

CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 22, 2015

The City Council Community Planning and Transportation Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 4:23 p.m. in the Conference Room on the 22nd day of October, 2015, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Councilmember Holman and Chairman Jungman

ABSENT: Councilmembers Allison, Miller, and Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Terry Floyd, Development Coordinator
Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreations
Ms. Jane Hudson, Principal Planner
Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works
Ms. Madeline Oujesky, Mayor's Intern
Ms. Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney
Ms. Syndi Runyon, Administrative Technician IV

OTHER GUESTS PRESENT: Ms. Joy Hampton, *The Norman Transcript*
Mr. Seerat N. Moutassam, 1898 East Lindsey #3
Ms. Raed Moutassam, 1898 East Lindsey #3
Mr. Mark Nanny, Greenbelt Commission Chair
Ms. Chris Nanny, 1815 Lakehurst Drive
Ms. Karleen Smith, Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART)
Mr. Drew Wood, 825 Owl Street

Item 1, being:

CLEVELAND AREA RAPID TRANSIT (CART) RIDERSHIP REPORT INCLUDING SAFERIDE AND EXTENDED SERVICE FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 2015.

Ms. Karleen Smith, Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART), highlighted the CART Ridership Report for September 2015, and said ridership numbers have increased pretty significantly. She said average daily ridership was 7,498, which is a 43% increase from the same month last year and a 27% increase for year to date total. She said CART continues to encourage CARTaccess riders to ride free on the fixed route service and 2,832 CARTaccess riders were transported on the fixed route in September for an average of 123 riders daily.

Ms. Smith said the implementation of the Park and Ride Lots at the Lloyd Noble Center, the Sooner Mall parking lot, and the Bethel Baptist Church parking lot continue to be very successful and CART continues to promote the that option.

Ms. Smith said CART is working with the University of Oklahoma (OU) Student Government Association on a transportation survey that will be distributed to all OU students, staff, and faculty in November. She said these surveys are about how people are traveling whether it is walking, bicycling, driving vehicles, using transit, etc. CART is also preparing an on-board transit survey for all CART routes to be distributed to all riders the last week of October to determine what other services the public would like CART to provide that is not currently being provided. In November, CART will be performing a route by route analysis to see how they can improve service and build ridership.

Item 1, continued:

Ms. Smith said a new bench was installed at the Main Street and Park Drive bus stop across from Sprouts making it easier for people trying to get to Sprouts and other commercial areas further to the west. She said the bench is a public/private partnership with the Downtown Shopping Center where Firestone, Cici's Pizza, etc., is located. She said this location is safer for riders and busses.

CART is working on other bus stop improvements such as 12th Avenue S.E. and Main Street. She said the current bus stop is really not in a safe location for passengers or vehicles. The bus stop will be moved from its current location at 12th Avenue S.E., just north of Main Street, to East Main Street at the Community Services building where an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access ramp is located. She said people coming from Walmart to catch the bus can access the bus stop by walking straight across the pedestrian crosswalk making it much safer for everyone.

Councilmember Holman asked for an update on a water fountain at the main bus hub located on Brooks Street and Ms. Smith said CART is waiting for the OU Engineering Department to get back with them, but she will try to get that moved up in the queue.

Items submitted for the record

1. Cleveland Area Rapid Transit Ridership Totals for the Month of September 2015
2. Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART) Monthly Report for September 2015

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Item 2, being:

FOLLOW-UP ON THE PROPOSAL FROM THE GREENBELT COMMISSION TO DEVELOP THE CITY OF NORMAN GREENBELT TRAIL SYSTEM.

On June 25, 2015, the Greenbelt Commission presented a proposal for developing the City of Norman Greenbelt Trail System and the Community Planning and Transportation Committee (CPTC) requested the Greenbelt Commission develop a map with criteria for priority trails as addenda to the Parks Master Plan (PMP) and Greenway Master Plan (GMP). Chairman Jungman had requested the Greenbelt Commission bring that information back to the Committee for review prior to being presented to Council.

Mr. Mark Nanny, Greenbelt Commission Chair, said on July 28, 2015, the Greenbelt Commission met with Public Works and Parks Staff for input and guidance on trail development and integration with City projects. On September 21, 2015, the Greenbelt Commission reviewed the revised proposal and voted unanimously to present the development of three trail systems to the CPTC. The Greenbelt Commission believes the three trails will be an essential foundation for a more extensive system through urban and rural Norman. The three trails, when completed, will form a loop around urban Norman and connect to the west shoreline of Lake Thunderbird and allow pedestrian travel from central, downtown Norman to Lake Thunderbird as well as travel southward from central Norman to the southeast quadrant of Norman south of Highway 9 where new development is occurring. Each trail will have a unique theme relating to Norman's history, flora and fauna, or watersheds and aquatic ecosystems with interactive educational/informational kiosks, plaques, and art work highlighting distinctive ecological and historical/cultural facilities.

Item 2, continued:

Mr. Nanny highlighted the three trails as follows:

The Little River Trail

The Little River Trail starts at Ruby Grant Park and extends eastward along the Little River all the way to the west coast of Lake Thunderbird. At Lake Thunderbird, it travels southward along the west shoreline until it connects with the Scissortail Trail at the Alameda Bridge. The theme of the Little River Trail emphasizes aquatic ecosystems, the role of rivers and creeks in central Oklahoma, the importance of the preservation and conservation of watersheds and stream beds, and the need to protect our water resources.

The Scissortail Trail

The Scissortail Trail travels along East Highway 9 from southeast Norman to the Dave Blue Creek where it then follows northeast along the Dave Blue Creek towards the west coast of Lake Thunderbird. At Lake Thunderbird, it will go northward along the west shore until it connects with the Little River Trail at the Alameda Bridge. The theme of the Scissortail Trail will focus on the flora and fauna of central Oklahoma highlighting seasonal wildflowers, wildlife and bird identification and their behaviors and habitats, and the unique ecological features of meadows, creek beds, and forested areas of central Oklahoma.

The South Legacy Trail

The South Legacy Trail connects with the current Legacy Trail at its southern terminus just southeast of downtown Norman and continues southward linking Brandt Park (OU Duck Pond), apartments, and high-density developments along Classen Boulevard with the south OU Campus and on into the far southeast area of Norman, south of Highway 9. This trail will also connect with the Scissortail Trail, thereby connecting south central and southeast Norman with trails to Lake Thunderbird. The South Legacy Trail will continue to highlight the history of Norman and central Oklahoma paying particular attention to the historical and cultural contributions of under-represented groups.

Councilmember Holman said it may be awhile before Cedar Lane connects to Jenkins Avenue, but there is a pretty high demand from residents for that connection so if that ever happens he would like to make sure that gets placed in the trail system. Other than that, he likes the work the Greenbelt Commission has done.

Chairman Jungman asked what the next step will be and Mr. Nanny said discussion at the last CPTC meeting was that the Greenbelt Commission would prioritize the trail system and it would be adopted by Council as addenda to the PMP and GMP. Chairman Jungman asked if the trails are a prioritization of what is already in the GMP or if they are additional modifications and Mr. Nanny said the it is a prioritization. He said the GMP has a lot of trails and the Greenbelt Commission realized that nothing would ever get done unless the trails were really defined in a plan. He said the Greenbelt Commission selected these three trails because they form a nice loop around Norman, links with the current Legacy Trail and transportation bond projects, and will have unique features with the Little River Trail.

Chairman Jungman asked how this proposal compares to the trails proposed in Norman Forward projects and Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, said Norman Forward projects are really more focused on Legacy Trail than extending trails to Lake Thunderbird. Chairman Jungman asked if Norman Forward proposals basically compliment what is being proposed by the Greenbelt Commission and Mr. Nanny said yes.

Item 2, continued:

Chairman Jungman asked Staff what action CPTC needs to take and Ms. Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney, said if CPTC wants to integrate the trail system into the GMP and PMP, it would come forward in the form of a resolution recommending the trail system be adopted as a priority policy of Norman. She said there may be federal or state funding available as well as greenbelt acquisition funding that could be used for the trail system.

Mr. Nanny said if the plan is approved, the Little River Trail will need property acquisition. He said Mr. Richard McKown, a local developer, has some very innovative, interesting, progressive ideas that may be feasible for the trail system themes.

Chairman Jungman asked Staff if the proposal should be reviewed by the entire Council in a Study Session and Ms. Walker said that would be a good idea and she would work on a resolution for Council's review as well.

Ms. Joy Hampton, The Norman Transcript, said it is her understanding that if this plan is adopted there is money from Norman Forward that could be applied to PMP and GMP projects. Mr. Foster said it would be up to Council whether or not to add a trails project. Ms. Walker said Norman Forward projects that have been promised will have to be completed first then some Norman Forward funding could possibly be used for similar projects in the PMP and GMP.

Items submitted for the record

1. Memorandum dated October 16, 2015, from Susan Connors, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development, to Chair and Committee Members, Community Planning and Transportation Committee
2. Proposal for Developing the City of Norman's Greenbelt Trail System prepared by the Greenbelt Commission for the Community Planning and Transportation Committee, dated October 22, 2015
3. Greenbelt Priority Trail System map
4. PowerPoint presentation entitled "Proposal for developing the City of Norman's Greenbelt Trail System," City Council Planning and Transportation Committee, City of Norman, dated October 22, 2015

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Item 3, being:

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Chairman Jungman said the next regularly scheduled meeting is Thanksgiving Day and the Committee will not be meeting then. Christmas Day also falls on a regularly scheduled meeting date so he would like to split the difference and hold the next meeting on Wednesday, December 10th at 4:00.

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The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.