

# Whatcom County Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### 9-19-18

**Members Present:** Eileen Kadesh, Matt Paskus, Daniel Tepper, Alan McConchie, Sunny Beaver, Susan Adamson-Towner, Jason Ardt, Chris Elder

**Members Absent:** Gary Malick, Annie Honrath, Christ Thompsen

**Guest:** Aaron Dutton

Minutes of 8-15-18 approved without correction

Sunny and Eileen attended the County Council Transportation Committee on September 11<sup>th</sup> to introduce the BPAC and its recommendations for the year. Almost all the Council members were present.

One request was the hiring of a full-time active transportation manager because:

- most projects in 2010 Bike Pedestrian Transportation Plan have not been implemented
- there is no dedicated staff within Public Works to advocate for such plans
- lack of integration for bike/ped plans between Public Works, Parks and Planning

At the evening session of the full Council, Barbara Brenner commented that the presentation was helpful.

Also Sunny and Eileen contacted the City of Bellingham about meeting with staff and felt that there was little interest. Comment from Daniel was that it would be possibly more effective to meet with Public Works Director rather than “staff” person.

Meetings are scheduled with WTA Service Manager to discuss coordination and with Jon Hutchings to discuss next steps for BPAC.

-Work Plan Update

- “Analyze needed connections” Matt will work with Eileen to draft a letter for Stephan Greenland at GIS (spatial analysis) WWU to request volunteers from the department to help with BPAC projects
- Suggested Criteria for Ranking Bike/Ped projects (9 categories with total of 100 points—see below for possible alterations to criteria) was handed out and discussed/used to analyze seven projects on BPAC list: Birch Bay Drive, Marine Drive (Locust to Alderwood, Alderwood

to Wynn Rd, BNSF bridge bypass trail and at-grade crossing), Kendall-Sumas Road (Kendall School to Limestone Rd), Nooksack River Trail (Ferndale to Lynden, Lynden to Everson).

-Birch Bay is “in the pipeline.” Call that a success, no need to rank

-It was suggested that the three Marine Drive projects be combined into one in order to hold more credence as part of a larger vision with Public Works. The BNSF bypass trail has repeatedly been rejected by BNSF and also, after multiple attempts, by Public Works). Daniel Tepper moved to combine Alderwood to Wynn and BNSF bridge by-pass as one project perhaps called “Marine Drive/Airport Trail multi-modal projects”

-Airport Trail is not on list, moved and approved to add to list

#### Criterion on handout

Needed safety improvement-15

Leads to a school or on a school route-10

Serves a residential/high density population area-10

Provides access to a recreation facility or park-5

Key network link for the regional network-20

Serves underserved area (replaced “economic development potential”)-5

Ease of implementation due to low-cost or public ownership-15

Local group support (replaced “Availability of matching funds”)-15

Transportation benefit (replaced “equity improvements spread throughout County”)-5

#### Questions/comments regarding criteria:

-Should “transportation/recreation aspect be included?”

-Nooksack River trail should be renamed Nooksack Loop Trail because it is more updated and recognizable

Washington State Trails Association biannual meeting is in Wenatchee in October.

Eileen posed question regarding time, place and duration of meetings. Jason will look into space, and 5:30-7:30 will be tried at next meeting October 17.