

**REDMOND CITY COUNCIL  
STUDY SESSION**

February 24, 2009

**Mayor**

John Marchione

**Members of the Council**

Nancy McCormick, Council President

Kim Allen

David Carson

Richard Cole

Hank Margeson

Hank Myers

Pat Vache

**Staff**

Bill Campbell, Public Works Director

Rob Odle, Planning and Land Use Director

Ron Grant, Deputy Public Works Director

Lori Peckol, Planning Policy Manager

Joel Pfundt, Principal Planner

Don Cairns, Engineering Manager

Jayme Jonas, Associate Planner

Mike Paul, Engineering Manager

Erika Vandebande, TDM Program Manager

Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, City Clerk

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**MEETING SUMMARY**

Convened: 7:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 9:20 p.m.

Councilmember McCormick opened the meeting and overviewed the agenda.

**Downtown East/West Corridor Study (DEWCS)**

Mr. Joel Pfundt, Principal Planner, and Mr. Don Cairns, Engineering Manager, provided a presentation to the Mayor and Members of the Council regarding the DEWCS Master Plan and Implementation Strategy.

The presentation addressed:

- the purpose of the study session - to confirm the Master Plan and Implementation Strategy of the plan;
- the vision statement – “to reclaim our downtown as an economically healthy, people-friendly place, enhanced by the movement of pedestrians, bikes, cars, and a diversity of businesses;”
- implementing the vision
  - Bear Creek Parkway Extension
  - Downtown Transit Center
  - Downtown East West Corridor Study
  - Master Plan depiction
  - Cleveland Street cross-section
    - retail spine
    - narrow street

- wide sidewalks
  - parallel parking
  - street trees
  - reduced impact on adjacent properties
- Redmond Way cross-section
  - main east-west spine
  - one lane in each direction and center turn lane
  - parallel parking
  - wide sidewalks
  - parking on north side as properties redevelop
- Master Plan downtown design elements
  - urban design elements
  - enhanced streetscape
  - art overlay
  - low impact development
  - private development
  - high capacity transit
- how will the Master Plan be used?
  - Master Plan guides implementation of the transportation vision in support of land use vision for Downtown:
    - private development
    - city projects
    - other agency projects (e.g. Sound Transit, King County)
- Implementation Strategy for DEWCS
  - integrated with other City projects
  - accelerates with vision for Downtown
  - investment in great streets “stimulates” quality private development
- Downtown Project Phasing
  1. Bear Creek Parkway Extension
  2. Cleveland Street Sewer
  3. Downtown Stormwater Project
  4. 161<sup>st</sup> and 164<sup>th</sup> Extensions
  5. BNSF Trail
  6. Cleveland Street and Redmond Way
  - timelines associated with each phase of the project
  - an accelerated schedule of project completion
  - project phasing considerations
    - BNSF Railroad Right-of-Way
    - Business impacts
    - Transportation impacts
    - Impacts on construction costs
    - Funding availability
    - Don’t want to remove recently constructed infrastructure
- Construction Mitigation Principles
  - communicate in advance of and during construction
  - develop construction phasing that minimizes impacts while balancing project costs
  - City and contractor are available and visible for comments and questions

- ability to respond quickly when issues arise
- Next Steps
  - March 17, 2009 – Council Action
    - DEWCS Master Plan and Implementation Strategy
    - 09-14 TIP Amendment
  - WSDOT Coordination
    - approval of channelization plans
    - SR 908 Route Jurisdiction transfer
  - BNSF tight-of-way acquisition/permits
  - final design on Downtown projects, including DEWCS
  - fully fund DEWCS implementation strategy

Members of the Council and staff discussed:

- if the accelerated schedule has impacts on any of the other projects in addition to the BNSF right-of-way acquisition;
- whether or not a “work-around” exists to continue working on that part of the schedule;
- staff’s efforts to obtain permitting in advance of project construction;
- whether or not to complete the 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Extension prior to the 161<sup>st</sup> Extension;
- community outreach regarding the projects;
- limitation with not being able to work on projects in the evening hours due to the residential nature of the downtown;
- there being no historical impacts to the projects planned;
- the State Route designation that will remain on Redmond Way, and the State’s needed approval on the one-way to two-way street conversion; and
- the creation of eight new east-west connections through the downtown.

Councilmember Carson requested a more detailed depiction of the planned couplet gateway improvements.

Councilmember McCormick concluded by noting that the Master Plan and Implementation strategy would come before Council on March 17 for consideration.

### **Overlake Parking Study: Best Practices**

Jayne Jonas, Associate Planner, provided a presentation to the Mayor and Members of the Council regarding the Overlake Parking Study: Best Practices. Assisting in the presentation were the consultants working on the project: Pat Gibson and Carlos Hernandez of Fehr and Peers.

The presentation addressed:

- the goal of the study: to identify short and long-term action strategies to address current and future parking issues in the neighborhood
  - policy overview and data gathering
  - listen and engage
  - best practices
  - strategic modeling and implementation;
- best parking strategies to achieve Overlake’s vision;

- the timeline associated with adoption of the final plan:
  - draft management plan developed in March
    - recommended strategy (one scenario or combination)
    - implementation steps
    - timing for action
  - draft management plan reviewed by Planning Commission and City Council in April;
  - final plan adoption targeted for May;
- the scope of the plan
  - How can parking support the land use and transportation vision?
  - What parking strategies are available for use in Overlake?
  - How are other cities using the strategies of most interest and how do they apply to Overlake?
- the base scenario – business as usual;
- best practices;
- alternative parking scenarios
  - Scenario No. 1: private parking at reduced requirements
  - Scenario No. 2: public/private parking facilities
  - Scenario No. 3: public parking facilities with fee-in-lieu;
- why structured parking is important
  - surface parking would occupy 100+ acres, structured parking would occupy 14 acres;
- policies and requirements;
- land use assumptions;
- parking enforcement;
- costs of construction and maintenance; and
- pros and cons of each scenario.

Staff and the consultants requested direction from the Council regarding, (1) feedback on pros and cons of each strategy, and (2) input on strategies to pursue further as part of the draft plan.

Members of the Council and staff discussed:

- possibly using a combination of parking regulations/scenarios in the Overlake area;
- the need to see further staff input on how strategies would integrate together;
- transitioning between Scenario Nos. 2 and 3;
- methods of payment for parking spaces;
- creating a parking district in Overlake that would be assessed the charges of parking;
- feedback from the public workshop; and
- the status of Bellevue’s plans for parking in the Overlake area in the future.

Councilmember Cole opined that it is not the business of local government to provide public parking. He voiced support for Scenario No. 1 at this time.

Members of the Council expressed a need to fully review the information presented this evening. Councilmember McCormick asked that the presentation be forwarded to them for further study.

Councilmember Allen requested staff to ascertain Bellevue’s timeline for addressing parking in the area.

Mayor Marchione stated that there would be a follow-up staff report regarding the Overlake Parking Study: Best Practices on March 17, 2009.

### **Council Talk Time**

Members of the Council reviewed the preliminary March retreat agenda and discussed area focus on economic development.

Mayor Marchione noted that staff would be interested in learning what the Council sees as the role of the City regarding economic development.

Councilmember Vache relayed that an invitation had been extended by Puget Power for a day tour of the Wild Horse Wind Generation Facility in Ellensburg, and a tour of the hydroelectric plant in Carnation, in the spring.

Members of the Council concurred that they would be interested in attending the tour.

Councilmember McCormick advised that a presentation would be provided to the Members of the Council on April 7, 2009, at 7 p.m., by a group of Redmond middle-school children regarding climate change and its impacts on the lakes in Washington State and growth of toxic algae.

Members of the Council further discussed the Association of Washington Cities' (AWC) Conference in Olympia, the status of their lobbying efforts, and various bills of interest currently in the House and Senate.

Councilmember Carson reminded members of the Council regarding the Chamber of Commerce Gala to be held this Saturday night.

Councilmember Myers advised that on March 7, 2009, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., the RYPAC group will be sponsoring part of the "Green Redmond" program at Farrel McWhirter Park.