

October 30, 2015



Planning Department Newsletter

CENTER STREET TRAFFIC STUDY PRESENTED

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On October 15, the public works department conducted a community meeting at Sunnyside Elementary School to present the preliminary findings of the “Center Street Speed Reduction and Safety Study.” This study was commissioned by the city in response to concerns raised by neighborhood residents about motor vehicle speed, pedestrian and motorist safety, and traffic flow on Center Street now that it is a through route from Grand Avenue to Old Wawawai Road. The consultant team that prepared the report consists of local firms Taylor Engineering, Inc. and Morrison Maierle, Inc.

At the meeting, Ron Pace from Taylor Engineering and Bill White of Morrison Maierle were on hand to present the material. Public Works Director Kevin Gardes moderated the session.

The consultants stated that the first step in the process was the performance of a traffic study to consider information such as traffic and pedestrian counts,

speed data, capacity analyses, and justification for a traffic signal at the intersection of Center Street and Grand Avenue. The results of this initial traffic study were as follows:

- Center Street has sufficient capacity to accommodate the motor vehicle traffic expected to be generated by planned residential growth in the area
- a traffic signal at the intersection of Center Street and Grand Avenue is warranted based on motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic counts and turning movements
- measures that involve “traffic calming” (slowing of vehicle speeds) would help slow traffic and improve safety along Center Street
- several different types of traffic calming measures were identified from among a number of available options
- pedestrian enhancements would be beneficial for school crossings along Center Street


 Please be careful if you are out and about on Saturday, October 31st. 
 With the Cougar football game, rainy weather, and 
 children trick-or-treating, it is sure to be a spooky night! 


The consultants explained that stage two of the study delved into potential design concepts for some of the features addressed in the initial phase. In relation to pedestrian improvements, they suggested that certain locations such as Center Street’s intersections with Fountain Street and Cityview Street be enhanced with additional warning signage and high-visibility pedestrian crossing markings. With regard to traffic calming, the consultants presented the following alternatives for Center Street:

- **Traffic Circle:** a raised island placed centrally within an intersection that forces drivers to slow down around the obstruction regardless of whether they are continuing straight through the intersection or making a turn
- **Street Narrowing:** extending inward the street curbs on a longitudinal basis to narrow vehicle travel lanes, which typically results in slower vehicle speeds since motorists are less comfortable traveling through narrow roadways at high speeds
- **Radar Speed Signs:** signs placed at strategic locations that display the maximum speed limit and the actual speed of a traveling vehicle; these signs can be set to show the actual speed as a flashing number when it exceeds the speed limit, thereby influencing drivers to slow down

After providing this information, the representatives from the consulting firms solicited questions and comments from the audience. They also took an informal poll of the attendees regarding their preferences among the three traffic calming alternatives. By show of hands, most of the citizens at the meeting preferred the radar speed signs, followed by traffic circles and street narrowing. Several audience members stated that a combination of traffic calming measures would be the best solution for Center Street.

The consultants ended the session by stating that they would utilize the input received to prepare the final report on this matter. Eventually, the report will be presented to the City Council for its consideration. In the interim, the Planning Commission is expected to discuss the content of the preliminary study at its upcoming meeting on November 18.



As expected, traffic on Center Street increased measurably when the roadway was opened as a through street several years ago.



City offices will be closed:

Wednesday, November 11 - Veteran’s Day

Thursday and Friday, November 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving

COUNCIL TO CONSIDER MORATORIUM ON ADDITIONAL MARIJUANA SHOPS

The City Council conducted a joint meeting on October 27 with officers from the Associated Students of Washington State University (ASWSU). Among the topics discussed at this session, City Attorney Laura McAloon and Planning Director Pete Dickinson presented information on the changing landscape of marijuana regulation in the state of Washington.

Initiative 692, otherwise known as the Medical Use of Marijuana Act, was approved by Washington voters back in 1998. This law allowed for the medical use of marijuana by patients, and it was amended by the legislature several times in the 16 years following the passage of the initiative. However, despite this attention, the production and distribution of medical marijuana in this state was largely unregulated during that period.

Initiative 502 was approved by Washington voters in 2012. This initiative established a comprehensive regulatory structure for the licensing and taxation of recreational marijuana production and distribution, and authorized possession of marijuana for personal use for persons age 21 and older.

Earlier this year, the legislature passed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5052 (entitled the "Cannabis Patient Protection Act"), which was signed into law on April 24 by Governor Jay Inslee (with several section vetoes). This legislation

merges the largely unregulated medical marijuana system with the comprehensive regulatory framework established for recreational marijuana, and it requires licensed marijuana retailers to obtain a medical marijuana endorsement to sell medical-grade marijuana to qualifying patients and designated providers.

To accommodate the need for marijuana shops that possess the medical marijuana endorsement, the Cannabis Patient Protection Act requires the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) to increase the maximum number of retail marijuana outlets in the state. The LCB announced last month that it would start accepting applications for additional marijuana retail store licenses, with no limit on the number of such licenses that could be issued in each city or county.

At the joint meeting of the City Council and ASWSU officers, Mr. Dickinson explained that, under the rules originally established for Initiative 502, Pullman was allowed to have a maximum of three retail marijuana stores. He mentioned that two licensed retailers are currently operating on Bishop Boulevard, and a third retail establishment has been proposed for another location on the same street (as reported in last month's Planning Department Newsletter). He also stated that, as a consequence of the above-cited LCB announcement, he had recently received four telephone calls from four separate parties inquiring about locating additional marijuana outlets in Pullman.

Later in the meeting, Ms. McAloon said it was likely that the city would need to revise its current regulations concerning marijuana facilities given the substantial changes set in motion by the Cannabis Patient Protection Act. She asked the Council if it would like to consider a six-month moratorium on the establishment of additional marijuana stores in Pullman while city staff prepares the proposed code amendments. The Council responded by directing staff to create a draft ordinance that would impose such a moratorium. It is anticipated that the Council will review and potentially adopt this ordinance at its meeting of November 10.



Currently, two marijuana retail outlets, MJ's Pot Shop and We're Just Buds, operate in the city.



Pending Land Use Proposals

Displayed below are land use applications submitted to the planning or public works department or city-generated proposals for planning provisions that require a public meeting, public notice, or site plan review in accordance with the city code.

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	STATUS
Comprehensive Plan Revision	full-scale revision of city's Comprehensive Plan	Citywide	PC and HPC workshop held 6/10/15; consultant preparing draft goals for public review
College Hill Design Review Standards	formulate design standards for new construction	College Hill Core	staff reviewing responses to recent stakeholder questionnaire
Shoreline Master Program Update	revise city's Shoreline Master Program in collaboration with Whitman County	Citywide	PC recommended approval 7/22/15; CC discussion held 8/18/15; CC final action scheduled for November or December
Harrington Garage Setback/Lot Coverage Variance (V-15-4)	expand garage resulting in 5-foot rear setback and 44 percent lot coverage`	230 NW Olsen Street	staff reviewing application; tentative BOA hearing on 12/21/15
Storm Water LID Retrofits 2016 site plan (15-7)	add storm water treatment/control features to two parking lots	Neill Public Library (210 N. Grand Avenue) and South Street Lot (across from 775 SE South Street)	staff requested applicant to revise site plan
Glendimer Apartments site plan (15-8)	rebuild retaining walls and reconstruct parking area	125 NW Larry Drive	staff requested applicant to revise site plan
Carson's Cove Apartments site plan (15-9)	construct 10 dwellings on a 1.5-acre parcel	620 NE Stadium Way	staff approved site plan 10/26/15
Decagon Devices Parking Lot Addition site plan (15-11)	establish off-site parking lot with 90 spaces	northeast side of NE Nelson Court	staff requested applicant to revise site plan
Coulter Airport Hangar site plan (15-13)	construct 4,800-square-foot hangar with attendant facilities	Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport	staff requested applicant to revise site plan
Campus Commons Maintenance Shop site plan (15-14)	build 525-square-foot shop at existing apartment complex	1920 NE Terre View Drive	staff requested applicant to revise site plan
TH Consulting Shop site plan (15-16)	install modular building and attendant parking for recreational marijuana retail sales	1320 SE Bishop Boulevard	staff requested applicant to revise site plan
SEL Building Generators site plan (15-17)	install power generators at exterior of three buildings	1/1800/1825 NE Schweitzer Drive	staff approved site plan 10/14/15

KEY TO ZONING DISTRICTS: R1 Single Family Residential; RT Residential Transitional; R2 Low Density Multi-Family Residential; R3 Medium Density Multi-Family Residential; R4 High Density Multi-Family Residential; C1 Neighborhood Commercial; C2 Central Business District; C3 General Commercial; I1 Light Industrial; I2 Heavy Industrial; IRP Industrial Research Park; WSU Washington State University

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS: CC: City Council; PC: Planning Commission; BOA: Board of Adjustment; HPC: Historic Preservation Commission; DOE: State Department of Ecology; DAHP: State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

NOTES: 1) If an applicant fails to act on a pending application for a period of six months, said application will be dropped from the above list. 2) Numbers in parentheses are planning staff's internal file numbers. 3) Site plan review by city staff is generally conducted for proposed construction of developments other than single family homes, duplexes, or manufactured homes; it does not apply to most construction on the WSU campus.





*Planning Department
325 SE Paradise St.
Pullman, WA 99163*

Phone: 509-338-3213

Fax: 509-338-3282

Email: bethany.johnson@pullman-wa.gov

Pullman Planning Department Staff:

Pete Dickinson, Planning Director
Jason Radtke, Assistant Planner
Bethany Johnson, Public Works Administrative
Assistant
Tana Crawford, Public Works Administrative
Specialist

Planning Commission Members:

John Anderson, Vice-Chair
Brent Carper
Cheryl Clancy
Chris Clark
Marcus Crossler
Norma Crow
Dave Gibney, Chair
Liza Morris
Scott Vik

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WWW.PULLMAN-WA.GOV
