

## **Transportation Team**

**March 19, 2015**

**4:00**

**People Present:** Greg Brown (Waterville City Engineer), Jamie Cotnoir (Healthy Northern Kennebec), Peter Garrett (SMMC Transportation Team), Joel Greenwood (KVCOG), Laura Howell (Inland Hospital), Elyer Keene (SMMC Transportation Team & Board of Directors), Sydney Mayhew (Waterville City Council), Shirley Ann Ratjczak (resident of Waterville), Rosemary Winslow (SMMC Transportation Team & Waterville City Council), Scott Workman (SMMC Transportation Team), Jim Wood (SMMC Transportation Team leader), Linda Woods (SMMC)

### **Review of Waterville City Council presentation:**

- Jim: presentation went well & was well received
- Sydney: We did a fantastic job. Cost will be the bottom-line. Ideas are good & progressive. City should be looking at our plan, so City can be an architect for other places.
- Rosemary loved seeing the 4<sup>th</sup> possibility. We had a segment of who all of us are. It's time.
- Laura: provided the young person's perspective
- Joel: right length; looking into repeating it in Fairfield; Complete Streets is in their comprehensive plan, so Josh should be interested.
- Greg: Josh (Fairfield Town Manager) has a letter from DOT to look into College Ave.
- Elyer: DOT this summer rebuilding Rt. 201 Vassalboro to Winslow to Waterville

### Action Items:

Rosemary: Talk to Mike Roy to give him a heads up

Rosemary: Write a letter to City Council requesting College Ave be given a road diet and made the right size from her & Sydney

Scott: Write a letter to City Council requesting College Ave be given a road diet and made the right size from SMMC & ACE

Linda: Add the logos and send these letters

Jim: Contact Josh about doing the presentation there

### **Bike/ped discussion:**

Scott summarized his bike/ped plan that he's doing for his thesis. Once he's done with school, he is hoping this group will work to develop a working document for the City. (Waterville residents: 11% walk to work & 2% bicycle)

- capital improvements to bring about better cycling in the area.
- sidewalk to upper Main St. commercial area
- How do we bring value to community?
- How do we take what we have and use it wisely?
- Important to have a plan in place in case DOT offers (like the flashing beacons)

Greg: Head of Falls-Temple St intersection is the only safe vehicular intersection from Head of Falls to downtown. It's being discussed

Action Items:

Scott: Once completed, send draft to Jim & Rosemary

Greg: discuss with John Lombardi the installation of a flashing beacon at this intersection

**Public transit discussion:**

Jim summarized the *Kennebec Explorer* availability. Commuter routes WTVL-Augusta are running at capacity.

Augusta has 4 buses; only 1 bus running in Waterville (that also goes to Augusta). Need a bus just running around Waterville-Fairfield.

Colby looking at a pilot plan to eliminate the jitney.

Looking to connect to *Somerset Explorer*; growth in Madison & Norridgewock

Peter presented facts from Bill Basford's report on cars in Portland. He read the part relating to redoing the zoning for downtown Waterville.

Sydney: Augusta looking more into public transit

Greg: developed land in Waterville can't be used commercially because it's made into parking lot; adding public transit would make this land more useful/valuable

Jim: public transit usage is going up across the country

Scott: brought up the H+T Affordability Index

Elerly: include info about where people live v where they work in planning

Joel: include any resident from the City to join in the planning; open for public participation; include them in a workshop day

Jim: busing to Winslow 2 days a week

**Complete Streets discussion:**

Scott distributed a draft of a plan based on the Lewiston-Auburn Complete Streets policy. It is a boiler plate for us to think about.

Peter suggested sharing this document with Winslow & Fairfield. Sydney places working together with regionalization becoming very important.

Action Items:

Rosemary: Go through this document to add references to Winslow & Fairfield

Rosemary: Talk to Mike R about it

Scott: Write a letter in support of Complete Streets from ACE & SMMC

Laura & Ellen: take above letter to John

Joel: Write to Ann Beverage to Complete Street policy onto a planning board meeting agenda for consideration & adoption

**Passenger Rail discussion:**

Sydney said Lewiston-Auburn & Augusta are looking into passenger rail. Since we have rail lines that are connected to them, it is important to work with Pam Am Railway, which has been challenging. He has talked to Augusta City Manager about their plan. Considering Statler Tissue plant as a train station. At

April 7 Council meeting, he is asking them to pass a resolution to show serious intent to have Downeast AmTrak come to Waterville. Guest speakers from Maine Rail Group, including Jack Sutton will be present. Sydney invited us to attend this meeting on April 7 at 7:00 in City Council Chambers.

Sydney has arranged for MDOT director of freight services Nathan Molton & executive director of Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority Pat Quinn to attend the April 21 City Council meeting. Important to put sites for the station. Maybe at Head of Falls? If this happens, what an economic stimulus!

Greg wondered in Jack has reached out to Bangor. If passenger rail goes there, it has to go through Waterville.

Rosemary mentioned the Maine-Montreal & Atlantic is doing an upgrade. Increased train speed to 60-65 mph in Vermont

Action Items:

Linda: Ask Jen Olsen letter in support of the resolution to bring passenger rail to Waterville

Sydney: Contact Bangor City Manager about extending passenger rail service to Bangor

The next meeting will be **Thursday, May 21 at 4:00 at KVCOG.**