

Envision Victor Transportation Plan Dialogue Notes

April 7, 2009

As attendees entered, they were asked to place a dot on a map of Victor in a place where they'd had an experience related to transportation in the City. Attendees were invited to look at the transportation plan materials on the walls and comment.

Dahvi Wilson introduced Envision Victor (www.envisionvictor.com).

Dahvi led the group in sharing stories of the experiences they'd had with transportation. As stories were shared, the main themes were captured on a flip chart. These themes included:

- Bike path missing in certain places
- Speed limit/ enforcement
- More pathways needed
- Concerned with walkability, handicapped access
- Dangerous intersection described, perhaps reduce lanes or create a turn lane?
- Streets too wide for safe pedestrian crossing
- Speed is too high on "shared roadway" of Old Jackson Highway
- Non-perpendicular intersections are dangerous
- Concern over where commuters will go if main highway speeds get reduced (will alternate routes suffer?)
- Lack of bike racks
- Need to plow the sidewalks for walkability
- Traffic light needed at Center and Main

Carol Landsman and Robert Bernstein are introduced. They are the professional planners that the City of Victor has hired to write the transportation plan. They also wrote the Driggs transportation plan.

Carol and Rob identify three main themes coming from these stories: speed reduction, walkability, pathways, and she identified these possible solutions, as laid out in the draft transportation plan:

Speed Reduction

- Regulatory solutions – City Council could decide to lower the speed limit on Main Street.
- Enforcement – Sheriff's office must be diligent about enforcing this new limit
- Gateways to the City – we could create visual gateways at the entrances of the City to slow people down.
- Street design – the transportation suggests that the City complete a Main Street Plan, which will lay out a design for Main Street to slow down traffic
- Signals at Center and Main – the transportation suggests that the City complete a traffic study to determine whether a signal should be placed at this intersection, and if so, what kind.

- Questions for the planners:
 - Are you working with ITD?
 - Yes. We are identifying the kinds of results we want that we can achieve now. IF CITIZENS ARE INTERESTED IN REDUCING THE SPEED LIMIT HERE, THEY SHOULD CALL THEIR ITD REPRESENTATIVE (contact information is on the Envision Victor website)
 - What is the point of this plan?
 - This plan gets Victor projects in the queue for funding from the federal government, through the State. It is a necessary hoop to jump through.
 - Does the State hold a trump card that would prevent us from lowering our speed limits here?
 - There is some confusion about whether if the City takes control of the speed limit, they are then required to maintain the highway in that area. This does not appear to be in the statute, but there is concern about it. The City will need to work with ITD on this.
 - What can we do right now?
 - Right now, you can lower your speed limits, increase enforcement, and work on gateway treatments.
 - The Sheriff's office can use 80% of the money it collects from downtown speeding tickets, which is more than he gets for issuing tickets elsewhere in the county.
 - Can we just restripe the lanes ourselves?
 - The dialogue needs to happen through the formalized plan. This is the process that the State has set up.
 - Are you trying to integrate the ideas presented in the Smart Growth proposals written by the EPA?
 - This plan will not attempt to design Main Street. Rather, we are just suggesting that a design of Main Street be completed. This is a necessary step to get funding from the State to produce a Main Street plan.
 - The EPA plan was a very basic, general plan. You will need to take that plan to the next level, getting it to the engineering/design phases. You will need money for that, and this current plan is what you need to have to be eligible for that money.
 - Should we hire a government affairs specialist to help us get money for these things?
 - Up to the City. But this is the process.
 - Can we just put a signal up or stop signs at Center and Main?
 - It cost about \$180,000 dollars to put a signal up, and it is important that it be well designed and well planned. You need a plan to know what to do there.
 - You should think about three different layers of solutions – the cheap and quick ones (lowering speed limits, etc), the interim improvements (which still need to be funded and planned), and the

- large-scale conceptual plans (which need a lot of funding, and will take a while to implement)
- How is this different than every other process like this we've already been through? Why has nothing happened yet? And why do we have to wait so long to make something happen?
 - The plan we've produced is necessary to get money from the state. This money will support the other planning efforts you need to undertake in order to design your projects. You need engineering level plans in order to build something, and that takes money. This plan is what allows you to get money from the state.
- We cannot always be focused on Main Street. We also need to do work on other streets in the area.
 - This plan does look at other streets. We only suggest that a Main Street plan be developed. When that plan is developed, it will also have to take into account the affects of the changes it proposes on other streets.
 - This plan will do things like recommend development ordinances, etc.
 - This plan lays out different street designs for different streets (such as collectors and local streets). These are presented on the wall, and comments would be helpful.

Walkability

- What are the plans for the pathways?
 - We are working with Teton Valley Trails and Pathways to do this work. This is not really included in our plan beyond what they have done, and suggestions to link up gaps in existing pathways.
- How will we deal with parking?
 - This will be an integral element of the Main Street plan. We suggest a few things to think about. A good plan will maximize safety and access, while providing appropriate parking.
- Why aren't there green strips on the pictures of main street sidewalks?
 - In a commercial environment, trees in wells tend to be more inviting to pedestrians than green strips, though these are drawn into the other types of streets.
- What other things can we do to slow down traffic and make the streets more walkable?
 - Come up with a creative way to plow the snow so that it piles in the center of the street
 - Use moveable street trees – put them in the center of the street in the summer
- Is there any talk of central parking?
 - Proposing that downtown development has to provide 2 parking spaces/ thousand square feet, or in lieu fees develop side-street parking. Eventually this might include municipal parking.

- We like as much on-street parking as possible because it is a public service and it slows traffic.
- Alleys are being proposed to provide access for vehicles off of mainstreet, to help create a more walkable streetscape

Pathways

- What are your plans for pathways?
 - We are largely relying on TVTAP for this.
 - Our idea is to create complete streets that provide for walkers, bikers, etc. as well as cars

A few comments from Bill Knight, Victor City Planner - streets are now being designed as the focal points of neighborhoods. They need to be narrow to serve that function. The traditional neighborhood design concept uses houses and buildings to create a “cozy” atmosphere.

Next Steps:

- Dahvi will post the pieces of the plan on the website for further comment.
- Carol and Rob will work on final plan
- Money from the State will not be available until 2013, but this will get us in line.
- Interim steps can be taken – in the next 2-3 months, if we could find money, some new studies and plans can be done to make changes fairly quickly.
- Immediate steps –
 - Work on lowering speed limits
 - Keep enforcement strong
 - Design visual gateways for downtown
 - Adopt some suggested ordinances into the City code
 - Start working on a Capital Improvements Plan
 - Adopt the suggested street classification system

Dahvi requests suggestions or comments on process of meeting – visit www.envisionvictor.com to share comments and feedback.

Dahvi announces upcoming Envision Victor events:

- Wednesday, April 8th - storytelling workshop at Pierre’s Playhouse
- Monday, April 13th – Pioneer Park Planning Dialogue, Victor City Hall