

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

Standing Committee on Transportation, Sustainability and Energy

Councilor David Marshall (D2), Chair

Councilor Kevin Donoghue (D1), Vice Chair

Councilor John Anton (A/L)

Councilor Cheryl Leeman (D4)

June 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Chair David Marshall, Councilor Kevin Donoghue, Councilor Cheryl Leeman, Councilor John Anton (absent), Jeremiah Bartlett, Melissa Graffam, Troy Moon, Bruce Hyman, Bill Needleman, Eric Labelle, Jen Thompson

Chair David Marshall called the meeting at 5:33 pm

1. Approval of May 1 and May 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Donoghue to approve minutes from May 1 and May 15 meetings, Seconded by Councilor Leeman. Motion passed 3-0.

2. A. PACTS Libbytown Circulation Study

Lucy Gibson of Dubois & King presented alternatives for the modifications to Libbytown streets, and I-295 interchange access that City staff and the PAC members have worked on. There has been a lot of outreach to the residents and businesses in this area, along with a public meeting.

Councilor Leeman requested more information, in regards to how these changes would affect the Forest Avenue exits.

Councilor Donoghue asked about costs. Jeremiah Bartlett said that they are having conversations with MaineDOT and they are trying to keep most hardscape if possible. Most of the cost would be the signals along St. John Street.

The Committee took public comments regarding the study.

Fred Dillon, Libbytown Resident- Safety is a major concern as he has bicycled a thousand times in the area and it can be very dangerous. Land that is opened up once the ramps are closed could possibly be used economic development.

Jaime Parker, Portland Resident and Portland Trails- From a trails perspective he is supportive of the plan as it will give more mobility and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. He supports Congress Street as a two-way street.

Bill Bray, Portland Resident- Feels that there will be a lot of double-backing of vehicles with people having to go other ways with the elimination of the ramps. He sees I-295 as a "loop" road to get

around Portland. Mr. Bray has requested to see the mobility analysis for improvements, and he is interested in being on any other advisory committees. Once the ramps are gone, it's gone.

Robert Haines, Holm Avenue- Asked the Committee to listen to Mr. Bray as what he said has a lot of merit. He professionally knows what he is saying as he is the city's former Traffic Engineer and Director of Public Works. Mr. Haines's asked why the city is so hell-bent on getting rid of street systems that work. If it isn't broke, don't fix it.

Channing Capuchino, Portland Resident- Feels that it is broke and it does need to be fixed.

Zack, Huntress Street- Spoke about a recent study by Brian Hill from USM regarding low-income and mobility issues. Along I-295 and St. John Street there are poor sidewalks in that area.

Alex Landry, Preble Street and City's Bike/Ped Committee- Supports the plan as it is presented.

Councilor Ed Suslovic thanked the members of the advisory committee, staff and consultant for their work. Safety is the number one driver for this project. Mobility for all modes of transportation is what urges the need for these changes. He asked the Committee to accept this study and have it vetted out at the next level of planning/discussion.

Councilor Leeman asked if an environmental/cost analysis will be done. Staff responded that this analysis will be done as the study moves along.

Councilor Donoghue made a motion to endorse this concept plan so that staff may continue discussion with the MaineDOT. Motion was seconded by Councilor Marshall. Motion passed 3-0.

2. B. Update Select Transportation Ordinances

The Committee took public comments regarding the changes.

Alex Landry, Preble Street- Glad to see the housekeeping going on with this. He would like to see the definition of "unmarked crosswalks" more defined. He also asked that in Chapter 28 staff look at it about skateboards and bicycles on sidewalks within the downtown area. Also, to look into the parking ratios in parking garages.

Councilor Marshall asked for a different definition of "bicycle", as there are now motor bicycles.

This item will be placed a future agenda for more review.

2. C. Green Packaging Working Group- Endorse/forward to City Council

Councilor Ed Suslovic said that at the May 6, 2013 Green Packaging Working Group meeting, the members voted 9-6 to recommend passage to prohibit the sale of polystyrene foam packaging for food products in Portland. Councilor Suslovic mentioned that the town of Freeport has had the same ban for over 20 years and they have not had to fine anyone. Once approved this ordinance wouldn't take effect until July 2015.

The Committee took public comments regarding the proposed ban.

Travis Wagner, Resident and USM Professor- Is in favor of the ban. Polystyrene is made of petroleum and does not decompose. You only can use it once and then throw it away.

Barbara Anania, Resident and local business owner- Does not see the need for the ban. The Styrofoam of the 1970's is gone. This will affect numerous businesses. She looked up in the yellow pages and found over 30 gas stations, 26 fish stores, 189 restaurants, 16 sandwich shops, 16 coffee shops and 17 pizza parlors. She asked if they were only looking at food industries and what about florists, installation, crafters and mail (peanuts). She also mentioned that businesses were not aware of this and notices were not readily available.

Matt Thurston, local business owner of KFC- Opposes the ban. There are food safety concerns with the ban. It will cost thousands to make the change.

Dick Grotton, Maine Restaurant Association- Opposes the ban. In July 2012 the meeting was meant to gain information/study the proposed ban. Eight months later, the tone of the meeting changed and the leadership of the task force was ready to ban polystyrene. The process focused on a litter problem. It's a people problem, not the poly. This is a FDA approved product. The ban will cost businesses thousands of money. It's a tax on our businesses, which unfortunately will be passed on to our patrons.

Chris O'Neil, Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce- Be careful with this one, make sure everything is well defined. If litter in the city is a problem, also look at the trash collection process. Cautions against a policy solution that don't have a real defined problem.

James Freeman, Portland Resident and Business Owner- Opposes the ban. There are no practical differences between what he makes and what they are trying to ban. EPS foam to ship seafood. Ships live lobsters to China with this material. Would like to see more time spend on this topic.

Shelly Doak, Maine Grocers Association- The working group was unbalanced and was predisposed to ban the sale/use of polystyrene.

Curtis Picard, Retail Association of Maine- Opposes the ban. Was on the task force and it did not take in account the financial impacts on businesses.

Mark Spencer, Pactiv Corporation, Illinois- Opposed the proposal. They produce food service packaging. Alternatives will be pricy.

AnneMarie Treglia, Dart Container Corporation, Michigan- Opposes the ban. Makes alternative products and there is an increased cost. There are cities (Los Angeles) that have curbside collection of polystyrene.

Mike Levy, Plastic Food Storage Group- Opposes the ban.

Robert Haines, Holm Avenue Resident- Got a polystyrene cup from Room 209 here in City Hall on two different nights. Said it was a solid source of gasoline and ecomaine would have to pay more to sell electricity if the polystyrene was gone out of the trash stream.

Sally Trice, Resident- Was on the task force and was given the task to create the ordinance. Sorry to say but the FDA rules are not always in our best interest. There is garbage and polystyrene in our oceans. The fish eat it and then we eat them.

Councilor Leeman had to leave the meeting and had some questions that she would like to have answered and would be in touch with Troy Moon.

Councilor Suslovic mentioned that ecomaine had a representative on the task force and did not see an issue with the loss of the polystyrene from Portland trash. Councilor Donoghue asked that when this topic is discussed again, a staff member from ecomaine be present.

Letters from those that spoke will be attached to the meeting minutes.

3. A. Water Resources Integrated Permit

Eric Labelle discussed the four major water quality programs which some are licensed and mandated and all are interdependent. They are: CMOM (Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance); SSO (Sanitary Sewer Overflows); CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow); and MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems).

4. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm