

Transportation Team
November 29, 2011
4:00-5:30

Members Present: Doug Carnrick, Peter Garrett, Joel Greenwood, Chris Huck, Elery Keene, Jack Sutton, Jim Wood, Linda Woods

Before the meeting began, several members watched a webinar titled “Heath Policies and Concrete.” It was narrated by Richard Jackson, author of *Designing Healthy Communities*.

Key Points of webinar:

- People don’t like a lengthy commute, yet many do it.
- Biggest public works’ projects of the last century—highways; of this century, Chinese fast-speed railway
- Focused on transportation planning in San Francisco
- Health impact assessment—systematic process to judge impact of societal decisions (e.g., using cars leads to obesity)
- Positive economic impact of living closer to public transportation: location efficient site transportation costs 9% of income; exurbs (extreme suburbs) costs 25% of income

Regular Meeting Notes:

Jim’s monthly report on *Kennebec Explorer* ridership for October 2011: up 44% from October 2010 ☺

Peter: Scott Workman, student at USM, on Board of Kennebec Messalonskee Trails/ thinking of how to make neighborhoods bike & pedestrian friendly/ hoping to create bike boulevards (e.g., Summer St.) and create maps indicating these routes

Elery: With modern methods of communication, we don’t need people to come to their offices regularly. A conversation about the benefits of telecommuting developed. Peter wonders how to use this information. Linda suggested holding an educational event to focus on telecommuting as a way to reduce transportation costs.

Jack: wonders if SMMC’s reach extends to Augusta because of their acquisition of Statler property has led to questioning how to develop this.

Jim attended a program about what is working in Augusta. This exercise helped focus his thoughts on Waterville. Peter called this a “walking audit.”

Jack: perhaps an inaugural ride for SMMC people when the train goes to Brunswick would encourage people to pursue the idea of bringing passenger rail to WTVL

A discussion focused on the availability of public transit.

Jim: commuter bus in Augusta loops around downtown

Peter asked about using school buses for public transit

Jim: regulations require buses to not look like a school bus if they are being used for a different purpose/ obstacles include who's going to cover the liability & wear-&-tear on the bus/ seating is not designed for adults

Peter wondered about eliminating school buses and increasing public transit

Jim: can't locate public bus stops at schools

We had fun sharing stories about school buses in our childhoods.

Jack wondered if the bus service connects to the colleges.

Jim: doing a lot with UMA/ hoping to add a second bus to offer more rides to KVCC

Jim met with directors at the new hospital in Augusta.

Jim's current biggest challenge: people who oppose spending public money on public transit. Until Jim knows what will be in the re-authorization process, it's unclear how the system will develop.

The next meeting will be **Thursday, January 26 at 3:30 at KVCOG.**