

## Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting – 7/6/2023

### Participants

Ivan (Zoo) – Present

Keith (EWP) – Present

Jennifer (WFC) – Present

Danny (PP&R) – Present

Jason (PJG) – Present

Becky (Hoyt) – Present (arrived 10:22am)

### Partner Updates

#### **Zoo**

Zoo Nights have started, 3 have happened so far, with 7 left for the summer season. Not too busy yet, hoping to pick up for the rest of the season. OMSI camps are coming to the Zoo. July 24<sup>th</sup> – August 18<sup>th</sup> (Mon-Friday) They will be using a different drop off/pick-up zone. They will be doing drop off similar to how schools did, using the side of Lot C and then looping around. Drop off will be from around 8:45am – 9:15am and then Pick up will be from 3:30pm-4:15pm.

*Question (Ivan)* Do we know when the 4T Trail will be opening again?

*Answer (Danny):* We don't know, nothing has been shared with me as of yet.

#### **WFC**

There is a Tea Festival coming to the WFC on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. This will likely be a very big day attendance wise. This group is encouraging people to take TriMet, but there will be 100s of people. Jennifer mentioned how she was eager to hear information about the ADA spots.

#### **PJG**

PJG is working to reduce some of the staff weekend impact in the parking lots. Some senior staff that park up on the service road are not there on the weekends, so we are trying to rotate some of the folks that are down in the parking lot up to that area on the weekends when there is space up there. Trying to open up spaces for visitors in the lots.

#### **PP&R**

Danny has been looking into more info on the ADA construction but they construction company has not gotten back to him with the final plan for the ADA spaces. There is not much of an update other than they are working on those spaces. It seems like most people are interested in where the temporary ADA spaces will be. Currently, not all of ADA spaces have been closed, there are still some spaces on lot B near the crosswalk by the WFC. Danny will work to get more information on the temporary ADA spaces.

*Question (Jennifer):* Are they working on the temporary spaces this week?

*Answer (Danny):* Yes, they are working on them.

## **PP&R Construction Projects (Danny)**

### **Sealcoat**

Dates for the sealcoating project on the South end:

Lot A: 7/31 – 8/1 (Monday/Tuesday)

Lot C: 8/2 – 8/3 (Wednesday/Thursday)

Lot B area 1: 8/7 – 8/8 (Monday/Tuesday)

Lot B area 2: 8/9 – 8/10 (Wednesday/Thursday) Lot B will reopen after this for the weekend

Lot B area 3: 8/14 – 8/15 – (Monday/Tuesday)

This project will begin on July 31<sup>st</sup> and will start with Lot A, and a small amount of Lot C. They plan to only take 2 days for each phase. The only big issue is with how they were trying to break up lot B. Danny made suggestions to the map to allow for easier guest use (mainly for guests to enter and exit the lot). The most concerning area is phase 4, because it closes off the now main lot B entrance. Entrance to the lot would then have to go through the Education center lane. There will have to be some thought into how best to allow traffic to flow. The rest of the phases allow for more open movement in Lot B. Danny has not confirmed with the company that this new plan will work. But that is what we are hoping to go with.

*Comment (Keith):* EWP has put in to add buses and offsite coverage for all of these dates. We already had Thursday-Monday, but we have added Tuesdays and Wednesdays during this project.

*Question (Ivan):* Will this impact the OMSI drop off/pick-up? Will that road always be open?

*Answer (Danny):* Yes, it will always be open.

### **South Entry Update**

The latest newsletter with all of the updates was emailed out last week with more information. One big highlight: The main wall area is being set-up. Danny is hopeful that traffic and everything is going smoothly. So far there have not been any unexpected complaints.

*Comment (Keith):* I saw there were still concerns about the speed though the construction zone and by the bumps, so EWP will keep working on that messaging.

*Comment (Danny):* No one has said anything special recently but I am keeping that notice there as a reminder.

*Comment (Jennifer):* There is no speeding over those bumps.

### **PBOT Meter Maintenance**

PBOT has revisited their billing strategy for the parking meters in Washington Park. They have switched to an hourly basis instead of just a flat fee. And it is much more than PP&R thought. And it is a really big change, approximately, 30k to 100k a year. PP&R is working on how we can reduce that. PP&R is working on a meter maintenance strategy for Washington Park.

*Question (Jennifer):* What was the old billing?

*Answer (Danny):* It used to be internal agreements between the bureaus. It was about 35k a year, on average; now they are billing by actual time spent on Washington Park meters. It also didn't include other things like benefits and some other things on the back end. PBOT deals a lot with the contractor and we are trying to figure out what a good balance is. We will try and reduce the maintenance needs. They are not wrong, it is just a new system.

*Question (Jennifer):* Is it an annual agreement?

*Answer (Danny):* Not any more, now they are changing by the hour.

*Question (Jennifer):* Was the agreement beforehand not specific about billing?

*Answer (Danny):* The old agreement was for the average meter tech cost. Now it is taking into consideration a lot of other things.

*Question (Ivan):* Ball park? Doubled?

*Answer (Danny):* Yes, it doubled this year, easily.

### **EWP – Transit Pass program (Keith)**

EWP was awarded a 2023-2025 RTO grant. This grant is to support transportation options for underserved communities. Including the possibility to promote transit, bike, pedestrian, even some rideshare. We wrote a plan in which EWP will distribute 9000 transit passes to underserved audiences over the next couple of years. The goal is that the passes will be used to get guests to and from Washington Park. Once they are handed out, we cannot force people to use them how they are intended. But one of the metrics will be to record the ticket codes/numbers and then use these to see which stops they use for this ticket. Our goal is for 50-70% of the passes to be used for the park. The passes will be given out 3 ways:

- Online portal: For low income OR/WA residents to request small numbers of tickets (WIC/EBT requirement) likely one of the smaller ways that EWP will distribute tickets.
- Table events: Over the next few years EWP will work to table at community events that serve underserved audiences. We did one of these earlier this spring and distributed 100+ passes.
- Partners: EWP will work with park partners to distribute tickets to other organizations that you might work with, specifically mission based organizations to underserved audiences.

EWP has already presented this to the Washington Park DEI committee. EWP has details that we can send to partners for them to share with the organizations they are working with. We are trying to make this process as easy as possible for partners to request tickets. EWP would just need a sense of the organization and who they serve and then how many tickets they might need. This might help with our issues around parking especially if we subsidized transit, but that is not the main goal, might just be a nice side effect. The big thing is to get more underserved audiences to the park. That is the main goal.

*Question (Ivan):* 70% would that be people visiting/leaving the park? How will you get that data?

*Answer (Keith):* We hope to see a lot of people leave Washington Park since the first tap will be different for each person. To try and pinpoint that they left Washington Park, we can look at the last/second tap.

### **Washington Park Free Shuttle Data (Erin)**

EWP has some data comparisons to share about the Free Shuttle for this year and last year. We are up in ridership. The following numbers are based on people getting on the shuttles.

#### **Ridership:**

2022: 29,343 (Jan-Jun)

2023: 46,318 (Jan-Jun)

#### **Most popular hour(s):**

2022/2023: 12:00pm - 3:00pm (Although in 2023 it is noticeable that the 3pm hour is a bit more popular than the earlier afternoon)

#### **Most popular stop:**

Rose Garden/Portland Japanese Garden, followed by TriMet, than Hoyt (both 2022 and 2023, although TriMet is coming up closer in 2023)

*Question (Jennifer):* It is interesting that the Rose Garden is the most popular? It seems like it should maybe be TriMet for the MAX line?

*Answer (Erin):* That is a good point. The Rose Garden stop also includes all of the people who get back on there and head back to other parts of the park.

It would be good to analyze the data and beyond the number count try to figure out paths people take around the park.

#### **Highest Ridership Day**

2022: Labor Day weekend 9/4/2023 (1138)

2023: Memorial Day weekend 5/28/2023 (1152)

*Comment (Keith):* We are running some additional Free Shuttle hours for public events such as the Washington Park Free Concert series this August. We would be happy to work with partners for other such public events like this. Please contact Erin with public events that might need late shuttle service.

### **Peak Season data updates (Erin/Keith)**

EWP is on track to meet our number's goal for our engagements with visitors. The season seems to be going pretty well from our point of view.

### **Parking Toolkit (Danny)**

We are going to start working on getting everyone's comments from the last meeting added into the Toolkit, and we will be adding appendices. There are going to be a few more discussions and then more review periods. Just waiting to get the next draft from them. And then get it out to the committee members.

### **Bureau of Environmental Service (Keith)**

The BES and Water Bureau was going to do pipe work this late summer/early fall on Hwy 26. But they have moved it back again to next summer. So this will be something that we as a park do not have to worry about for this summer. It was worth considering, and we will keep it on our radar for next summer. They stated they were going to have to close some of the lanes for much of the end of the summer/fall. They would have been closing 1 to 2 lanes of Hwy 26 for this work, if it had run.

### **Questions and additional updates**

*Question (Jennifer):* Are there any updates for Zoolights dates for this winter? What are the Drive through dates?

*Answer (Ivan):* The Zoo will not be doing drive though this year. Going back to old 2019 ways, so no drive through in 2023. We are currently finalizing BrewLights. It will be Nov 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, and ZooLights will go through the first weekend of January.

Becky arrived 10:22

### **ODOT Permits (Keith)**

EWP has turned the permits in to ODOT to get the Hwy 26 VMS signs back out. This should be happening very soon. That is a minor piece of transportation details, but it is going to be very helpful to get them back in the field.

### **Next steps**

Next meeting EWP will present more on the Free Shuttle data. EWP has a new Data management Plan, a RFP was created and posted. EWP has a lot of data, including some attraction and visitor related, as well as traffic parking and ridership. All of this helps us see the

full visitor picture and with this new data management plan we hope to make more/easier data driven decisions. All of EWP's partners have good data as well. One of the steps in this process will be to talk to each of the partners for their data needs/wishes from EWP.

*Question (Danny):* Did you already find the contractor for the RFP?

*Answer (Keith):* We have a couple of proposals. We're analyzing now.

**Other items for future TACs**

*Danny:* Would like to hear more about the TAP, it is an important piece of the WPSOP. Marketing is also an important piece of the transportation access plan. And would love to see anything about transportation added to this list of future items. There will be aspects of almost any work that will be transportation related. Wayfinding signs can be transportation related.

*Keith:* Thank you for your time and let me know if you have any questions about what we talked about today.

Meeting concluded