

GetAbout Columbia Public Hearing THIS EVENING

PedNet Newsletter
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July 22, 2008

Dear PedNet Coalition member,

This evening, Tuesday July 22, at 6:00 pm, the Columbia City Council will hold a public hearing to receive comment on a list of about \$16 million of proposed trails, sidewalks, and intersection improvements. After the public hearing, Council may vote to approve a specific subset of these projects. We understand that only about \$11 million of funding is available from the GetAbout Columbia federal grant for these projects. To see the list of proposed projects, visit: http://www.getaboutcolumbia.com/autoimages/priority%20project%20list%207.9_66.pdf, and to see their locations on a map of Columbia, visit http://www.getaboutcolumbia.com/autoimages/prop%20getabout%20priority%20projects_low2_68.pdf.

The PedNet Coalition encourages all our members to attend this meeting and participate in the public process. This is a crucial moment in PedNet's eight-year-old mission to make Columbia a truly walkable, bicycle-friendly, and wheelchair-accessible community. In order to achieve the maximum "mode-shift" (the number of car journeys being replaced by active modes), the best projects are those which:

- Are located more centrally where they will be used by more people;
- Are located close to denser residential developments and multiple locations such as parks, shopping areas, and public facilities;
- Contribute to the connectivity of the overall trail system by making links that simplify and shorten bike/ped journeys.

Two of the most beneficial projects, in terms of their potential to create mode-shift at a low cost, are also two of the most controversial. They are:

- The East Side Trail Connector, linking Bluffdale neighborhood with the new Rock Hill Park to Stadium Trail;
- The Library Trail Connector, linking South Garth neighborhood with the MKT Trail.
- Both projects have enormous potential to increase the numbers of active journeys being taken by residents, while adding little to the overall budget. However, both projects are strongly opposed by local residents who are concerned about vagrancy, vandalism, and crime. While the PedNet Coalition respects residents' concerns, the best available research and experience indicates that these negative consequences never materialize - more information at www.pednet.org.

If you feel it is important to move towards PedNet's vision of a healthy, active community, please testify at tonight's meeting (6:00 pm in the City Building, Broadway/Seventh), or contact your Councilperson today and let them know you support these trail connections.

Mayor Darwin Hindman: <mayor@gocolumbiamo.com>
First Ward Councilperson Paul Sturtz: <ward1@gocolumbiamo.com>
Second Ward Councilperson Chris Janku: <ward2@gocolumbiamo.com>
Third Ward Councilperson Karl Skala: <ward3@gocolumbiamo.com>
Fourth Ward Councilperson Jerry Wade: <ward4@gocolumbiamo.com>
Fifth Ward Councilperson Laura Nauser: <ward5@gocolumbiamo.com>
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