

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

Members Present: Stephen Zylstra, Sonja Max, Eileen Kadesh, Kyle Morris, Pete Sharp, Sunny Beaver, Alec Howard

Members Absent: Gary Malick, Patrick Alesse

Staff/Elected Official Present: Jason Ardt (Public Works), Mike Donahue (Public Works), Christ Thompson (Parks & Recreation), Mike McFarlane (Parks & Recreation Director), Satpal Sidhu (County Executive)

Public Present: Robin Thomas (Prospective Member)

1. Meeting was called to order by Stephen at 5:46PM
2. Sunny moved to approve January minutes, 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 Mt. Baker trail. Stephen expresses BPAC's interest in connected network of trail, as well as creating/updating a website. Satpal encouraged BPAC to reach out to County Council for support. Questions regarding map 9-2, Conceptual Trail Corridors, of WC Comprehensive plan ensued:
 - a. Mike – Bham to Baker recreational trail (red) is on DNR lands and goes through sensitive habitats, tribal lands, and DNR doesn't want to extend recreational access
 - b. Eileen asked if there is anywhere for Bay to Baker (yellow) trail to be routed that is along a county right-of-way.
 - c. Mike M. – Bay to Baker original concept was it would be routed on rail corridor, which is now privately owned with exception of City's land. (Whatcom County did not purchase right-of-way so it reverted to private property owners along the rail line.) This route would require active acquisitions and rerouting. Distance and ownership are likely insurmountable issues between Bellingham and Maple Falls.
 - d. Staff is actively working on area between Maple Falls and Glacier, but don't have resources or direction to work on any other portions
 - e. Sonja – Should we reexamine yellow dotted line? Can we reroute Bay to Baker trail along highway 542?
 - f. Jason – Lots of constraints with DOT, issue with whose responsibility is it to maintain

- g. Jason – Any new dotted trail would be an update to the County Comp Plan, which can be done within the year
- h. Mike D. – 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
- i. Satpal – (Regarding Kendall Connectivity trail) PSE had project to move utility poles. County had a plan to piggy back and build a trail next to their poles. It was a possible plan, but the state’s requirement to move poles was removed and plans were cancelled.
- j. Satpal- People with property rights can block projects. Suggests concrete barriers that block shoulders. State DOT support likely a challenge to that idea.
- k. Sonja – Does a trail have to be on TIP and Comp Plan for state to get involved?
- l. Jason – It’s already on the map, but doesn’t need to be on County’s TIP
- m. Mike M.– Columbia Valley Park & Rec District might have support in funding or maintenance for a specific segment of trail

4. Nooksack Loop Trail

- a. Bellingham to Ferndale portion supported by Port of Bellingham’s Airport Trail and COB supports connection through City’s Lockwood Property
- b. Portion between Cope Road and downtown Ferndale needs support
 - i. Will require working with the Lummi Tribe
- c. Satpal – Slater Road to Haxton needs to be improved, Lummi undergoing a project for a commercial plaza at Slater and I-5; maybe this project could be a part of that development. Satpal suggests this committee continues its advocacy to make sure nobody forgets. Discusses future need to raise the Slater Road roadbed to mitigate flooding issues. States that when this is done, there will be a trail or safe bike/ped access along the improved segment.

5. Update from Sonja on meeting with Jon Hutchings

- a. Shared priorities at County Level
- b. They’re 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 us to map locations of future bike routes in County
 - i. Identify destinations
 - 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

6. Eileen wonders if calling bike trails “linear parks” gives us more funding opportunities

- a. Mike M. – 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
7. Bike to Work Day event
- a. 3rd Friday of May (around 15th), organizations have stations
 - 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
8. 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 group updated
9. Jason Ardt updates –
- a. Follow up on Marine Drive speed limit change. Process for changing speed limits is by petition or through an engineering study, and through ordinance with council. Jason recommended a petition would be the best route.
 - 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 may 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 for City boundary to Alderwood improvements when they are at 60% completion
10. Stephen will send an email out about proposing an updated time to the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:00PM
11. Eileen will contact Kurt Baumgarten to check update on Airport Drive Trail
12. Meeting adjourned at 6:55PM