

Whatcom Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes - January 14, 2022
Zoom Conference call

Members Present: Stephen Zylstra, Robin Thomas, Pete Sharp, Patrick Alesse, Brian Johnson, Sandy Brewer, Gary Malick, Sonja Max, Sunny Beaver

Members Absent: Kelly Kendall

Staff Present: Jason Ardt (Public Works liaison), Jon Hutchings, Director of Public Works

Public Present/Public Comments: None

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

Approval of December Meeting Minutes

- Gary moved approval
- Sunny seconded
- Minutes unanimously approved

Co-Chair Updates

- Stephen gave a reminder of the changed meeting day/time to 2nd Wednesday of each month, at 6 PM.

Discussion of Selection of a Consultant for Bicycle Route Prioritization

- Jason said that Doug Ranney is working on a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to send out for submissions. Sunny asked when that might be complete, and it may be next month.
- Jon provided a detailed explanation of the process that must be followed in getting submissions, selecting the consultant and several things that must be considered. During this discussion, he mentioned that the scope of work is a key element in the cost of the project, and is usually determined together with the consulting firm after they are chosen. Projects under \$40,000 can be approved by the Executive. Projects over \$40,000 require Council vote. The current project budget is roughly \$20,000 with room for potential additional work. The scope of work would also determine what type of firm is involved. BPAC will be able to review the scope of work before it is signed. Given the time that would be needed for the overall route plan, RFQs could be submitted for elements, and when that element is completed, then there could be an additional RFQ the following year for the next element. Jon says "keep the scope of work simple and clear" to make each project scope manageable.
- Jon mentioned the impacts on the budget of the recent storm damage, and how that may also affect priorities.
- Robin asked if flooding repair might include bike infrastructure. Jon said it might be a possibility. It couldn't have been made a priority before, but perhaps with the river flood damage, it might be worked in.

Marine Drive/Airport Trail/Lockwood Property

- The first phase will happen next year and will include improvements on the existing trail on the water side of Marine Drive
- Stephen and Sonja asked about spending down the Paths and Trails fund. The Paths and Trails fund is not supposed to hold funds over 10 years. As it is reaching or has reached a limit, it is necessary to spend some of this fund in the next year. Public Works will spend a portion of this fund on the Marine Drive Bike and Ped upgrades. Jason will update the committee with specific numbers for fund balance and amount to be spent on Marine Drive improvements. The consultant fee for bike route prioritization is also able to come out of this fund.

- No additional bike/pedestrian access is funded on Marine Drive between Alderwood and the bridge over the RR tracks.
- Stephen and Sonja will talk to Laine Potter (City of Bellingham Parks Dept) about the Lockwood Property. They discussed the Port's position given by Michael Shepherd, as mentioned in the previous minutes.
- Jon said that the next design phase for Marine Drive must consider some of these issues.
- Gary pointed out that the trail on the Lockwood property could create a hazardous crossing at the east end of the bridge. Sonja wondered if instead of a crossing there might be a bidirectional trail from there to Alderwood to eliminate the dangerous crossing.

Inspiration video

- Sonja presented a video from People for Bikes highlighting how Sevilla, Spain had developed a complete bicycle network, increasing bicycle mode share significantly.

Announcements

- Stephen once again thanked everyone for adjusting to the new day and time for meetings, and thanked Jon for being with us and taking our questions.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 PM