

**DOWNTOWN CONSORTIUM**  
**"DOWNTOWN PROMENADE" ACTION GROUP FIELD TRIP**  
**5/27/08**  
**NOTES**

**Attending:**

Patrick Pittenger, *Carson City Transportation Manager*

Anne Macquarie

Jean Bondiott

Lynne E. Keller

Dan Allison

Jim Lawrence

Victor Honein

Susan Secoy

John Reiser – *members, Downtown Promenade and Business Assistance Programs action groups*

**Notes:**

We toured in a JAC bus made available for the occasion by Patrick Pittenger. Much of the field trip consisted of a presentation by Patrick, and questions, about Carson City's transportation system, with an emphasis on walking, public transportation, funding for projects, new street projects including the freeway, and Curry Street.

- Patrick said that the City does "projects of opportunity" in working to develop and upgrade the city's pedestrian transportation system. A project to repair and reconstruct the sidewalk in front of Comma Coffee and on the street south of Comma Coffee was given as an example. This project is being done this summer because street tree roots were disrupting a sewer line, and in fixing this the sidewalk also will be fixed.
- RTC funding is from gas tax. Funding for sidewalk repair and construction is now up to \$500,000/year. But Patrick says there is a backlog of \$20 million in project needs
- This year, the City received \$300,000 of CDBG funds for sidewalks.
- The City is working with Beneficial Designs company in a pilot project to evaluate sidewalks for accessibility. The CDBG funds will be spent on projects identified in this work. Anne mentioned a crosswalk at the Curry St/ Washington St intersection as a project that would improve the Curry St "Promenade" and Patrick said this crosswalk could be done as a part of the CDBG project
- Patrick pointed out that Redevelopment also can spend tax increment funds on bike and ped projects in the downtown redevelopment district.
- Streets fund has \$70,000/year for sidewalks
- In discussing Curry street specifically, Patrick said two upcoming phases of the reconstruction of Curry street – one from Koontz to Rhodes, one from Rhodes to ?? (didn't catch the street name) will have both sidewalks and bike lanes
- Another upcoming pedestrian improvement project will be to repair the "blue line" historic walk for \$90,000
- Existing sidewalks in Carson City are 4 ft wide, but the new standard is 5 feet

- Patrick showed us a section of Washington St between Minnesota and Phillips where the property owner is helping to find sidewalk repair. This is uncommon because a couple of sessions ago the Nevada legislature passed a law that made property owners not responsible for maintaining sidewalks, passing on all responsibility to local governments.
- There was a lot of discussion about the effect of the completion of the Bypass freeway on traffic downtown. Patrick said that essentially completion only to Fairview would not appreciably lower traffic on Carson St, but that completion of the entire project all the way to highway 50 west would.
- Stewart/Roop will be completed next year
- There was discussion of public transportation as we drove around in the bus. Patrick showed us the existing transfer point on Plaza Street in front of the federal building, and said that although the transfer point may not stay in that specific location, he is committed to keeping it downtown
- Patrick talked about JAC and its funding: there is no dedicated funding for public transportation in Carson City – 62% of funding is from federal dollars; the bus system routes are designed to serve the best area possible with the resources available; there are 12 buses in the fleet
- On the relationship between RTC and CAMPO: RTC actually carries out transportation improvement projects (controls 3 enterprise funds that fund these projects); CAMPO does planning. Parts of Douglas and Lyon Counties are included in the CAMPO area.
- Jean asked if there were any plans for paired one-way streets in the downtown. Patrick said an engineer is now working with Joe McCarthy on a traffic study downtown
- Someone asked about other modes on Curry street – a trolley maybe? Patrick said none are under serious consideration at this time, but that one supervisor is talking about it.
- Patrick said Robb Fellows is working on a pedestrian circulation map of the downtown area, and Anne requested a copy of this map.

## **NEXT STEPS**

### Short-term Goal

Our committee has been charged with coming up with both short and long-term goals.

We decided that our **short term goal would be to**

- first, analyze Curry Street to see how well it does/doesn't function as a "promenade" to tie together the downtown
- second; identify potential improvement to the "walkability" of Curry Street and
- third, to recommend to the City that the improvements be made

### Walkability survey

Anne suggested that interested committee members do a "walkability survey" of Curry Street. She will find a walkability survey form and make it available.

### Meeting

After that we will have another meeting to hammer out the details of our short term recommendation, also to identify our long-term recommendation.