The plan needs to address the two-way section of Cushman near the fire station and determine if that section should remain two-way or be converted back to one-way.

- Public meetings need to be held to give input to the steering committee.
- Third Avenue is an example of a design that will not work in snow. It is impossible for vehicles to tell where the street ends and the sidewalk begins when it snows, so vehicles end up parking on the sidewalk in the snow.

The steering committee had several questions about the Illinois Street project which is to be built in summer 2012 (the Barnette Street bridge was completed this summer). The committee was shown the general layout and alignment of that project. The committee determined that they would like to meet with the Chena Riverfront Commission to better understand the vision for the area north of the river where Cushman and Barnette will meet as part of the Illinois Street project.

The committee asked for information on whether Cushman and Barnette are necessary for through streets (moving traffic) or for access to businesses. Randy Kinney explained that part of our traffic analysis will be examining that.

The committee also had several concerns regarding the bus system and pedestrian travel in the city, including:

- The bus does not provide short distance service in the downtown area. Mary would like to see a jitney service that would cost a dime or a quarter to get from one stop to another in the downtown area.
- Pedestrians have difficulty crossing Cushman Street at 1st Avenue and at 2nd Avenue. These crossings should be specifically addressed as part of the complete streets analysis.
- Pedestrian crossings at Barnette Street and 1st Avenue are not an issue now, but could be once the Barnette Street bridge is opened.

The committee expressed interest in seeing ideas for what a complete street would look like. The mayor and Mike Schmetzer pointed them to the website www.completestreets.org, the website for the National Complete Streets Coalition for more information on complete streets.

The committee expressed an interest in defining the downtown area with gateways of some sort.

The committee plans to meet again November 15, 2011 at 6 PM once they have had a chance to learn more about complete streets. The next steering committee meeting that is scheduled as part of the complete streets project will be around December 9th through 12th.