

**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 April 9, 2025**

Members Present: Councilor Phillips, Councilor Bullett, Councilor Ali, Councilor Sykes

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Greg Jordan, Katie Tims, Mike Murray, Kevin Kraft, Jeremiah Bartlett

Meeting was called to order.

**March 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

The March 12, 2025 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**Sustainability Updates**

Our office is currently running the second round of 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. Over 200 residents registered for the program. We randomly selected residents to complete the registration process and shop for a bike. By completion, we expect to award incentives for between 30 - 40 e-bikes with 15 e-bikes purchased thus far.

Our office has spent a significant amount of time on community engagement and education in the last month including tabling at the Portland High School STEM Expo, presenting at 9 different classes at Portland High School, presenting to 160 students at Lyman Moore Middle School, presenting to the Leadership Maine's Environmental Day, and at the Portland Public Library's Speaker Series. We also celebrated Earth Day on April 19th and have another upcoming event in May, Walk the Working Waterfront.

**Transportation Updates**

Kevin Kraft shared that the Reimagining Franklin St project is underway with WSP selected as the project consultant in February and will host their first public engagement meeting on Thursday, April 17th.

The Forest Avenue: Marginal Way to Park Avenue Smart Corridor Study finished the alternative analysis study in February and shows recommendations for a road diet between Woodfords Corner and Exit 6. They will be doing more additional outreach with stakeholders, particularly in the cyclist community and local businesses.

The Union Branch Connector Pathways finished construction drawings and are planning to get a bid out for construction this summer with full completion in the Spring 2026.

They also received grant funding for phase 3 for the multi-use path along West Commercial Street.

Transportation Engineer, Jeremiah Bartlett, shared updates on the Libbytown Safety and Accessibility Project, which has goals for climate resiliency, urban design, and water quality compliance and the preliminary design review will be completed in 2025 with the final design in 2026 with additional meetings on various design components ongoing.

Jeremiah Bartlett also shared Brighton Avenue: Rosemont Corner Intersection Improvements that they are working on a systems calibration on how to do the alternatives analysis, which uses different models to see what future alternatives look like on the Rosemont Corner. We will see more on that later this year including public process and discussing alternatives.

Mike Murray shared that Marles Corner is an MDOT led project and there are no updates currently. He also shared there are no updates regarding the Forest Avenue: Marginal Way to Park Avenue (Smart Corridor Study: Phase III) at this point.

Jeremiah Bartlett shared updates regarding the State & High Street Two-Way Conversion project. They discussed with MDOT looking for a two-party agreement to coordinate the streetscape project on York Street with the State & High Street conversion. They are doing a staff and consultant walk the next day to look at the corridor and understand at a high level of detail what the constraints are. It will be helpful towards doing the alternatives assessment to bring back to the public.

#### **Petition to Amend Parking Restrictions on Deerfield Road**

Troy Moon recommended that the committee postpone this item as they have been having conversations with the petitioner, who is receptive to having conversations in the field to see if there is a way to address concerns and reach a resolution without having to take council action.

Councilor Phillips approved the request.

#### **Request to approve a traffic schedule change on Pearl Street between Kennebec Street and Oxford Street**

Mike Murray and Jeremiah Bartlett shared the basis for this is to increase the parking supply along Pearl and Cotton Streets. Jeremiah Bartlett shared that parking in the target location can accommodate a single side of parking to add 15-16 spaces for 2 hour parking between 9am-5pm. It will provide a benefit to the neighborhood and to the businesses in the area.

Councilor Phillips supports the additional parking downtown. Councilor Ali wondered if parking will increase at Lancaster St as well? Jeremiah answered that not at this point, but they will look into Lancaster in the future and that Lancaster is more complex due to the previous scrapyards and uncertainty of its future development.

Councilor Bullett asked about daylighting at the corners and if that is part of the plan? Jeremiah answered that yes it is part of the plan, everything will be setback 25 feet, but typically, when resurfacing a street they will reinforce the daylighting.

**Public comment on request to approve a traffic schedule change on Pearl Street between Kennebec Street and Oxford Street**

There was no public comment.

**Motion to approve the traffic schedule change on Pearl Street between Kennebec Street and Oxford Street**

The motion was moved by Councilor Bullett and seconded by Councilor Ali.

The motion was accepted unanimously and will move forward to full City Council.

**Request to approve traffic schedule change on Cotton Street north of Fore Street**

Jeremiah Bartlett shared there have been two different requests regarding Cotton St. There are a few businesses on Cotton St that have loading needs. This change would propose commercial loading zones in store frontage areas between 9am-6pm. There have been ongoing challenges with people double parking on Fore Street which this change would also resolve. There have been pleas from the public to provide additional parking options that could benefit residents in the area, as most parking is metered in the area - an additional 6 spaces. This would address demand on parking on peninsula in Portland.

**Public Comment on the request to approve traffic schedule change on Cotton Street north of Fore Street**

There was no public comment.

**Motion to approve the traffic schedule change on Cotton Street north of Fore Street**

The motion was moved by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Bullett.

The motion was accepted unanimously and will move forward to full City Council.

**Vision Zero Implementation**

Greg Jordan said we moved forward on the Vision Zero implementation as the S&T committee's resolution will go to Council the coming Monday. There was one change to the resolution based on comment made at the last meeting to reference school districts as a partner. Otherwise, the resolution is the same. Basic outline of the major action steps for the broader Vision Zero Implementation, as there were broader measures included in the GPCOG plan to operationalize these actions in the short and long term. A technical design manual was also included in the resolution and they estimate it will take about a year to complete. Completing the comprehensive transportation plan will be instrumental in making progress on this in the long run. There will also be an annual report on crashes and collisions in Portland. Greg Jordan provided a brief overview of the Draft Vision Zero Implementation Plan, which will include an internal, interdepartmental task force to make progress in an organized, systematic fashion. Jordan was open to initial feedback from Councilors and plan to have completed plan by June.

No questions from Councilors and they look forward to discussing this further in May.

### **Review and Update Work Plan**

Conversations about the landcare committee and

Councilor Phillips shared that there have been some discussions regarding the landcare committee and ordinance. Councilor Phillips mentioned that Councilor Sykes had some suggestions to the LMAC and Councilor Phillips let Councilor Bullett or Councilor Ali know that if they have any suggestions regarding the landcare ordinance to contact her.

Troy Moon suggested postponing the sea level rise policy discussion to a later date that it is more of an informational presentation and the Resilience Working Group is just starting again for this year, which would open up time for Councilor Ali's item regarding the taxi and the landcare ordinance discussion. Councilor Bullett agreed with this plan.

Greg Jordan wanted to flag their intent regarding the upcoming discussion with transit agencies and PACs to not only discuss their individual systems, but the focus should be on how they all work together to provide a public transportation network and what the City of Portland can do at a policy level to improve the network.

Troy Moon mentioned that members of the public are interested in updates with the cruise ships and that we are continuing to have conversations with stakeholders and gather information. Moon mentioned having a panel discussion hosted by Councilor Phillips to discuss options for the Council to consider regarding cruise ships. Troy also shared that our ultimate goal is to work on a Community-Wide Resilience Plan and what options the city might take for adapting to sea level rise with hopes to see a Council resolution to use as a policy basis to build a climate resiliency plan over the next couple years.

### **Motion to Adjournment**

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

### **Meeting Adjourned**