Meeting Minutes

Manitou Springs Mobility and Parking Board
Date: February 26, 2025
Time: 5:03 PM - 7:37 PM
Location: Hybrid - Memorial Hall (606 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs, CO 80829) and Zoom
Chair: Cory Sutela
Attendees: Cory Sutela (Chair), Joy Porter, Pamela Smith, Rolf Jacobson, Luke Prince, Karl Stang, Bill Koerner (joined late), Natalie Johnson (City Council Liaison), Roy Chaney (Staff), Juan Alvarez (Staff), Andy Nicholas (Public)

A. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Chair Cory Sutela.

B. Roll Call

- **Present:** Cory Sutela, Joy Porter, Pamela Smith, Rolf Jacobson, Luke Prince, Karl Stang
- **Absent Initially, Joined Late:** Bill Koerner
- **Staff Present:** Roy Chaney, Juan Alvarez
- **City Council Liaison:** Natalie Johnson
- **Public:** Andy Nicholas

C. Approval of Agenda

- Karl Stang suggested adding a City Council liaison update after public comment and before presentations.
- Motion to approve the amended agenda by Karl Stang, seconded by Cory Sutela.
- Passed unanimously with no objections.

D. Approval of Minutes

- **1. January 2025 MAP Board Minutes**
  - No comments or corrections were offered.
  - Motion to approve the minutes by Rolf Jacobson, seconded by Karl Stang.
  - Passed unanimously.

E. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- **Andy Nicholas (Resident, 121 Ruxton):**
  - Discussed the Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program on Ruxton, suggesting splitting the RPP zone into two (Lower and Upper Ruxton) due to visitor parking issues.
  - Noted the loss of 13 residential parking spaces due to a private lot converting to paid parking, increasing RPP demand.
  - Proposed prioritizing RPP passes for residents without off-street parking and offering guest passes for others.
  - Suggested reverting two part-time RPP spaces at 121 Ruxton to full-time RPP due to nearby paid parking availability.
  - Requested reinstatement of free EV charging for residents (especially those without off-street parking) for a 12-month trial, citing past free charging benefits and the new paid ChargePoint system.
  - Offered to follow up via email with additional details.

F. Presentations

2. MAP Board Presentations

a. MAP Board Goal Review

1. **Develop Scope for Mobility Master Plan**
    - Focus on bike, pedestrian, and sidewalk (micro-mobility) elements, excluding major transit focus.
    - $50,000 budgeted for a consultant.
    - Action: Luke to draft scope by mid-March, share with the board, and staff to refine for an RFP by the next meeting (March 2025).
2. **Collaboration for Bike/Walk to School Day**
    - Goal to partner with Chamber, PAC-MAN, and stakeholders.
    - Discussion on aligning with National Bike to School Day (May 16), Bike to Work Week (May 12-18), or Colorado Bike to Work Day (June 25).
    - Action: Cory Sutela to follow up with PAC-MAN and Evan Johnson for strategy input.
3. **Input for Mountain Metro**
    - Goal unmet last year; Juan Alvarez proposed meeting 30 days before Council decisions.
    - Suggestion to add a recurring agenda item for Metro recommendations.
    - No immediate action assigned.
4. **Update RPP Manual**
    - Covered under "Project Updates" below.

- **b. Other MAP Board Presentations**
    - No additional MAP Board presentations were noted.

3. Staff Presentations

- **a. Regular Updates**
  - **Pike Ride Update:**
  - **Mountain Metro Report:** Covered under MAP Goal Review; Juan Alvarez suggested meeting 30 days before Council decisions for input.
  - **SeeClickFix Report:** No report for the month
- **b. Infrastructure Updates**
  - **Ruxton Corridor Update:**
    - No major updates reported; progress is slow.
    - Previously presented to council; three options were discussed regarding where to start due to corridor challenges.
    - Current focus shifting between upper (grounding telephone poles/lines) and lower sections (walkability), but funding limits scope (e.g., undergrounding lines costs ~$3,000 per 100 feet).
    - Project may prioritize sewer, stormwater, and water infrastructure over aesthetic improvements due to budget constraints.
    - Grant requires action by year-end; target completion year is 2028. Details to be refined and brought back to council.
  - **Creek Walk Trail Progress:**
    - Awaiting CDOT clearance for historical aspects, causing delays.
    - Section 4 (Chamber to Chase Bank) in progress; Section 5 (Memorial Park/sidewalk) lacks funding, but efforts to secure assistance are underway.
    - Pool to Loaf and Jug section completed; signage and base improvements (e.g., pothole fixes for biking) planned for spring/early summer.

- **Dillon Project and Pedestrian Bridge**:
    - Conceptual phase ongoing; seeking URA funding assistance for a mobility bridge from Dillon to Fields.
    - Roy Chaney to meet URA representative soon to discuss conceptual design and funding potential.
- **General City Maintenance:**
    - Ongoing pothole filling and snow plowing noted due to heavy winter conditions.
- **Cory's Question on URA Director Interface:**
    - Suggested inviting new URA director to a meeting to align on mobility/parking goals and support bridge funding request.
- **Luke's Suggestion on Ruxton Wish List:**
    - Proposed developing a board "wish list" for Ruxton and other projects to provide council with pre-established recommendations.
    - Discussion noted budget constraints (e.g., $6M may only cover sewer replacement) and past community input; council not currently seeking board input on Ruxton.
    - Suggestion to attend council/community stakeholder meetings as individuals for influence; existing Ruxton draft document (from ~2 years ago) to be shared with group for review.

- **c. Requested Updates**
    - **Metropolitan District:** Natalie Johnson reported no update due to ongoing legal discussions between city and Metro lawyers; Rolf Jacobson unable to elaborate further. Rolf indicated that the restrooms in the Wichita Lot will be opening back up.

- **d. Project Updates**
  - **Black Canyon:**
    - Roy indicated that the Master Plan for the project is on the Agenda for the upcoming City Council Meeting
  - **Golf Cart Ordinance:**
    - Juan Alvarez and Roy Chaney presented a proposal for Golf Cart usage in Manitou Springs.
    - Concerns raised about details (e.g., permitting process, unintended consequences).
    - Cory Sutela suggested a pilot with a set duration; Joy Porter emphasized board consensus.
    - No vote taken due to it not being an action item; Roy Chaney to refine and bring back at a future meeting.
  - **RPP Manual:**
    - Goal to update the RPP manual collaboratively.
    - Process: Board members to review annotated manual individually or in pairs (to comply with Sunshine Laws), submit feedback to Juan Alvarez by the next meeting (March 2025).
    - Juan Alvarez to consolidate feedback for a future vote and recommendation to Council.
    - Cory Sutela noted Andy Nicholas' suggestions (e.g., simpler process, more frequent reviews) for consideration.

4. Other Presentations

- No other presentations were recorded.

G. Action Items

5. Support for City Wide Speed Limit - 15 or 20 MPH Maximum

- **Proposal:** Reduce default speed limit to 20 mph citywide (unless otherwise posted), aligning with Vision Zero safety goals.
- **Rationale:**
  - Safety data: 10% severe injury/death risk at 20 mph vs. 25% at 25 mph (AAA study).
  - Portland reported reduced crash severity with 20 mph limits.
  - Enhances livability, reduces noise, and supports pedestrian/cyclist safety.
- **Implementation:** New signage at city entries, community outreach, and police enforcement with education.
- **Cons:** Costs for signage/enforcement, potential driver resistance, minor travel delays.
- **Discussion:**
  - Karl Stang supported, citing the “20 is Plenty” campaign and signage simplification.
  - Rolf, Joy, Pamela, Bill, and Luke supported 20 mph over 15 mph as a standard.
  - Natalie suggested tracking travel time impacts for public education.
  - Luke proposed digital speed-check signs (noted Council’s past resistance to flashing lights).
- **Motion:** Karl Stang moved to support a 20 mph citywide speed limit unless otherwise posted, seconded by Cory Sutela.
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously

H. Board Correspondence

- **Luke:** Inquired about Rainbow Falls parking lot approval and future plans for Creek Walk Zone 6; Roy Chaney to confirm with El Paso County.
- **Rolf:** Asked about moving out of the pool (tied to parking office construction, targeting year-end) and Soda Springs Park (playground installation ongoing).

- **Luke:** Raised concern about Little London Winds parking at Soda Springs Park not being discussed by MAP despite Council consideration; emphasized need for better feedback loops.
- **Cory Sutela:** Noted upcoming lobbying day in Denver for safe streets, to share observations next meeting.

I. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM by Cory Sutela.

Action Items Assigned:

1. **Luke:** Draft Mobility Master Plan scope by mid-March 2025 for board review.
2. **Cory Sutela:** Follow up with PAC-MAN and Evan Johnson on Bike/Walk to School Day strategy.
3. **Board Members:** Submit RPP manual feedback to Juan Alvarez by March 2025 meeting.
4. **Roy Chaney/Cory Sutela:** Discuss agenda/voting procedures offline.
5. **Roy Chaney:** Send speed limit memo to board; confirm Rainbow Falls plans with El Paso County.