

Whatcom County Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2019

Attendees:

Eileen Kadesh, Chair
Stephen Zylstra
Sonja Max
Kyle Morris
Gary Malick
Tara Satushek
Jason Ardt - County Public Works
Harrison Winkel - Intern

Absent: Alan McConchie, Matt Paskus, Mark Owings, Patrick Alesse, Sunny Beaver

Call to order

Eileen convened the meeting at 5:30 PM and welcomed members.

Approval of minutes

Sonja moved that the June minutes be accepted. Seconded by Stephen. Unanimous approval by voice vote.

Airport Trail Field Tour

Eileen provided a summary of the July 2nd field tour (sponsored by the City of Bellingham Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, the Whatcom Parks & Recreation Foundation and BPAC) focused on the proposed Airport Trail project; located adjacent to the Bellingham airport that will connect a bicycle route between Marine Drive and Ferndale. Attendees walked the Lockwood property and the Airport Trail and explored how Whatcom County, the City of Bellingham, and the Port can all work together to make this connector a reality.

There were 23 people on the tour, with numerous elected officials in attendance from Bellingham, Ferndale and the County, as well as eight staff from the Port of Bellingham.

The Port is very supportive of the project and indicated they would need approval from the FAA and TSA. The Lummi Nation is planning some development north of the project, which may influence the trail, so coordination with the Lummi tribe is needed, as well. It is anticipated the project could be implemented in late 2021 or 2022.

Project Handout Format

Harrison provided a copy of the latest version of a 1-page (2 sided) project summary handout (with a map; project description; projected costs, etc) for the County Council. These handouts will be used to highlight the BPAC's highest priority projects to inform and focus Council members on project specifics and needs.

BPAC members provided comments; Harrison will incorporate suggestions to develop a new draft for additional review. He is now drafting a second handout for the Birch Bay project.

BPAC Bike Plan update

Tara is still working on designing a new framework/structure for the updated version of the bike plan, which will be significantly shorter than the previous version. Tara will coordinate with Stephen and Mark as she moves forward and indicated we can expect a draft for full BPAC review in August or September.

Stephen suggested that BPAC consider the County Council's priorities as we move forward in restructuring the bike plan. More specifically, it was agreed by all members present that our new plan would be more effective if we can highlight how our proposed projects and other activities will support the Council's priorities.

Briefing Public Works Committee of County Council

On August 7th Eileen will provide a briefing to the Public Works Committee about the BPAC mission and goals, as well as some specific suggestions for the committee to consider. It is expected several other BPAC members will be in attendance.

More specifically, Eileen will talk about the Nooksack Loop Trail section from Bellingham to Ferndale; review the Airport Trail and Marine Drive; review the Blaine/Birch Bay Trail; review the Kendall Connectivity Trail and discuss the concept of small projects/grants.

Draft County Transportation Improvement Program Project list (2020-2025)

Jason handed out copies of the Draft TIP for 2020-2025 for review and discussion. Eileen noted the projects looked similar to the previous list and asked Jason if the Public Works Department might be open to a process where two projects from the BPAC are added to the list before being finalized. Jason indicated that is the PW Director's call.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Survey

At the end of September each year there is a state-wide survey of bicycle/ped use. Eileen will send to BPAC members the specifics of this effort and ask if members can participate in the survey at sites in Whatcom County (possibly 10 sites). Jason volunteered to assist in coordinating BPAC participation.

New Bike Lane project

Jason handed out info describing a new project, approved by Public Works, that will designate and install facilities for a new signed bike route on Hampton Rd and Van Buren Rd, between Lynden and Everson. This project will involve painting wider stripes delineating the bike route, as well as some new signage. It was suggested the project include signs asking drivers to "Share the road" with cyclists. Jason indicated he will ask the County Engineer.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:10 PM.