

Minutes of Foundation for Ada-Canyon Trail Systems
COMPASS Conference Room
June 17, 2015

Attendance:

Jeanne Barker, Garden City
Cynthia Gibson, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance
William F. Gigray, F.A.C.T.S. President
Brooke Green, Ada County Highway District
Sharon Hubler, F.A.C.T.S. Treasurer
Tom Laws, COMPASS
Steve Noyes, Eagle Parks and Recreation
Gary Payne, Citizen
Judy Peavey-Derr
Tim Richard, Canyon Highway District
Gary Segers, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance
Don Stockton, Eagle
Charles Trainor, F.A.C.T.S. Secretary
Mark Wasdahl, Idaho Transportation Department District 3
John Wasson, Ada County Highway District

1. Call to order at 3:02 by President William Gigray. A round of introductions was made.
2. Action Items.
 - a. William Gigray asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. No changes were proposed. Upon a motion to approve Tim Richard and seconded by Gary Segers, the agenda was approved on a voice vote.
 - b. William Gigray noted the minutes of the April meeting had been disseminated and he ask if there were any changes. No changes were proposed, and Gary Payne moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Jeanne Barker. Motion approved on a voice vote.
 - c. Sharon Hubler said there were no changes in the bank account from last month and the current bank balance remained \$12,193.62. She noted the need to change some addresses so that mail would not go to obsolete addresses. Now mail is directed to the Idaho Parks and Recreation on Warm Springs Avenue. There had been a problem with some notices going to a home address of the previous secretary/treasurer. This was noted as a possible future discussion item. There are tax filings and secretary of state filings among other issues. This should be on the July agenda said President Gigray. Upon a motion by Don Stockton and seconded by Jerry Hastings, the financial report was approved on a voice vote.
3. Special Information Items.
 - a. Idaho Walk Bike Alliance. President Gigray introduced Cynthia Gibson of the Idaho Walk Bike Alliance (IWBA). Gary Segers gave a brief background of this organization. Cynthia then talked about the membership, its board and its status as a non-profit organization. She distributed handouts of their 2014 annual report. The IWBA promotes active transportation throughout the state and has opposed elimination of the Transportation Alternatives Program, a federal source of funding for walking and biking. This issue led to the formation of the IWBA in 2009. It is a statewide organization with a board of four members, one of whom is Gary Segers. She gave a brief slideshow, noting that

there is rising obesity in the country, with many children no longer walking to school. Transportation could be a form of exercise, but the built environment does not provide a good walking environment. She said one goal is to discourage driving for trips of less than two miles. Older neighborhoods with grid systems and nearby attractions are ideal. Things are changing, she noted, with many millennials no longer wanting their own cars. Issues remain however for seniors, children, persons with disabilities, and low-income groups. Many Canyon County low income households pay more for housing and transportation than their income. She spoke about the poor state of public transit in this area. On the plus side, she said that the Transportation Alternative Program is fully funded. But the competition for these funds is high, with only \$3.5 million available statewide.

Other issues included texting while driving, which creates a serious safety challenge, the recent state legislation regarding eminent domain for pathways, limited local control over speed limits on certain state roads, and safe routes to school with many parents afraid to let their children walk or bike. IWBA is encouraging audits of the walking and biking environment around schools.

Cynthia then described a national effort to designate national bike routes throughout the country. There are eight communities in Idaho along one potential route in north Idaho. IWBA is now planning a statewide summit on walking and biking for May 2016, with the intent to make this an annual event. President Gigray asked what the membership of the Board is like and whether it has members from around Idaho. He said it is critical to have statewide support for changing the eminent domain law. Cynthia said the members are from different parts of the state, including Idaho Falls and Pocatello. He asked her if IWBA had been working on a statewide pathway map, similar to what COMPASS is doing in Ada and Canyon Counties. Cynthia said IWBA was not but might be willing to do so. Charles asked if IWBA had rural representation, and Cynthia said they do have networks in small rural communities. She referenced a recent project in American Falls using TIGER funding. Cynthia closed by noting their group was seeking a part-time person to help with website and grant writing.

- b. Eminent Domain. President Gigray opened by saying he would entertain a motion to set up a group to consider how to approach amending this law. There was little chance of simply overturning the recent change. He asked Judy Peavey-Derr to chair such a group. Other candidates would be Gary Payne, Commissioner Tom Dale, Laurel Sayer of the Idaho Land Trust, and Commissioner Rick Yzaguire of Ada County. Judy hoped to report at the next meeting. Don Stockton moved and Jeanne Barker seconded to establish this group. Motion was approved on a voice vote with no nays. President Gigray said we need to be cautious since the conditions for eminent domain could be expanded if we weren't careful. Judy noted the Idaho Farm Bureau's role in the eminent domain bill.
- c. Idaho Transportation Department. President Gigray said he wanted to meet with ITD to set up a protocol for integrating our planning with ITD. Tom Laws noted that Toni Tisdale of COMPASS has more information on how to communicate with ITD during different phases of the planning and programming process. There are at least three major opportunities: One is the upcoming Transportation Improvement Program comment period from July 20-August 18, 2015. There are also some open house meetings on various projects. Finally there is an open house meeting on US20/26 coming up. A handout on this meeting was provided. Mark said this last would provide more detailed information such as cross-sections and bike/pedestrian facilities. President Gigray recognized Tom Laws for his participation in the Notus US 20/26 corridor meetings.

- d. Laguna Pointe Pathway Report. Don Stockton said there are more questions at this time than answers. There is a preliminary report said Gary Segers, but it is not ready to share. They have reviewed a number of letters and agreements, but there is nothing in the available records since October 2014. Gary said the mayor of Eagle will not talk about this issue due to pending litigation. There was a public records request, but the cost would be \$300. Requested was any information including filings, correspondence, permits, easements, etc. Part of this cost was for legal review. President Gigray said there could be a cost to review for redaction to protect certain private information under state law. He said there should be some formal adoption of a fee process. Don said there could be some information not provided that is really needed. President Gigray asked if there was any indication of what the city would do. John Wasson explained the ACHD procedures on public records request. Judy volunteered depending on direction from the F.A.C.T.S. Board to approach the mayor of Eagle on this via a less formal process. President Gigray asked for a motion to this effect. Charles moved to authorize Judy Peavey-Derr to contact the mayor on behalf of F.A.C.T.S. regarding Laguna Pointe. Gary Payne seconded, and the motion was approved on a voice vote with no nays.
- e. Exploratory Maintenance Committee. Don Stockton said there really was no new information at this time since Scott Koberg has not been available for a couple of weeks. He asked that this be kept on a future agenda. Don asked that this item be kept on the agenda for next month. Gary Payne said routine maintenance is now being done by Boise on the sewer plant portion and Ada County up to that point. President Gigray emphasized the need for a long-term joint powers agreement. Don noted the long-term major maintenance issue.
- f. COMPASS Update Progress Report on Mapping. Tom Laws said there are three things to note. Kuna still needs to comment on their mapping portion, and he is waiting to hear back from Scott Koberg of Ada County. There is some talk of a pathway from Hidden Springs to Avimor that would be good to have on the map. He hopes to hear prior to the next meeting. He also needs to get with Brooke Green to coordinate on definitions and other issues. President Gigray asked about the status of Canyon County. Tome said the Middleton portion is very good but there are issues in-between cities, for example east to Star, where the connections are less clear. President Gigray asked for a list of specific issues since he deals with many of the agencies in Canyon County. Of note, the wine tour route, Lake Lowell, Wilder to Greenleaf linkage. He emphasized the need to have the regional map adopted by the local governments so it would carry more weight with ITD. Charles asked if the process was also collecting information on the status of the pathways, e.g., proposed or existing. Tom cautioned the status issue is subject to constant change. Judy asked Commissioner Dale if there was a countywide pathway plan that incorporated plans from each city. Tom Laws noted that COMPASS has a grant for members to help implement the regional plan. This grant source helped the City of Eagle on some of its pathway planning along Eagle Road across the Boise River. He closed by showing a pedestrian counter that would be installed in several locations. The counter equipment is enclosed in a wood post.
- g. Website. Gary Payne showed a presentation—what he called a first draft of a web site design. He had asked the designer of the current web site for an estimated cost to implement the new design but had not heard back. He showed an example of the Idaho Walk Bike Alliance website that works on mobile phones. Gary said the current F.A.C.T.S. site is not well suited to smart phones, which are the way most people now access the web. He then showed some preliminary concepts of how the site could be organized. He said it would be good to integrate the new letterhead into the web site. The first page would be the mission for F.A.C.T.S., followed by the regional map now in process. The

map format was discussed in terms of making it interactive via Google Maps or other apps. Tom said this should be easy to do. Brooke said this was something ACHD was aiming to do. There would also be a map of current pathways open to users. Then would be a list of partner agencies in F.A.C.T.S., a page showing links to agendas and minutes of the Board, a news item page for current and upcoming events, a calendar of events, a contacts page, a donations page, and integration with social media. He emphasized this was a very preliminary concept and ideas are welcome. He noted the difference between a static web site and a more dynamic site that allows more interaction.

This will be costly he said. We need more resources. Judy asked if the new IWBA person might be a resource, but Gary said it was only a half-time position and there would not be much extra time. President Gigray asked the website group for a cost estimate for a contract position, possible via Boise State University. There was a comment about our need to determine our audience—the general public or the groups and public agencies now participating in F.A.C.T.S. President Gigray noted the need to keep this item on future agendas. Gary said there is also the need to consider a data repository for the organization.

Judy said the Garden City bridge ceremony triggered a thought about a fund-raiser for F.A.C.T.S. Perhaps an evening fund-raiser along the river combined perhaps with a bike ride. President Gigray asked this be put on a future agenda. Judy said she would work on some ideas to get some more funding.

4. Reports

- a. Ada County Highway District (ACHD). Brooke Green said she was new—about two and a half months on the job. John Wasson said there were a couple of items. The first is a new pathway in the vicinity of Crane Creek Golf Course over to Highland View. There is some concern from neighbors. There is another issue off Federal Way involving a pedestrian path, with a subdivision objecting to intrusion from an apartment complex. The subdivision wants a gate to block access.
- b. Ada County Parks & Waterways. No report
- c. Boise Parks and Recreation - No report
- d. Boise Public Works - No report
- e. Caldwell Trails and Pathways Committee. – William Gigray noted their Greenbelt and pathway appropriation requests are going to Council. There are also reports on F.A.C.T.S. activities from Brian Billingsley going to Council. There was some discussion about the impact of the eminent domain restrictions under SB 1044. Caldwell is working with Canyon Highway District No. 4 to ensure it is aware of the pathway planning.
- f. Canyon County Development Services Dept. - No report but Commissioner Dale said that the SB 1044 issue had been discussed at a county commissioner convention in Coeur D’Alene. He noted the recent issue regarding a condemnation of an old gas station in Eagle created some reluctance to take on the changes.
- g. Canyon County Parks Recreation & Waterways – No report.
- h. Canyon Highway District #4 – No report.

- i. City of Eagle Parks and Recreation – Steve Noyes said the project to pave the path on the north side of the North Channel from Eagle to Garden City should happen within the next two weeks. The city is working with volunteers and Brooke Green of ACHD on wayfinding signs. There was a discussion about a bank reconstruction issue related to a concrete path on the North Bank of the North Channel. It could prevent going under an existing bridge that provides access to the gravel pits. There was a brief discussion about Laguna Pointe, recognizing some improvements in moving the path away from the barb wire.
- j. Eagle Parks and Pathways Development Commission – No report.
- k. Garden City West Bridge – Jeanne Barker said that Mayor Evans has recognized the contribution of F.A.C.T.S. and Judy Peavey Derr to getting this project done. She said the ribbon cutting was a great event that brought some positive recognition to the area. She complimented several people, including Jerry Hastings of Ada County. She emphasized it was a joint effort, involving public and private parties.
- l. Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation -- No report.
- m. Idaho Oregon Snake River Water Trail – No report.
- n. Meridian Parks & Pathways – No report.
- o. Nampa Parks Department – No report.
- p. Kuna – No report.
- q. Other – No report.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Next meeting was set for July 15, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Trainor, Secretary

C:\Users\Charles\Documents\FACTS\Minutes June 17 2015.doc