

BPAC Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2018

Members present: Annie Honrath, Matt Paskus, Sunny Beaver, Daniel Tepper, Reid Parker, Eileen Kadesh, Alan McConchie, Tom Goetzl

Others present: Rodney Vandersypen, Chris Elder

Commenced at 5:30pm

1. Two of the three new committee members were in attendance. Committee members introduced themselves.
2. January minutes approved.
3. Reports:
 - Matt Paskus met with Stefan Freelan at WWU last Friday to discuss what his students can do for the BPAC. Received Skagit County model/flowchart indicating how they approved their trails. Stefan's looking to see if they can do something similar for us, basically a GIS analysis to find needed connections. Students could do this during spring or summer quarter, or even on an ongoing basis.
 - Eileen met with Jon Hutchings last week. He didn't think we should try to redo the County plan, but instead, work on pressuring the County to get some of the projects on the current list implemented. Jon also thought it would be great to build better connections with the City, COG, etc. He supports the idea of a half or full-time bike/ped coordinator in Public Works. This might be possible when some retirements occur in 2019-2020. Jon also likes the idea of the BPAC making a presentation to the County Council to introduce ourselves and what we're trying to do.
4. Eileen handed out a list of draft goals for the Committee to consider. She asked for feedback once committee members have a chance to review them. It was mentioned that some of the goals are broad, others more specific. The goals need to be refined with this point in mind. Tom would also like to see more emphasis on bicycle safety.
5. Eileen asked the group about interest in having a retreat in March or April to discuss goals and a work plan for the year. The committee members present expressed interest in having a retreat and liked the idea of an evening during the week, rather than a weekend. Eileen will create a Doodle poll to determine some dates and will look into getting a facility. Annie mentioned that Christ might be able to book the Roeder Home, and Sunny suggested K2 (Kulshan Brewer), which has an upstairs room that can be reserved.
6. Tom asked if we are engaging with the City's Transportation Commission. Annie responded that the Committee tried to coordinate with the Transportation Commission some years ago, but we were not well received. Tom also asked whether bicycle use in

the County is mostly recreational. Rodney said there is no information on this, although he suspects County residents use bicycles for both commuting and recreation.

7. Eileen announced that Reid Parker has offered to take a second group of BPAC members on a van tour of the proposed bike/ped projects in the County on March 17 or March 24. Eileen will get back to Reid to confirm the date. Rodney is only able to go on March 24.
8. Eileen handed out the list of priority projects identified by the BPAC last February, asking if Rodney could discuss current status. Daniel explained to the new members how the list of projects originally came to be. He said one of the things the BPAC has struggled with is whether there are new projects that should be added.

Rodney indicated that project 1, Birch Bay Dr., which is designed and funded, may be off the list because of a letter the tribe has written opposing the project. It may be part of their opposition to the coal facility. Rodney needs to check with Joe Rutan on this.

Bennett Drive, project 2, has been pulled off the list because the City of Bellingham is annexing that area.

Marine Dr, McAlpine Rd. to Alderwood Dr (project 3) .is expected to be built in 2019. Work on it has been initiated.

Marine Dr., Alderwood to Wynn Rd. (project 4) is on the Six Year TIP, but there is no design or date for the project.

The Marine Dr. BNSF bridge bypass trail (project 5) is not going anywhere. Rodney is not sure if the trail is on the Six Year TIP, but he will find out. The warning lights are in, however.

Rodney does not know anything about the placeholder project (project 6) relating to priority rural road safety and multi-modal improvements. He will need to ask Joe.

The Haxton Rd. sidewalk project (project 7) has been completed by the Lummi tribe.

Rodney said there has not been movement on any of the other projects, and they are not in the TIP. He will provide an update on all the projects after talking with Joe.

Question from Daniel to Chris: Can we shepherd these through the planning process and actually get this list approved?

Chris: It would help if there were a ranking scheme.

Daniel: We had one originally, but haven't been following it recently. Revising the list with the ranking scheme is something we should tackle at the retreat.

9. Tom asked a question about the ordinance authorizing this committee. He wanted to know if the Committee members are appointed for three year terms or four year terms. There are two different time frames listed. Those present thought that the four year term is the correct one.
10. There was some discussion about safety. The County has only about 7 bike collisions per year, while the City of Bellingham has about 97.
11. Daniel asked Rodney to point out the difference between officially designated bike routes in the County vs. bike lanes. A “bike route” is where the County maintain shoulders and gets them swept monthly. Hannegan and Birch Bay/Lynden Roads are the only official bike routes in the County. A “bike lane” is part of the road only for bikes, signed and maintained as such. There are bike lanes on Cable St., Marine Drive, and Birch Bay Drive.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.