

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

COUNTY COURTHOUSE

311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 676-6690



COUNCILMEMBERS

Barbara Brenner
Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Sam Crawford
Pete Kremen
Ken Mann
Carl Weimer

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

**AGENDA REVISION NOTICE
FOR JUNE 3, 2014**

(DISTRIBUTED AT 9:25 A.M. ON MAY 29, 2014)

THE FOLLOWING ITEM HAS BEEN ADDED PUBLIC WORKS, HEALTH, AND SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Committee Discussion

2. Discussion regarding a citizen proposal to install a crosswalk at the intersection of Lakeway Drive and Parkstone Lane (AB2014-203) (from 5/20)

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:		5/13/2014		5/20/2014	Public Works
Division Head:					
Dept. Head:	<i>[Signature]</i>	5.13.14			
Prosecutor:					
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:					

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

Discussion regarding crosswalk at Lakeway and Parkstone Lane

ATTACHMENTS:

SEPA review required? () Yes () NO
 SEPA review completed? () Yes () NO

Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes () NO
 Requested Date:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: *(If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)*

Discussion regarding crosswalk at Lakeway and Parkstone Lane

COMMITTEE ACTION:

5/20/2014: Committee forwarded a request to the Council that Public Works develop plans for a crosswalk on Lakeway

COUNCIL ACTION:

5/20/2014: Motion carried by Council 6-0, Weimer absent, Council provided direction to staff to develop recommendations regarding a crosswalk on Lakeway

Related County Contract #:

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number:

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**FRANK M. ABART
DIRECTOR**



ADMINISTRATION
CIVIC CENTER
322 N. Commercial Street, Suite 210
Bellingham, WA 98225-4042
Telephone: (360) 676-6692
FAX: (360) 738-4561
www.whatcomcounty.us
FAbart@co.whatcom.wa.us

Date: May 12, 2014

To: Whatcom County Council Members
Jack Louws, County Executive

From: Frank M. Abart 

RE: Lakeway Drive & Parkston Lane Crosswalk Status

It is my understanding that an agenda item has been scheduled for the May 20 Public Works, Health, and Safety Committee regarding the topic referenced above. In an effort to maximize time demands for the Council discussion, the following information is provided.

- Public Works was requested to review the proposal in 2013.
- Public Works performed the review and provided a response which did not support the action via letter dated October 3, 2013 (copy attached).
- Placement would not meet traffic warrants based in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).
- Although the requested installation does not meet the technical guidelines and requirements, the Council may consider other factors and testimony to make a final determination.

Other information in anticipation of Council questions:

- Estimated installation projection would be early 2016.
- Estimated total cost of the project is \$225,000 – subject to many variables such as relative access to electric power, ROW/easements if needed, center island construction if needed, other advance warning mechanisms, etc.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Joe Rutan. Thank you.

C: Joe Rutan, County Engineer/Asst. Director

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DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=gmail.com; s=20120113; h=user-agent:date:subject:from:to:message-id:thread-topic:references:in-reply-to:mime-version:content-type; bh=QZM1YU6HTpynOjwlU1glwFV5SnZ9rK6Qq3tJOFME1E0=; b=qWbS2+2nQ0fdl7hSgQ6fgOsI5MYwPvbq65ZNX3kKonWeVsxHj6+md2EzZUnfkiXSV DVI/LzyqmbgKeHG3juLVJSpsjmlpvGWRQnICXXldOt2P2Hwv3zUznRS8bK4BpJZds3FR sjs8juUx5BCK+0o/O2hPphM1BgjuDMT4NZUoGTos/O27OwS5nK/DclHAcIKJc9d04j/ pmQKChMI81H0SSydmV3Gh6CBTudsU0BCLcPnBjHGP3iVHg9agILWX2E6DO+gmUhtU10 0u11lVAyuU9qpu5XCX8/UAIpduUapjk0sgafBTj8tUcBitHzSGVrOUzrJtTbsU1bVUR zwPg==

X-Received: by 10.69.31.11 with SMTP id killmr69392638pbd.88.1400779117652; Thu, 22 May 2014 10:18:37 -0700 (PDT)

Return-Path: <kadeshe@gmail.com>

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User-Agent: Microsoft-MacOutlook/14.4.1.140326

Date: Thu, 22 May 2014 10:18:32 -0700

Subject: FW: Letter of Support

From: Eileen Kadesh <kadeshe@gmail.com>

To: <bbrenner@co.whatcom.wa.us>

Message-ID: <CFA37F32.11189%kadeshe@gmail.com>

Thread-Topic: Letter of Support

References: <7e54af2e75f04230996de172efef4063@BN1PR05MB073.namprd05.prod.outlook.com>

In-Reply-To: <7e54af2e75f04230996de172efef4063@BN1PR05MB073.namprd05.prod.outlook.com>

Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary="B_3483598715_398003"

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X-MS-Exchange-Organization-MessageDirectionality: Incoming

X-Forefront-Antispam-Report: CIP:209.85.160.42;CTRY:US;IPV:NLI;IPV:NLI;EFV:NLI;SFV:NSPM;SFS:(438001)(189002)(199002)(164054003)(377454003)(

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Authentication-Results: spf=pass (sender IP is 209.85.160.42) smtp.mailfrom=kadeshe@gmail.com;

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X-MS-Exchange-Organization-AuthSource: BN1AFF011FD055.protection.gbl

X-MS-Exchange-Organization-AuthAs: Anonymous

MIME-Version: 1.0

--B_3483598715_398003

Content-type: text/plain; charset="ISO-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Here you go, Barbara. Forwarding the letter from Rick Nicholson at WTA.

Thanks,

Eileen

From: Rick Nicholson <RickN@ridewta.com>
 Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 10:33 AM
 To: "bbrenner@co.whatcom.wa.us" <bbrenner@co.whatcom.wa.us>,
 "kmann@co.whatcom.wa.us" <kmann@co.whatcom.wa.us>,
 "pkremen@co.whatcom.wa.us" <pkremen@co.whatcom.wa.us>
 Cc: Eileen Kadesh <kadeshe@gmail.com>
 Subject: Letter of Support

To the Members of the County Council=B9s Public Works Committee:
 =20
 A resident of the Parkstone development off of Lakeway Drive recently
 contacted WTA. She shared her concern about pedestrian safety and access t=
 o
 bus stops in her neighborhood. Specifically, she is requesting a crosswalk
 with pedestrian flags on Lakeway Drive at Parkstone Lane.
 =20
 In reviewing that stretch of roadway, we can certainly see how walkers and
 transit users would benefit from a designated crossing area. WTA would be
 supportive of a painted crosswalk and pedestrian flags on that stretch of
 roadway. =20
 =20
 Thank you for your consideration.
 =20
 Rick Nicholson
 Director of Service Development
 4111 Bakerview Spur Road
 Bellingham, WA. 98226

August 8, 2013

Joe Rutan
County Road Engineer
5280 Northwest Dr., Suite C
Bellingham, WA 98226

Dear Mr. Rutan:

On behalf of the residents in the Parkstone development off Lakeway Drive, I am writing to request that Whatcom County install a crosswalk at the intersection of Lakeway Drive and Parkstone Lane.

My husband and I are new residents of Bellingham, having purchased a house at 1381 N. Parkstone Ct. in January, 2013. We take several walks each day, for exercise, to access transit, to walk our dogs, and to get to the park or friends' houses. We were amazed when we moved in that no safe crossing is provided on Lakeway Dr. at Parkstone Lane. Pedestrians crossing at this intersection are forced to race across the street, hoping not to get hit by a car. What is even more unbelievable is that there are no crosswalks at all along the entire stretch of Lakeway Drive/Cable Street between Birch Street and the Firs Retreat Center (between Austin and Geneva). Yet, there is a sign near the corner of Parkstone Lane and Lakeway that encourages residents to "Reduce Car Trips for Clean Water." If that is the County's goal, then making the Geneva neighborhood more pedestrian-friendly would be a significant start toward reducing car trips.

I spoke with a County Traffic Engineer several months ago to inquire about a crosswalk and was told that residents of Parkstone should just walk to Birch to cross at the signal. That is unrealistic since Birch Street is probably 1,000 - 1500 feet from the Parkstone Lane intersection. Whatcom County's own *Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan* indicates "Pedestrians will not go more than 150 feet out of their way to cross a street." When walking to Whatcom Falls Park, I try to turn off Lakeway as soon as possible to take a much more pleasant route along Lowell and York. Walking to the signal at Birch is not a good option. The new street connecting the Hannah Creek development to Parkstone Way will provide one option for some residents, but it will still be a longer route to most destinations, especially for those using the transit stops.

To support my request for a crosswalk, I am submitting a petition signed by 30 residents in the immediate vicinity of Parkstone Lane, along with a letter of support from the Parkstone Community Association.

We urge Whatcom County to install a pedestrian crosswalk and warning signs for motorists prior at the intersection to alert them of the pedestrian crossing. A flashing crosswalk signal would be best, but if the County does not currently have the budget for this, pedestrian flags would be an alternative low-cost option. The

City of Kirkland, Washington has been successful in reducing pedestrian accidents with the use of flags and now has 73 "pedflag" locations at streets with speeds from 25-35 mph. Research has shown that flags are effective at getting drivers to yield to pedestrians.¹

Although Whatcom County is primarily rural in nature, Geneva is a residential neighborhood, and the County should be doing more to encourage alternative mode options. Prioritizing bicycle and pedestrian trips over car travel would certainly be a great way to show that Whatcom County is serious about reaching climate change, environmental and clean water goals.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Eileen Kadesh

Homeowner
1381 N. Parkstone Ct.
Bellingham, WA 98229

Cc: Christ Thomsen, Whatcom County Pedestrian & Bicycle Committee
Dave Kangas, Board of Directors, Parkstone Community Association

¹ TCRP Report 112, "Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Crossings," p. 19.

Access

Real Estate Services

1313 East Maple Street

Suite 400

Bellingham WA 98225

July 10, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The Board of Directors of Parkstone Community Association supports the proposal made to Whatcom County Public Works Department for the Department's installation and maintenance of a marked crosswalk at or near the intersection of Lakeway and Parkstone Lane, based on the following:

- 1) There is no designated way for pedestrians to cross the street between Birch Street to the west and Geneva Street to the east. This is nearly 1.5 miles between designated crosswalks in a very walkable, highly residential neighborhood.
- 2) There is a sign near this intersection encouraging residents to reduce car use for clean water, but there is little being done to encourage pedestrian travel in the Geneva neighborhood.
- 3) Lakeway Drive near Parkstone Lane has one of the straightest stretches of visible area along the Lakeway corridor. It is probably one of the safer places on Lakeway in which to place a designated crosswalk.
- 4) Pedestrians want to take the most direct route. It is unrealistic to think that residents should walk all the way to the signal at Birch if they are just trying to get across the street to the nearest bus stop or to Lowell to take a pleasant, low-traffic route to Whatcom Falls Park, as opposed to staying on a high-traffic arterial.

We encourage Whatcom County Public Works Department to implement a low-cost means of making Lakeway Drive safer for pedestrian travel so that people walking dogs, using transit, or just out for a stroll do not have to race across the street. In addition to the crosswalk -- and potential pedestrian flags on both sides -- there should be signs on Lakeway Drive that warn drivers to watch for pedestrians.

Sincerely,



Board of Directors

Parkstone Community Association

James DeGolier

Kim Mindnich

Scott Ritchey

Edward Krause