

**Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:45PM**  
**Garden Level Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Stephen Zylstra, Sonja Max, Jason Ardt (Public Works), Eileen Kadesh, Kyle Morris, Pete Sharp, Dwight McFarland, Sunny Beaver, Alec Howard

**Guests Present:** Robin Thomas (Prospective Member), Mike Donahue, Chris (County Public Works), Satpal Sidhu (County Executive), Mike McFarland (County Parks & Rec Director)

1. Meeting was called to order by Stephen at 5:46PM
2. Sunny moved to approve minutes from January meeting, Eileen seconded
3. Conversation with new County Executive Satpal Sidhu. Satpal expressed support for biking and walking as modes of transportation and has met with Parks Department to discuss Bellingham to Baker trail. Stephen expressed BPAC interest in a county-wide connected network of trails, and a desire to create a BPAC webpage. Satpal encouraged us to reach out to County Council for support.
4. Sonja asked about Bay to Baker Trail (attached map, Red)
  - a. Mike – Bham to Baker recreational trail is on DNR lands and goes through sensitive habitats, tribal lands, and DNR doesn't want to extend recreational access
5. Eileen asked if there anywhere in County right of ways for "Bay to Baker" (Yellow) that doesn't involve DNR
  - a. Mike – Bay to Baker original concept was it would run on rail corridor, which is privately owned with exception of City's land. Requires active acquisitions and rerouting. Distance and ownership are issues.
  - b. Staff is actively working on area near Maple Falls, but don't have resources or direction to work on any other portions
  - c. Sonja – Should we reexamine yellow dotted line? Can we reroute Bay to Baker? Can the State put a trail along 542?
  - d. Jason –Lots of constraints with WDOT, issue with whose responsibility is it to maintain
  - e. Jason –Any new dotted trail would be an update to the County Comprehensive Plan, which can be done within the year
  - f. Mike- Maintenance might not be an issue, construction is an issue, some right of way and easement access, and the State making commitment to construct it
  - g. Satpal- PSE had a project that involved moving power poles. County had a plan to piggyback and build a trail next to their poles. Bur the State's requirement to move poles was removed and so County plans were cancelled.

- h. Satpal- People with property rights can block projects. Suggests concrete barriers that block shoulders. However, WDOT support likely a challenge to that idea.
- i. Sonja- Does a trail have to be on the TIP or Comp Plan for State to get involved?
- j. Jason- It's already on the map, but doesn't need to be on County's TIP
- k. Mike- Columbia Valley Park & Rec District might have support in funding or maintenance for a specific segment of trail

6. Nooksack Loop Trail

- a. Bellingham to Ferndale portion supported by Port of Bellingham's Airport Trail and COB Park putting something in Lockwood area
  - i. Portion between Kope Road and downtown Ferndale needs support; will require working with the Lummi Tribe
- b. Satpal- Slater Road to Haxton needs to be improved, Lummi undergoing a project for a commercial plaza in that area already, maybe this project could be a part of that development. Satpal suggested BPAC continues its advocacy to make sure nobody forgets

7. Update from Sonja on meeting with John Hutchings:

- a. Shared priorities at County Level
- b. Public Works is working on an ADA Transition Plan for the County
- c. Birch Bay berm and pedestrian facility is beginning
- d. Plan for Marine Drive ped sidewalk, bike lane from City to Alderwood in 2021
- e. Crosswalk going in at Samish Way
- f. Asked BPAC to map suggested future bike routes in County
  - i. Identify destination
  - ii. Make accessible online
- g. Airport Trail (Port is working on it) is a priority
  - i. County planning on connecting to it
- h. Updating work plans, agendas, and direction

8. Eileen inquired if naming bike trails "linear parks" gives us more funding opportunities

- a. Mike-That terminology, as opposed to a "trail," is eligible for different funding
- b. It's possible to get funding for one or the other, but not possible to get funding for both trails and linear parks
- c. It might be worthwhile to build upon an update to Comprehensive Park Recreation and Open Space Plan that includes offroad/onroad trails, which will be updated later this year
- d. If committee wanted to move Bay to Baker trail, it would be worthwhile to include it in this plan's update

9. Bike to Work Day event

- a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of May (5/15), organizations have tables
- b. We should start thinking and talking about how we want to do it
- c. We need to get on the map in March and begin asking for donations for pastries

i. Eileen volunteered to do this

10. Alec -Update on County Climate Impact Advisory Committee

- a. The Committee is undergoing an update to the County's Climate Action Plan with a goal of finishing by Fall 2020
- b. Alec joined the Transportation Work Group that will develop transportation related strategies
- c. Currently in the very early stages. Alec will keep BPAC updated

11. Jason Ardt updates –

- a. Follow up on Marine Drive speed limit change. Process for changing speed limits is by petition and through an engineering study, and through ordinance with county council
  - i. Committee can petition for speed limit change on Marine Drive section of road
  - ii. Locally impacted residents' preferences are higher on the level of priority, BPAC might want to reach out to them
  - iii. Follow up on committee's review of county transportation projects
  - iv. Talked to engineer, committee will have an opportunity to review County's plans moving forward when they are at 60% completion

12. Stephen will send an email out about proposing an updated time to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 6:00PM

13. Eileen will contact Kurt Baumgarten to check update on Airport Drive Trail

14. Meeting adjourned at 6:55PM