

**CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE**  
Committee on Sustainability and Transportation  
Councilor Regina Phillips (D3), Chair  
Councilor Pious Ali (At-Large)  
Councilor Anna Bullett (D4)

**Approved Minutes March 12, 2025**

Members Present: Councilor Phillips, Councilor Bullett, Councilor Ali

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Greg Jordan, Katie Tims, Karly Meyer, Mike Murray, Kevin Kraft

Guests:

Meeting was called to order.

**February 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

The February 12, 2025 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**Sustainability Updates**

Our office is currently running the Electrify Bikes! program, which offers income-eligible Portland residents the opportunity to receive an incentive toward the purchase of an electric assist bicycle or cargo bicycle. The program supports goals identified in One Climate Future to reduce vehicle miles traveled in automobiles and to reduce carbon emissions from transportation. The application window closes on March 12, 2025. We have funding for an estimated 35 bikes.

With the support of the Legislative and Nominating Committee, Sustainability Director Troy Moon submitted testimony in opposition to bills that propose to eliminate the State's net energy billing program. This program allows the City to receive credits on our electricity bills from offsite renewable energy projects (which generate about \$1 million in annual savings and renewable energy credits).

Energy Benchmarking reporting season started in January and is well underway.

**Communication: Report from the Landcare Management Advisory Committee**

Every year, we tabulate the activities within the city and present it to the committee. The report includes major landcare management and tree planting efforts made by the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities, annual LMAC engagement efforts, and a breakdown of information coming from the commercial pesticide applicator reports.

**Vision Zero Resolution**

Presented by Assistant City Manager Greg Jordan

Following our presentation last month by the Greater Portland Council of Governments on the Region Vision Zero plan that they developed, this is a continuation of that conversations about if, as a city, whether or not we wanted to adopt the region plan and begin to work on a variety of

measures that the plan highlights for us. The resolution in the packet is meant to go to the council.

The main portion lays out the roadmap for how we might proceed. The first piece would be the council adopting the GPCOG plan, at this stage setting out a vision of trying to be a zero fatality and serious injury free transportation system by 2045. Later pieces also include a vision zero quick action plan (which would be instrumental in the short term), a consideration of the complete streets policy (adopted in 2012) to be updated, and the potential for making revisions to our technical manual (subject to planning board approval). Lastly, it notes the potential to develop a comprehensive transportation plan.

### **Councilor Comment on Vision Zero**

Councilor Phillips questions if it is time to discuss accelerating the timeline of the vision (advancing it to 2035 instead of 2045). Greg Jordan notes that it would be fair to have that discussion now, and if the committee would like to resolve the language before it goes to the council, they would be able to.

### **Public Comment on Vision Zero**

PCAT encouraged the council to pass both the Vision Zero and Complete Streets policies as it directly aligns with multiple strategies within the City's adopted One Climate Future plan.

Three more constituents urged the Council to adopt both the Vision Zero and Complete Streets policies and suggested the creation of a Vision Zero Committee.

Another constituent spoke in support of the adoption of Vision Zero and urged the committee to focus on the funding and enforcement of this resolution as well as include the schools and school boards.

### **Councilor Comment on Vision Zero**

Councilor Bullett clarified that the City is dependent on State and Federal funding and partners for many large transportation infrastructure projects and wants to ensure there is a way to have both urgent, short-term actions and long-term plans.

Greg Jordan echoes that there are actions that can be done in the short term, but that all of our Comprehensive Transportation Plan will inform all of our transportation projects.

Councilor Bullett suggested including the school district directly within the resolution to ensure safe routes to school and to work with schools and school boards.

Councilor Phillips suggested meeting with the school and school board before involving them in the resolution.

Greg Jordan agreed that this would not commit the School District and School Board to the resolution and that it would be important to discuss with them first.

### **Motion to Approve the Vision Zero Resolution**

The motion was moved by Councilor Bullett and seconded by Councilor Phillips. The motion was accepted unanimously and will move forward to full City Council.

### **Complete Streets Policy Discussion**

Presented by Kevin Kraft, Nell Donaldson, and Mike Murray

Complete Streets is a transportation policy that ensures the design of streets and all transportation infrastructure ensures accessibility for all users, ages, abilities and modes. The Complete Streets Policy aims to enhance our streetscapes to improve safety, allow for improved multi-modal usage, and encourage climate-smart design to reduce carbon and other emissions. Kraft explained what the Complete Streets Policy is, the history of the policy in the City of Portland, how the policy is implemented, the current Complete Streets projects underway within the City, and the next steps either to maintain existing policy or to revise and update existing policy & align with the National Complete Streets Coalition.

### **Councilor Comments on the Complete Streets Policy Discussion**

Councilor Phillips expressed interest in the council updating the Complete Streets Policy that was adopted in 2012, but doesn't think it necessarily needs to be made immediately since there is an existing policy. In updating the policy, it will also give the rest of the council an opportunity to reexamine it and provide feedback.

Councilor Bullett also agrees that the Council should update the original policy and encourage interdepartmental collaboration. Councilor Bullett also suggests finding a way to make the Complete Streets Policy an enforceable requirement for developers.

Assistant City Manager Jordan says it would be ideal to have the Vision Zero and Complete Streets policies updated and adopted before the beginning of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Councilor Bullett adds the necessity for a robust community engagement effort around these updates.

### **Motion to Adjournment**

The motion was moved by Councilor Bullett, and seconded by Councilor Ali. The motion was accepted unanimously.

### **Meeting Adjourned**