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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cascade Moves Toward Safer Streets for All Community Members

Cascade, Idaho May 1, 2015– A gaggle of walkers and flock of bicyclists recently investigated downtown Cascade as part of an effort to create safer streets for all community members.

Working with experts from New Mobility West, Idaho Smart Growth, the City of Cascade and a team of volunteers analyzed downtown streets to increase pedestrian crossing safety and identify potential bicycle and pedestrian pathways.

According to Mayor Rob Terry, the goal is to prepare a draft Capital Improvement Plan to guide the city, which should be available this summer.

New Mobility West and the Idaho Walk Bike Alliance met with community members and business owners to identify the high-priority locations to connect walking or biking paths . Discussions ensued about what exists currently in Cascade that makes it a special community. Also considered were its challenges, like a state highway that doubles as Main Street. However, as the workshop progressed, citizens began to view challenges as opportunities.

This is not Cascade’s first attempt to improve safety and connections throughout town. The Cascade Mobility Team has been active for years and already had a list of ideas and projects to improve safety for kids, walkers and bikers. “This training and public participation has allowed Cascade’s citizens to understand the value of all forms of transportation,” states Mayor Rob Terry. “Biking and walking are just as important as motor vehicles to our town.”

Vitruvian Planning led walk and bike audits, and eventually created the list of specific projects and costs based on the public’s input. Some of these projects include Lake Cascade Parkway’s improved bike lanes, safer crosswalk at SH55 and Pine Street, improved pedestrian facilities on School Street, and better walking or biking facilities along SH55.

“This planning process has offered much more than just a reiteration of past ideas,” says Mayor Terry. “We have been presented with some ideas for immediate action and some long range goals, such as development of the Sawyer Street area. It could be a major economic opportunity for Cascade - that is what we need.”

Rachel Smith, local Cascade mother, had this to say. "I am so excited to see the progress that is being made to the trail network in Cascade. As a mom of young children, stroller access is vital for my outdoor exercise routine - more walking and biking options are wonderful. I appreciate the prospect of more accessible choices."

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