

Transportation Action Group Meeting Notes Tuesday July 15, 2008

Hello Action Group members:

In our meeting this week, we came up with short and long-term goals for the Curry Street promenade, and I'm sending the meeting notes to you to get your ideas and input.

SHORT TERM GOAL:

The point of the short-term goal is to get immediate "bang for the buck" with smaller, hands-on projects that can be completed this summer.

Accordingly, we are suggesting:

- Striped crosswalks at Curry & Robinson, Curry & Washington, and King & Division (to provide access to the BAC). Flags at these crosswalks. Those who did the Curry Street walkability survey noticed several deficiencies, among them striped crosswalks. Our thought is that striped crosswalks in key places would be an easy and quick way to increase the walkability and accessibility of Curry Street. The flag idea came from Tammy Westergard, who'd seen it in Salt Lake City. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, I've attached a brochure from the Salt Lake City transportation department that describes the flags.

- Install a Muscle Powered bike rack at 3rd and Curry Streets. This is to serve bicyclists who come to the events downtown. The Muscle Powered bike racks are fun and festive and will add to the downtown ambiance. The bike rack will be donated by Muscle Powered members Anne and Chas Macquarie.

LONG TERM GOAL:

We all noted the many deficiencies along Curry Street: discontinuous, narrow, and poorly maintained sidewalks, neglected planting strips, need for more (or more carefully placed) benches and other street furniture, etc.

- Anne suggested that an overall plan for the redesign of the street as a true pedestrian-friendly promenade was needed - not just a conceptual plan, but one done down to the level of design drawings and construction cost estimates. This is so that the City could then use the plan to seek funding for the improvements, phase the improvements, and carry them out. A project that has a real plan is a project more likely to be carried out. We are calling this the "Curry Street Promenade Enhancement Project". We envision the City hiring a consultant, with grant funds, to carry out the project, which will consist of the following three steps:

- Carry out a "walking audit" of Curry Street with all stakeholders invited.
- Come up with a conceptual design to transform Curry Street into a walkable, festive, downtown promenade.
- Develop construction drawings and cost estimates for the improvements

NEXT STEPS:

Let's discuss this and let each other know what we think. We can do this via email by hitting "reply to all". Since there were only a few at the meeting this week, we don't want to go further with these ideas until everyone in the action group has had a chance to think and discuss. Assuming, though, that we reach a consensus on this plan of action, the next steps would be draft a memo to Supervisor Robin Williamson requesting that the crosswalks be striped this summer. Cost, acquire and place flags. Install the bike rack. We have the rack already (sitting in my back yard) but need to find volunteers to install it. I've asked an Eagle Scout acquaintance whether he and/or his troop might like to install it but haven't heard back yet. Does anyone else have any expertise - or know someone who does? We would need to build a form, pour concrete and set bolts, then bolt the bike rack down once the concrete is set.

Draft a careful description of the Curry Street Promenade Enhancement Project to present to the Board of Supervisors (this will be done along with other Action Group's long-term recommendations) and CAMPO/RTC. I volunteer to draft this description, with the help of some colleagues who carry out projects like this nationwide. This description could then be used by the City to seek funding for the project.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?