

Whatcom County
BPAC Meeting Minutes
4/18/2018

Present: Eileen Kadesh, Daniel Tepper, Matt Paskus, Rodney Vandersypen, Allen McConchie, Susan Adamson-Towner, student journalist from WWU

Minutes of 3/21/18 BPAC meeting approved.

Agenda Item 1: Airport Trail Proposal

Matt made a motion that the BPAC advocate for airport trail (along Marine Drive and to the West of the Airport). The motion was seconded and approved. There was a motion to amend the proposal to write a letter to Rob Fix at the Port (Matt and Daniel to write.) The Committee approved the amended motion unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Kendall Trail Plan

Eileen participated in a conference call with State, COG, PSE, and Joe Rutan. County received \$305,000 (for pre-engineering) from the state to do a 30% design. Consultant to be hired by July and will hold a community meeting in Sept./Oct. Vern Yadon was active as community leader and could be a good contact person for BPAC.

Late 2019 for trail to begin; 2020 more realistic.

Agenda Item 3: ADA Inventory consultant selection

BPAC invited to have a role in Federally mandated ADA Inventory. Eileen will serve on the consultant review team on behalf of BPAC.

Agenda Item 4: Reports from Subcommittees

Priority Project Committee

Daniel: In the 80s, the state allowed counties to set up a Paths and Trails fund to designate some of their gas tax funds. 1% of the gas tax from the state to the county goes to this fund.

You can track the fund at [http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/345/Cash- Balance-Report](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/345/Cash-Balance-Report).

10-15 years ago, Paths & Trails was shown as a separate line item, but now Whatcom County just shows the total of the "County Road Fund." Daniel requested the current balance, which is \$343,185.48.

There's another fund at \$10,231. They only roll over into the larger sum once a year.

This money is controlled by Whatcom County Public Works. Not used often, maybe only dipped into two or three times.

The biggest expenditure was completing the trail along Haxton road as part of the deal with the Lummi about the ferry. It was only a small part of the cost for that project.

Rodney: County spent about 300K out of 500K that was in the fund at the time.
Joe Rutan claims that it must be spent in County right-of-way
The overall road fund went up from \$10M in 2006 to \$24M now.

Daniel: Reviewed the City of Bellingham master plan
<https://www.cob.org/Documents/pw/transportation/transportation-commission/bicycle-master-plan.pdf>

Chapter 6: "Integration"

Integrating bicycle considerations into policies and processes is referred to as “integration,” which is accomplished by incorporating bicycle needs into the City’s transportation mission and corporate culture. It requires internal work by staff and coordination among departments to ensure policies, plans, programs and processes to address the needs of bicyclists. Includes 10 bullet points which we could learn from. Number 7 calls for establishing a matching grant reserve fund. Number 10 is to establish benchmarks to assess progress. Daniel proposed we all look over chapter 6 and think about these strategies. Daniel: summary of where we are with the priority projects.

Since the very beginning of BPAC we've created a list of priority project. But we've never updated it based on the info Rodney has provided. Priority ranking criteria haven't been applied. But before we work on that, we should think about establishing benchmarks. A major problem with the County's bike/pedestrian plan is that there is no measure of success. Perhaps BPAC could develop a mechanism for measuring progress, such as miles of trail, widened shoulders, etc. with weighted criteria. This could help with decision-making as it would provide real data.

New business

The Committee agreed to sponsor a “Bike to Work Day” celebration station May 18, which will entail a pop-up tent on the Marine Drive corridor— Matt (tent), Eileen and Sue (food) will be in charge of set-up, booth possibly from 6-10 am.