

BPAC Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Members present: Annie Honrath, Amber Pouley, Joseph Garcia, Daniel Tepper, Ian McCurdy, Reid Parker, Bob Hendricks, Susan Towner

Staff present: Gary Davis, Rodney Vandersypen, Christ Thompsen

Guests: John Hutchings, Whatcom County Public Works Director; Diane Wiatr, WSDOT Active Transport Coordinator; Mary Anderson, SmartTrips Coordinator/WCOG

Meeting started at 5:39

Diane Wiatr, WSDOT Active Transport informed us of her charge and plans for her position, assuming she is able to stay in the position after gubernatorial elections in November.

- Her position is charged with elevating bike-ped activities statewide, in all regions
- update state bike-ped plan
- create criteria so DOT can have list of prioritized projects that will go to the legislature for hopeful funding
- elevating local/regional projects onto state priorities list, ex: Olympic Discovery Trail, connect Blaine to Bellingham
- Technical update plan/maintain plan
- WSDOT also hiring a bike-ped engineer in NW Region soon

John Hutchings, Whatcom County Public Works Director

- John attended a BPAC meeting about 7 months ago, he came back today to follow up with us and let us know about some things that are happening.
- in works now: hiring of a transportation planner to help coordinate activities between multi-modal (maybe?) and multi-jurisdiction roads, ex: Lakeway Drive
- There was also a lot of discussion about transportation v. recreation because it seems that a lot of discussion gets hung up on that issue, which then prevents any forward movement. John suggested that BPAC and PW draft up a white paper outlining recommendations, and our scope to give the Executive and county some accountability to us.
- John committed to creating the white paper w/goals and objectives appropriate for active transportation and bring it to BPAC for review

Daniel: Lynden Parks and Rec is pursuing an RCO (Recreation and Conservation Office) grant for their trail project. They have asked us for a letter of support to accompany their grant application.

Daniel: Trails Conference is Oct 13 and 14 in Richland. Keynote speaker will be Ken Wilcox.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08.