

Master Plan Committee (MPC) Minutes – 5/24/2021

Location: Virtual on Microsoft Teams

Participants: Steve Cottingham, Tom Satterly, Mari Strombom, Tom Biedscheid, Leslie Taylor, Lynn Johnson, Blanche Hughes, Cody Frye, Nick Christensen, Alan Rudolph, Mary Pedersen, Tim Kemp, Fred Haberecht, Aaron Fodge, Dave Bradford, Susanne Cordery, Fred Haberecht, Jessica Kramer, Kristi Buffington, Erika Benti, Mike Rush, Shelly Carroll, Julia Innes

- 1) **West Vine Basin Improvement – Informational** (Fred Haberecht, Susanne Cordery)
 - a. The West Vine Basin Improvement project is a long-planned detention pond at the Forest Service Nursery on Foothills Campus. Has impact to space allocation in State Forest Service area. Believe the project will have a net benefit for the university and the community.
 - b. Fred Haberecht shares the boundaries of Foothills on Google Earth. In the middle of the Foothills Campus property is the State Forest Service. This is part of West Vine Drainage Basin.
 - i. Long-term planning of 25+ years for Foothills Campus and drainage/flood control for the community have included detention of water within the State Forest Service boundaries. Was included in CSU's 1996 master plan. Has been a project in the background for many years and may be about 10-15 more years when project is finally realized.
 - ii. The intent today is to add this project discussion to the record and receive comments on the improvement. There is no good record of planning efforts for this project to date.
 - iii. Susanne Cordery and Fred Haberecht have worked with the City of Fort Collins and their consultant; Larimer County; State Forest Service and Fisheries operation through Warner College to come up with a solution to make whole the operations of Fisheries and the Forest Service while providing detention for both the university and regional detention for properties downstream from Foothills Campus.
 - iv. Pleasant Valley Canal comes through this property.
 1. Water coming from the foothills is intercepted by Pleasant Valley, dumps into the detention area, and then exits the site.
 - c. The West Vine Basin Improvement is a solution that brings ecological value to the area.
 - i. Doesn't impact Forest Service's ongoing production of trees; is not prime property.
 - ii. The city likes to intercept as much stormwater upstream as they can. It has been a long-standing agreement between CSU and the City that CSU would provide detention. It has long-term community benefits.
 - iii. Susanne Cordery and Fred Haberecht have worked on three iterations of this plan, so the Foothills Campus research and State Forest Service nursery production is made whole and there is a benefit to both operations.
 - iv. CSU provides upstream detention. Has not had to pay stormwater fees to the city or county for Foothills Campus. This is within county jurisdiction.
 - d. Discussion/Questions
 - i. Lynn Johnson asks for clarification about the presentation image being shared, including where the detention will be to make sure she is understanding the image correctly. What currently exists there and what will CSU be doing differently?
 - ii. Fred Haberecht explains that there are headwaters of a drainage area that drains into Frank's Fish Farm downstream and has some discharge from the State Forest Service.

This is a trace of a natural stream that went from the foothills through our community until the construction of Horsetooth Dam, which cut off some of its natural flows, but is still carrying water today.

1. The trees and darker green visuals have water year-round and support some vegetation. Part of the plan is to supplement and enhance that area as a wetland.
 2. Upstream of that, where there is a bifurcated beginning, it would be somewhat wet during the normal season and would support some vegetation other than native grasses.
 3. The purpose of the detention improvement is to detain water upstream for the 100-year event.
 - a) There could be ten years where this zone does not have water because we do not have a big enough event. Like other detention areas in the community and on campus, these spaces would be without water until the big event occurs.
 - b) This zone is unique because there is a remnant trace of a stream that originated in the foothills; the lower ends do carry water year-round.
 - c) On the edge of this property (see outer defined line in image) is the Pleasant Valley Canal, which does carry water within season.
 4. This is CSU's portion of the project but throughout the community there are many more improvements for stormwater detention. Some of these projects are still addressing identified needs from the 1997 flood.
- iii. Lynn Johnson asks, is this image how it currently looks? What are we doing with the project? Where are the resources coming from to do this project?
1. According to Fred Haberecht, there is no request for funding from the university; the expectation is this will be paid for through city stormwater funds.
 - a) It will include funding to make whole the operations – for instance, there is a well on the property, a road that needs to traverse between the two sides of drainage and Pleasant Valley. There could be net infrastructure improvements to CSU besides stormwater detention.
 2. The existing aerial that David Hansen shared shows an introduction of wetlands with an attempt to bring more ecological value to an area with a narrow trace of water with a wetland edge.
- iv. Lynn Johnson asks, Do we lose any structures?
1. Fred Haberecht responds that CSU could potentially lose a boat barn represented in the image where it says, "raise or relocate research station."
 2. Fred and David Hansen met with Fisheries who is working on funding to build a new structure independent of this. The current boat barn is in the low area and in terrible shape. That project would likely come first from departmental and research funds before removal of the current structure.
- v. Susanne Cordery speaks to the timing of this topic.
1. The City is revisiting the West Vine Basin. They are doing a refresh on it and just held a public outreach session, which is why this is coming to the MPC now.

- vi. Susanne Cordery further responds to the question on cost and funding. She says we cannot promise right now that CSU wouldn't be asked for money. There may be some history that will need to be negotiated or navigated first.
 - 1. Fred Haberecht adds that through their recent conversations with the city and consultant, they made it clear that the expectation is that the city is responsible for bringing back the water.
 - 2. Susanne Cordery agrees that generally when the city does major stormwater improvements they fund the large projects.
- vii. Shelly Carroll asks how does the Pleasant Valley Canal interact with this wetland?
 - 1. Besides conveying water from its source at the Poudre, it also functions as an interceptor of water from the west. The irrigation ditch intercepts surface water and conveys it. In this case, there is an intentional spill from Pleasant Valley.
 - 2. Susanne Cordery adds that water in the detention pond comes from the Pleasant Valley lake/canal. The design involves controlling the spill, so the water spillage is a known amount in a hundred-year event.
 - 3. The pond is formed because of the large berm that will be constructed to help control it; the water pond is behind the berm, as shown on the drawing.
- e. ***The intention for bringing the West Vine Basin detention improvement project as an agenda item to the MPC is to record and reference the discussion and expectations about the project in the minutes. This record is an acknowledgement that the project will happen in the future and that the university has expectations for this project. It is the MPC's expectation in looking at this project that it is a wholly-funded project external from Colorado State University.***

2) Vision Zero Vision Zero – Informational (Erika Benti, Aaron Fodge, Fred Haberecht)

- a. Erika Benti, Fred Haberecht, and Aaron Fodge represent the President's Vision Zero Task Force.
- b. What is Vision Zero?
 - i. An international movement that started in Sweden in 1990s. It has spread around the world, and has been adopted in many American cities in last decade.
 - ii. Traditional Approach vs. Vision Zero
 - 1. Traditional approach to safety on roadways knows that fatalities and injuries happen all the time (40,000 people killed in crashes on roadways every year) and believes it's a risk we're taking statistically.
 - 2. Vision Zero believes that we need to do everything we can to prevent fatalities and serious injuries from happening.
 - iii. Common factors Committing to Vision Zero:
 - 1. Highest level of leadership states this is a priority.
 - 2. Data collection and analysis is used to prioritize improvements in safety on roadways. The data is transparent and publicly available.
 - 3. Component of community engagement and prioritizing equity.
 - 4. Measures in place to manage speed to safe levels.
 - 5. Setting timeline to state goal-date of reaching zero traffic deaths.
- c. Vision Zero at CSU
 - i. We believe CSU would be the first university to have adopted Vision Zero.
 - ii. The physical context of CSU is that the campus is 150 years old.

1. Constructed mainly in the 1960s when it was purposely built for single occupancy vehicle trips. At that time, one could drive and park close to the buildings and the Lory Student Center. There was little conflict of mode.
 2. Currently there are triple the number of students than there were in the 1960s.
 3. People come and leave by multiple modes but have the same expectation of coming to the heart of campus, which can create conflicts between the modes. Campus was not built for its current use.
 4. Sometimes the most vulnerable mode—pedestrians—are in harm’s way.
- d. 4 major ways to improve safety on campus
- i. Infrastructure
 1. Separation of different modes – bikes, pedestrians, vehicles
 - ii. Policies for a safer campus in standards for signage, striping, regulation of speed.
 - iii. Enforcement
 - iv. Education – a cultural shift of getting to an understanding that fatalities and severe injuries are unacceptable.
 1. Rams Take Care of Rams – personal actions have an implication of safety for others on campus
- e. Vision Zero is a way to bring in various aspects of campus safety assessment and annual evaluations such as the “walk of lights” under the scope of Vision Zero, so efforts are less siloed and more centralized, and consequentially of greater impact on campus.
- f. Vision Zero is about safety and access.
- i. Expectation is that through Vision Zero we account for all modes and those of all abilities through our actions, including affordable access, and safe access to those who are vulnerable within our community.
- g. Task force is an interdisciplinary team, includes representation from City of Ft. Collins.
- i. Website: <https://president.colostate.edu/presidents-vision-zero-task-force/>
 - ii. The work of the task force will lead to a proclamation/declaration to university adopting Vision Zero and advancing it forward.
 - iii. Will bring forward recommendations to administration in July 2021.
- h. Milestones and Vision Zero Task Force 5 subcommittees.
- i. *Complete Streets subcommittee*
 1. Design streets to ensure all users are supported.
 2. Making sure appropriate pedestrian infrastructure, crosswalks appropriately located, bike lanes and separated trails. Roads are right size to restrict speeds.
 3. This team looks at missing standards, guide development to ensure complete street standards are upheld when construct a new bldg. or repave roadway.
 - ii. *Annual Safety Assessment subcommittee*
 1. Provide umbrella for many types of assessments across campus such as the Walk of Lights, as well as pavement and sidewalk assessments, etc.
 2. Pull efforts together; identify known deficiencies and prioritize them; then share recommendations for where money would best be spent.
 3. Would like to have an app or mobile friendly webpage to submit known deficiencies. May include campaign to support assessment process once a year.
 - iii. *Crash Evaluation Reporting subcommittee*

1. When the Police Dept. writes police report after crash occurs, that would trigger the work of this subcommittee to do a deeper dive into the location to understand if there are infrastructure needs that can be improved, need for additional enforcement or more education at the location, or reduced speeds (policy).
 2. Subcommittee will do an on-site assessment and provide feedback for what might be prioritized.
- iv. *Conceptual Review Process subcommittee*
1. This group wants to make sure there are points of contact through the process of a project from the idea phase to new construction, where complete streets are recognized and incorporated into design.
 2. This initiative is coming from the President's Sustainability Commission and is being supported by Vision Zero.
- v. *Annual Traffic and Safety Prioritization Report subcommittee*
1. There will be a public webpage to present the collected data transparently.
 2. Includes a report to administration that pulls from the subcommittees and prioritizes where to invest in safety in the future.
- vi. Vision Zero Task Force is doing extensive stakeholder feedback involvement in throughout May and June.
- i. Questions and Feedback
- i. Alan Rudolph comments that he appreciates the presentation and embraces the concept and aspiration, yet he wonders if holding ourselves to zero is an attainable goal.
 - ii. Alan Rudolph also had a question regarding construction of buildings in the milestones/subcommittee part of presentation, which to him seemed to be deviation of the programmatic goal of street safety. He thought that part was a little more confusing.
 1. Aaron Fodge says that for new construction, the building is normally the main focus, but the streetscape and landscape are typically part of the building design too; this includes where people funnel from, come from. The effort aims to ensure that the sidewalk, trail, or transit stop associated with the streetscape of a building is factored in. It includes how you get into the building and that all users have the ability to access the bldg. with the intent of making that connection in the conceptual review. A lot more would go into that engagement for conceptual review.
 - iii. Fred Haberecht shares that they have done one of two virtual discussions with Foothills Campus as part of their outreach for Vision Zero. Heard consistently that it is important to get people out of the street; they don't have a place to walk or bike without sharing space with a vehicle – and the vehicles are moving too fast. That is a tangible change that can be made. The Foothills group is engaged and provided feedback on deficiencies of the campus through a lens of access and safety.
 - iv. Erika Benti adds that one other theme is a desire to track near-miss data. There isn't any collective way to report that, including reporting of minor crashes. Have heard this from different groups and could be incorporated into the safety/access assessment area.
 - v. Aaron Fodge says there was an emphasis on Overland Trail for the Foothills Campus. Between CSU campuses there are multiple access points and thousands of students living

on the West Elizabeth corridor. More and more are traveling to the Foothills Campus. Heard that we need to do a better job in city planning, advocating for a safer Overland Trail at the intersection, potential separated bike infrastructure, and continue to make transit more prevalent on campus.

1. Two upcoming planning efforts to weigh in on Overland include:
 - a) West Elizabeth corridor bus rapid transit program that is considering a roundabout for Overland and West Elizabeth
 - b) Active transportation plan (City's bike and pedestrian plan)
- vi. Aaron Fodge reports that the CSU Police Department gave feedback on preference to have a formal standard for bollards and protective barriers to protect the pedestrian core from runaway vehicles – formalize the standards and have a geographic distribution plan across campus to adopt into formal planning.
- vii. Erika Benti mentions that they met with the Classified Personnel Council – and received questions regarding understanding where employees live and if trends of how close to campus they live could affect types of transportation they use and impact Vision Zero from that perspective. Could potentially be incorporated into reporting in the future.
- viii. David Hansen writes in Teams chat, "Foothills campus stakeholders would also say that equity is another key component to having infrastructure that gains safe access on the campus."
- ix. Aaron Fodge notes that between the three main campuses in Fort Collins, we interface on the perimeter with the city, as well as with city streets that come through campus, such as Laporte, Lake, Research Dr, etc. Vision Zero requires us to be a strong community partner in how we tackle Vision Zero goals together.
- x. Leslie Taylor writes in Teams chat, "This sort of aspiration for safety would be appealing to students and their families. Would making our aspiration so public, put us at any reputational risk in the event of an accident/loss." She follows up by saying aloud: Vision Zero is aspirational but we don't have total control of student on bikes, on skateboards, and running with headphones on. She likes it and it makes her a little anxious also.
 - a) Aaron Fodge thinks there is something about being transparent with a goal like this – sensitivities – especially when a student or employee passes. The Vision Zero effort is trying to put the university or municipality in a position that commits us to researching an understanding about what makes the campus or city unsafe. It shows proactivity – trying to plan rather than react. Just reacting to a crash can also put the university in a position that challenges why we haven't explored making campus safer.
 - b) Aaron Fodge adds that the task force has worked with general council and OEO about how to advance these goals. We have their support to move this forward and to help craft the ultimate set of recommendations. The approach is to be proactive rather than reactive to help us prevent crashes.
 - c) Fred Haberecht restates that to our knowledge, CSU will be the first university to adopt Vision Zero, though it has been widely adopted in municipalities. We see it as a good fit and opportunity to lead.

- d) Erika Benti agrees that this would be appealing to students and families. The Vision Zero Task Force plans to get students involved in the initiative, so they can take ownership. As an example, envisioning a student serving on the Crash Evaluation Subcommittee. The intent is to involve students in the process throughout the time that Vision Zero is active. We'll need to always make sure students are involved.
- xi. Lynn Johnson asks about the timeline for the Vision Zero efforts. She mentions she noticed that the Vision Zero Task Force is looking at the "knuckle" intersection by the library, and knows that the intersection at Center and Lake is another important intersection to work on.
 - 1. Several infrastructure projects are funded.
 - a) The Library knuckle is in final design stage. Will be in place before students return for fall 2021 semester.
 - b) Many behaviors occurring at the location of Pitkin and Ellis Drive, the crossing where the student was killed in 2019, including: students coming from Lake Street through the Heritage Arboretum; major street that is part of low stress bike network; and pedestrians from CSU housing crossing midblock. Close to final design.
 - c) Will have recommendations in July 2021. Some aspects will need follow up, and will probably include a request for funding. For example, an app or crowd sourcing tool for reporting may have a funding ask or may need help with complete streets standards.
 - d) Some infrastructure projects will be complete by fall 2021. Many other smaller actions occurring around striping and changing of vegetation.
 - e) Expansion of trail to Monfort Quad as part of the Shepardson Project, co-funded by ATFAB, which will provide a contiguous second loop around the dismount zone.
 - f) Bike roundabout at Pitkin and Braiden to expand separated trail between Chemistry and Visual Arts has ATFAB funding, matched against a grant.
 - g) Projects are ongoing and decades in the implementation. Vision Zero is a mechanism for prioritization of data, so we can target the funding based on an assessment of campus.