

DATE: 9/12/08

TO: Carson City Redevelopment Commission

FROM: Downtown Consortium Transportation "Getting Around the Downtown Promenade" Action Group.
Members: Anne Macquarie, Chair, Ernie Adler, Dan Allison, James Baker, Jean Bondiatt, Scott Doerr, B Dudziak, Pennie Eiben, Lynne Keller, Jim Lawrence, Mary Madden, Sandra McFarren, Jolene Miley, Scott Miners, Mark Schloss, Sable Shaw, Robert Stansbury

RE: Recommendations

The group met three times. The group toured downtown Carson City on a JAC bus with a concurrent presentation by Patrick Pittenger, Carson City's Transportation Manager. Individual group members also carried out "Walkability Surveys" of Curry Street.

The group focused on Curry Street as the central pedestrian-friendly access to the downtown activity areas. The sense of the group is that Curry Street has the potential to be a true pedestrian promenade that would both serve as a route to downtown activity areas, and also function as a festive streetscape, but that there are many improvements that need to be made so the street can reach its potential. The tour and walkability surveys turned up many problems with the street: discontinuous, poorly maintained, narrow sidewalks, neglected planting strips, lack of pedestrian crosswalks and curb ramps, and so on.

The group arrived at both suggested short-term and long-term action items to improve the street and the surrounding area for pedestrian access.

SHORT TERM ACTIONS:

- **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 flags, as used in Salt Lake City and other places, increase pedestrian visibility and hence safety. We gave a list of potential crosswalk striping sites and flag placement sites to Supervisor Robin Williamson and Tammy Westergard, who passed it on to City staff for action. It is our understanding that crosswalks are being striped at King and Division and Curry and Robinson. Pedestrian warning flags will be installed at Spear and Carson.

- **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. This bike rack will be installed by Action Group members this month.

- **Bike valet at Saturday Farmer's Market**

Consortium members noted that many Farmers Market patrons ride their bikes, so Action Group members and Muscle Powered suggested a "bike valet" at the Farmer's Market. Muscle Powered members and Carson High School Environmental Club members staffed "demo" bike valets on two Saturdays. Muscle Powered has committed to providing bike valet parking at the Farmer's Market next summer if they can gather enough volunteers to do it.

LONG TERM GOALS

- **JAC Service downtown and along Promenade**

We suggest that JAC service be extended along Curry Street to serve the downtown activity areas.

- **Curry Street Enhancement Project**

We 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.

The group suggests 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. We are calling this the "Curry Street Promenade Enhancement Project". We envision that the project will consist of the following 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

We originally suggested that the City seek Transportation Enhancements funding to do this planning and design, but were informed that enhancements funding cannot be used for planning and design. We nonetheless are still convinced that a coherent, overall pedestrian-friendly redesign and phased reconstruction is vital to the success of Curry Street, and we recommend that the City seek other funding sources to carry out this project.

Several Transportation Action Group members have volunteered to continue to work with the City to seek funding for and carry out this Curry Street redesign and reconstruction project..