



# PORTLAND OFF-ROAD CYCLING MASTER PLAN

Project Advisory Committee Meeting #1

## Meeting Summary

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**MEETING DATE:** THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016

**LOCATION:** BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY, 1900 SW 4TH AVENUE, SUITE 7100, PORTLAND

**TIME:** 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

### In Attendance

#### **CAC Members Present**

Punneh Abdolhossieni  
Kelsey Cardwell  
Erin Chipps  
Matthew Erdman\*  
Jocelyn Gaudi  
Adnan Kadir  
Carrie Leonard  
Torrey Lindbo  
Kelly McBride

Renee Meyers  
Jim Owens  
Bob Salinger  
Evan Smith  
Michael Whitesel

#### **CAC Members Absent**

Mike Houck  
Nastassja Pace

#### **Agency Representatives**

Maya Agarwal, *Portland Parks & Recreation*  
Shannah Anderson, *Bureau of Environmental Services*  
Jennifer Devlin, *Bureau of Environmental Services*  
Abra McNair, *Portland Bureau of Transportation*  
Robert Spurlock, *Metro*  
Matthew Weintraub, *International Mountain Bicycling Association*

#### **Staff and Consultants**

Josh Alpert, *Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office*  
Michelle Kunec-North, *Project Manager, BPS*  
Lori Grant, *Associate Planner, BPS*  
Kristen Lohse, *Consultant Project Manager, Toole Design*  
Nat Lopez\*, *Hilride*  
Adrienne DeDona, *Facilitator, JLA Public Involvement*  
Jamie Harvie, *JLA Public Involvement*

#### **Audience / Members of the Public**

Les Blaize  
B. McGillicuddy  
Jonathan Maus  
Andrew Jansky

Carol Chesarek  
Catherine Thompson  
Joe Carpenter

\*Attended by phone

## Overview

- The committee reviewed the project background, purpose, expectations and timeline; the proposed public involvement and feedback process; and the committee process, protocols and decision-making.
- The committee and agency representatives participated in an exercise to brainstorm project vision and goals.
- The committee agreed to meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. The next committee meeting will be February 25. The committee will review: an illustrated vision based on the visioning exercise, input from community groups, and property inventory and best practices.

## Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review

Adrienne DeDona, JLA Public Involvement, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself as the committee's facilitator.

Josh Alpert, Chief of Staff from the Mayor's Office, provided a welcome on behalf of the Mayor. He said planning for off-road cycling was something relatively new for the City and off-road cycling had previously been under-recognized by the City as a recreational need. He said many people are passionate about off-road cycling and that the current planning process would incorporate that passion and feedback from various parties. He assured the Committee the project had the support and enthusiasm of the Mayor. He defined a critical question for the process: How can the interests of people who want off-road cycling be balanced with other goals around the city? He invited Committee members and the public to contact the project team or the Mayor's office to provide additional feedback about the project and the process and said that they would tailor the project and process to be responsive to their feedback.

Project staff and consultants introduced themselves. Committee members introduced themselves and answered the question: What inspired you to participate in this process?

Adrienne reviewed the agenda. She noted that there would be time for public comment toward the end of the meeting and that comment cards were available for members of the public to provide written comment.

## Project Background and Purpose

Michelle Kunec-North, BPS Project Manager, presented a PowerPoint (see page 9 of this summary) about the project's background and purpose. Michelle explained that riding a bike on an unpaved surface is the definition of off-road cycling for the purposes of this process. She said that off-road cycling trails can differ greatly in type and technical challenge and provided examples within the Portland area. She explained that off-road facilities can offer a place to learn and practice skills, as well as a place to hold competitive events. She said an important component of the Off-Road Cycling Master Plan is to better understand the need within the Portland area, including who rides or wants to ride.

Michelle said that planning to-date has been site-specific. A city-wide planning process will result in a broader understanding of needs, experiences, impacts and best practices; allow for cross-bureau collaboration; and provide transparency for and engagement with the broader public. She noted the Plan must balance the needs of recreational experiences, the park system and broader City goals.

## Project Overview & Community Engagement Plan

Kristen Lohse, Toole Design, provided an overview of the project process, as depicted in the [Community Outreach and Engagement Plan At-a-Glance document](#) (see link page 9). She noted that the project is divided into four phases, with key questions and inputs at every stage. She said the first phase, Discovery, will develop a vision, goals and objectives; provide background information to support plan development; and complete an impact assessment. The second phase, Analysis, will develop a set of criteria to identify and assess potential sites. Kristen said this phase will consider input

from many audiences. She said draft criteria will continue to be refined with agency partners and the Committee until a strong evaluation framework is formed that has broad buy-in. The third phase, System Planning, will include a site feasibility analysis based on the evaluation framework. The output will be a draft system map. The final phase, Draft Plan, will consider implementation issues, develop design and management recommendations, and incorporate feedback from public review of the Draft Plan. The Proposed Plan will then be forwarded to the City Council for adoption.

Adrienne provided an overview of the community engagement plan for the project. She noted that the formal community outreach plan was being finalized and would be available on the project website once complete. She said that the outreach process is geared to reach the interests and perspectives not represented on the Committee. This feedback will be shared with the Committee for consideration when making recommendations to staff. She noted that Committee members are expected to promote feedback opportunities and share information about the process with their constituents. Adrienne also mentioned that the project website ([www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/offroadcycling](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/offroadcycling)) will serve as an information hub.

#### Committee Discussion:

- A committee member asked how the Off-Road Cycling planning process will consider and avoid conflict with former site-specific planning processes that dealt with a variety of potential uses and needs. Michelle replied that the Off-Road Cycling planning process would provide a city-wide understanding of where off-road biking is appropriate and how a system can be created. She said the process would include some action planning to identify opportunities, but this plan alone would not get things built. Rather, it would guide future implementation through master planning and other bureau processes.
- One agency representative asked to what extent other Bureaus will be involved in the process. Michelle replied that project staff are working closely with the agency representatives to maintain coordination. She said that the process includes an internal planning and engagement process to address individual Bureau goals and site specific constraints.

### Committee Process, Protocols and Decision-making

Adrienne reviewed the [draft committee protocols](#) (see link pages 1-8). She explained the decision-making process and noted that a final Committee Report will compile all Committee discussions and decisions and outcomes into one document. The Report will be transmitted to City Council along with the Proposed Plan. Michelle added that it is very important to hear the range of perspectives amongst the Committee when considering proposals. These perspectives will be compiled and submitted to City Council as part of the Committee Report. Adrienne added when making recommendations, the group will strive for consensus, meaning the group as a whole can agree to support the decision.

Adrienne also reviewed the Committee procedures for communication during meetings, between meetings, and for public comment. She explained that Committee members must declare a conflict of interest, which is defined as any personal or family members gain or loss as a result of the Plan. She said that the City Attorney's Office will provide a more formal response regarding conflict of interest at a future meeting.

#### Committee Discussion:

- One committee member raised the concern that there are several committee members with a vested interest in biking, which could skew recommendations. Considering this, how will the committee recommendation be presented to the City Council? *[Michelle replied that perhaps a minority/majority is not the best way to present recommendations from this committee; the project team may look to the committee on how they want to*

*present their recommendations. This can be revisited. The intention is to develop a plan with broad support amongst the community and within Bureaus, but also to present divergent viewpoints.]*

- One of the agency representatives asked if the conflict of interest process would address the concerns of vested interest? *[Michelle replied that a legal definition of conflict of interest would be presented during that discussion, but it may not necessarily fully address concerns. Continued follow up by the project team is the best way to address the issue of diverging interests.]*
- One committee member indicated the value of having multiple viewpoints represented on the Committee, but also expressed the importance of having people who understand the needs of mountain bikers involved.
- One committee member pointed out that each member should approach decisions from the perspective that everyone has multi-dimensional views. For example, you can't mountain bike off-road in a forest without a forest.

## Project Visioning

Adrienne explained that the committee would undertake a visioning exercise to work on a collective vision to communicate shared aspirations for this process. She said that the vision will evolve over time as the process continues and more outreach is done with the community and other Bureaus. Committee members were divided into three small groups. Agency representatives formed a fourth group. Groups were given large sheets of paper and asked to illustrate answers to the following questions:

- What do you see as the important outcomes of the project/planning process? (Near-term)
- What are the most important considerations for the process? What are the ingredients of a successful process? How can we ensure the process is equitable, collaborative, transparent, and constructive? (Process)
- What do you hope to see as a result of the Plan – after implementation, maybe 20 years from now? (Long-term)
- Write a motto or tagline that summarizes your work or describes how each of your illustrations come together.

### Group 1:

- Punneh Abdolhossieni
- Erin Chipps
- Jocelyn Gaudi
- Bob Salinger
- Michael Whitesel

### Group 2:

- Kelly McBride
- Renee Meyers
- Jim Owens
- Evan Smith
- Matthew Erdman (via phone)

### Group 3:

- Kelsey Cardwell
- Adnan Kadir
- Carrie Leonard
- Torrey Lindbo

### Agency Representatives:

- Maya Agarwal
- Shannah Anderson
- Jennifer Devlin
- Abra McNair
- Robert Spurlock, Metro
- Matthew Weintraub

## Exercise report-out

The following are the results from each of the group discussions, including selected illustrations by each group.

### Group 1

#### Project Near-term

- Develop measurable goals
- Provide clarity between committee and the public
- Clarify the scope of the project
- Come to realistic outcomes

#### Process

- Wide involvement: All communities that want to be involved can be involved
- Result in closure and action plan
- Approach that is balanced and uses existing science

#### Project Long-term

- Find opportunities within dense city infrastructure to provide natural green spaces and make trail connections
- Happy and healthy people and environment
- Involve user groups in construction and maintenance of trail system
- Minimize user conflict
- Create world class system; show leadership around best practices
- Maintain areas of healthy forest to maintain delicate species

#### Motto

- Collaborative, inclusive, reason-based process that leads to clear recommendations towards a sustainable, healthy world-class off-road cycling system.



## Group 2

### Project Near-term

- City Council approval
- Broad agency and community support; they are champions of the plan
- Focused on now and tomorrow

### Process:

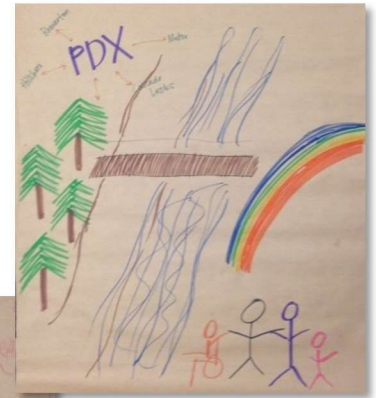
- Unite different perspectives rather than seeing trade-offs
- Be realistic but also aspirational
- Inclusive process; reflect different interests and involve a wide range of people
- Coordinated process with other planning jurisdictions

### Project Long-term

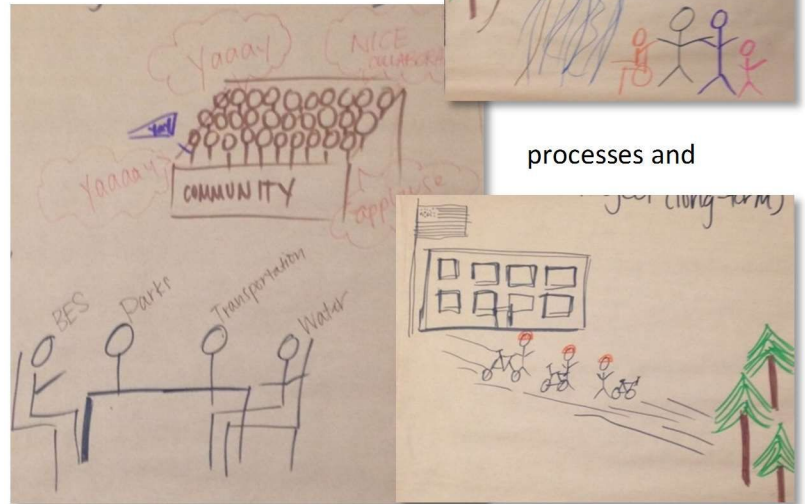
- Measure of success: A middle school mountain bike club in East Portland is possible because of a connected system of trails; riding and trail stewardship contribute to safe, healthy lifestyle for students.

### Motto

- More kids in the woods



processes and





## Group 3

### Project Near-term

- Get lines on a map
- Close-in riding opportunities for working professionals and families
- Opportunities for kids and those without a car to ride on their own
- Broad community buy-in
- Balance of interests

- BALANCE INTERESTS

- Community buy-in

### Process

- Set aside assumptions of motivations of individuals; respect diversity of interests
- Get a lot of input and foster communication
- Solve problems before they occur
- Clarify who a mountain biker is

We're PDX, we should aim to be the best, be innovative, come up do solutions to problems we didn't know we had.

### Project Long-term

- Foster shared understanding between users; eliminate conflict on the trail
- Want Portland to be the leader in off-road cycling; want to be innovative

### Motto

- Be the city that sets the standard for community use of green space.

## Agency Representatives

### Project Near-term

- Portland recognized as leader in off-road cycling
- Community has a greater understanding and involvement in park system
- Equitable process
- Everyone is proud of the process and the plan

"MIND MELD" AMONG PUBLIC AGENCIES



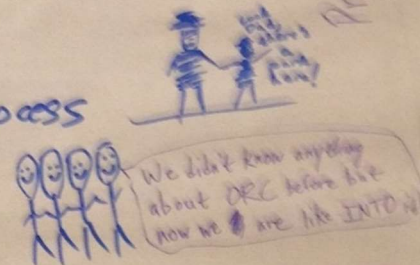
### Process

- Break down silos between public agencies; work together
- Keep abreast of city property sales

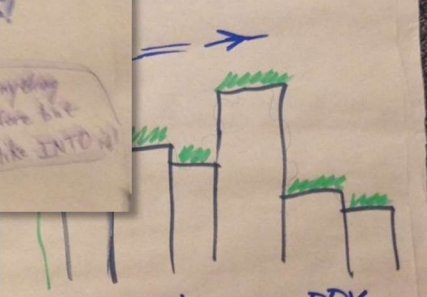
### Project Long-term

- Everyone uses and shares trails responsibly and respectfully
- Portland doesn't look like a city from above; full of green spaces
- People ages 8-80 feel safe and comfortable on their streets and have access to green spaces

We didn't know anything about ORC before the now we are like INTO IT



Flying over PDX all you can see is GREEN! Lots of trees!



### Motto

- There is no "I" in "TEAM"; Bureaus work together.

## Committee Discussion/Reflection on Visioning Exercise Outcomes

- One Committee member asked whether the Water Bureau would take part in the process. *[Michelle replied the project team is coordinating with the Water Bureau but they may also have further involvement.]*
- One Committee member said that identifying a middle school mountain biking club as a measurable goal seems like a good indicator for success. This seems to meet all the goals of the project.
- One Committee member recognized that the desire to have the Plan as a national/international model, world-class leader was a common theme amongst the Committee.
- One Committee member recognized that collaboration and shared trail use was also a common theme; indicating that although everyone comes with different perspective, there are shared goals.

## Public Comment

Les Blaize said he lives in Forest Park and was attending on behalf of Forest Park neighborhood. He said the health of Forest Park should be the first priority over other uses. He said he heard about the Off-Road Cycling process during the Riverview hearing. He expressed concern about the committee being stacked with members tied to mountain biking. He said a number of members are part of the NW Trails Alliance, which desires more trails than are healthy for Forest Park. He said he hopes that the committee can look at issues objectively and not only balance user needs but recognize that the health of Forest Park should come before all forms of recreation. He said a management plan for Forest Park is already in place and he worries the committee would recommend increasing the trail system in Forest Park. He said the City of Portland does not know the current health of Forest Park and its wildlife, so cannot know how much recreation should be allowed. He asked the committee to consider these issues carefully.

## Next Steps

Adrienne said that committee members' input today would be used to compile an illustrated vision that would be shared at the next meeting. Also, the project team would share input from community groups, a property inventory and best practices. Meetings would take place on the fourth Thursdays of the month; the next meeting would be held on February 25 from 4-6 p.m.

Adrienne invited committee members to send additional thoughts or feedback to her or Michelle. Michelle thanked all the committee members for participating and said she looked forward to an exciting and challenging process.

The meeting was adjourned.





# PORTLAND OFF-ROAD CYCLING MASTER PLAN Project Background

Project Advisory Committee  
January 28, 2016



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## Purpose and Outcome

The Portland **Off-road Cycling** Master Plan project will develop a **citywide plan** for a system of off-road cycling facilities – such as sustainable **trails, skill parks and pump tracks** – for a **variety of users**, including children, adults and families.



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# What is Off-road Cycling?

Singletrack trails can offer a wide variety of riding experiences, from easy to challenging, smooth to rocky, flowy and open to tight and twisty.

## Powell Butte, Portland

Photo Credit: Jason Van Horn, [www.bermstyle.com](http://www.bermstyle.com)



## Astoria, OR

Photo Credit: Jason Van Horn, [www.bermstyle.com](http://www.bermstyle.com)



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# What is Off-road Cycling?

Trails can be more technically or aerobically challenging, with varied terrain and natural or manmade obstacles.

## Alsea Falls, OR

Photo Credit: Jason Van Horn, [www.bermstyle.com](http://www.bermstyle.com)



## Black Rock Freeride, OR

Photo Credit: Jason Van Horn, [www.bermstyle.com](http://www.bermstyle.com)



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# What is Off-road Cycling?

Fire roads and doubletrack trails can offer a less challenging route or a fast-paced ride.

## Forest Park, Portland

Photo Credit: Jonathan Maus, [BikePortland.org](http://BikePortland.org)



## Forest Park, Portland

Photo Credit: Jason Van Horn, [www.bermstyle.com](http://www.bermstyle.com)



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# What is Off-road Cycling?

Skill parks and trails provide a place to learn and practice new skills.

## Lebanon Hills Skill Trail, MN

Photo Credit: [www.mtbproject.com](http://www.mtbproject.com)



## Eichler Pump Track, Beaverton



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# What is Off-road Cycling?

Competitive events exist for all ages and abilities, including mountain bike racing and cyclocross.

## Short Track – PIR

Photo Credit: Victor Duong



## Cyclocross – PIR

Photo Credit: Jonathan Maus, BikePortland.org



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# Many different people ride off-road

Understanding who rides off-road in Portland is an essential part of the planning process.



Photo Credits: Victor Duong, Victor Duong, Francisco Kjolseth – Salt Lake Tribune



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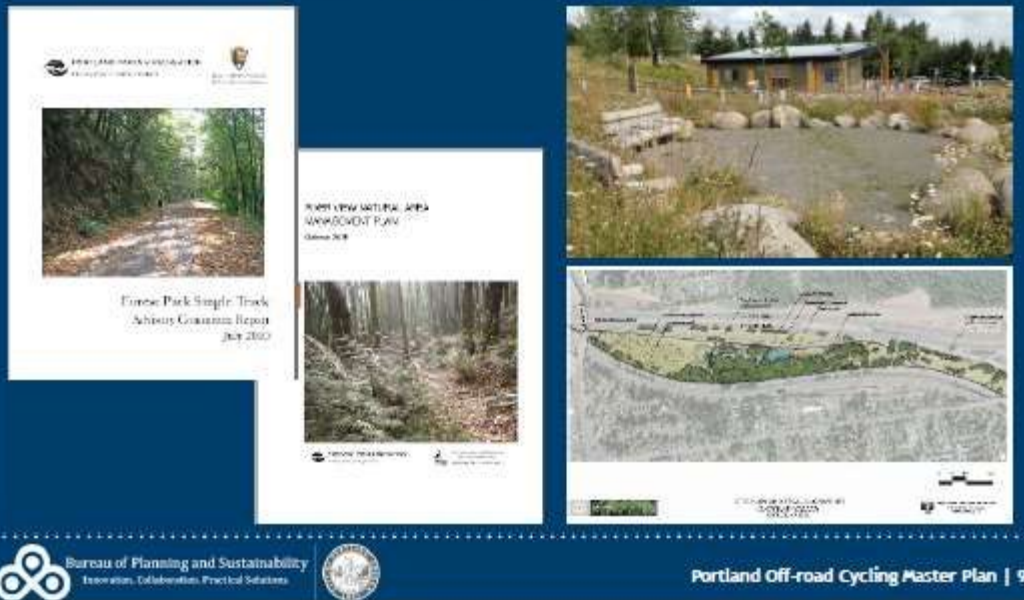


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# Why a citywide plan?

Planning to date has been site-specific



A collage of four images illustrating site-specific planning. Top left: A document cover for 'Forest Park Single Track Advisory Committee Report July 2010' featuring a photo of a dirt trail. Middle left: A document cover for 'Forest View Natural Area Management Plan October 2010' featuring a photo of a wooded area. Top right: A photo of a rustic wooden cabin in a natural setting. Bottom right: A site plan map for 'Forest View Natural Area' showing various trails and facilities.



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# Why a citywide plan?

Provide a foundation of understanding about off-road cycling needs, experiences, impacts, and best practices.

Examples of things we don't know now:

- What types of off-road cycling experiences exist now?
- What types of experiences are needed and appropriate?
- What kinds of facilities are suitable?
- Where are these facilities appropriate?
- How can they be designed and managed for long-term enjoyment and sustainability?



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# Why a citywide plan?

An opportunity to work collaboratively across public agencies.



# Why a citywide plan?

Consider the needs of other park users and the park system as a whole.



Photo Credits (clockwise): Portland Examiner, Portland Parks & Recreation, MetroParent, Portland Parks Foundation, Oregon Fish & Wildlife





# Why a citywide plan?

Reflect, balance and optimize broad City goals

prosperity  
recreation  
climate hydrology  
watershed  
habitat  
**health**  
human equity  
access  
transportation



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# Why a citywide plan?

Allows a thoughtful and transparent citywide process.



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