

Whatcom County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 1/10/24

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Location: Garden Level Conference Room at the Public Works office at 322 N. Commercial St, Bellingham WA 98225

Agenda

I. Call to Order

Welcome and Introduction

- Chairperson's opening remarks.
- Introduction of committee members and guests.

Roll Call

- Formal roll call to record attendance.

II. Approval of Minutes

Review and Approval

- Discussion and approval of minutes from the previous meeting.

III. Public Comment

Open Floor Session

- Opportunity for public input and suggestions (2 minutes per speaker).

IV. Gary to deliver update on

Update on Letter to Airport/Port

- Presented by Gary: Current status and content of the letter.

Discussion of Future Steps

V. Guest Speaker

Cliff Strong

* 2025 Comprehensive Plan Review – Kick Off” where PDS staff will provide an overview of the task and process for the Committee’s review of Ch. 6 *Transportation* and Ch. 9 *Recreation*

VI. Update on Feedback or updates from meeting with Elizabeth Khosa

- Construction Detour
 - Wasn’t aware of specific policies in the county or if was a state law
 - Was open to creating a policy if we found it didn’t already exist in state law.
 - Some other city’s for reference to walk through policies

- NYC:
 - <https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2019/05/29/construction-firms-must-create-safe-detour-for-cyclists-or-have-their-permits-revoked>
 - <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3704357&GUID=011D0D83-B9DD-4947-86AC-88F162D90F31&Options=LD%7cText%7c&Search=1163-A>
 - <https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2018/10/03/five-questions-for-manhattan-council-member-carlina-rivera>
 - Portland:
 - <https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2016/06/30/portland-tells-builders-give-pedestrians-and-cyclists-safe-detours>
 - Seattle
 - <https://www.seattlebikeblog.com/2015/10/15/sidewalk-closed-must-be-a-last-resort-for-construction-proposed-city-rule-says/>
 - <https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/document-library/directors-rules-and-ordinances>
 - Copenhagen
 - <https://www.seattlebikeblog.com/2011/04/11/how-copenhagen-accommodates-cyclists-during-road-work/>
- Publicity.
 - We discussed 3ft passing of cyclists. Elizabeth mentioned she would write this down. Thanks for mentioning on newsletter 3ft bike law. Not sure if was due to the conversation or otherwise.
 - X, fb, podcast, etc - open to it all. Could be good opportunity to get BPAC message out there more broadly.
- Public Works fund directed to Sheriff's office
 - Diversion legally to enforcement.
 - 11 more deputies, public safety
- Public Works paying 1/3 for multi-modal planner
 - So, envision lots of collaboration between BPAC and this role.
 - Is this approved by county council?
- Sharing contact for WSDoT
 - Could reach out to ask regarding one direction closure on Chuckanut for cyclists certain Sunday AM's in Summer.
- Pilot projects
 - Suggested BPAC take up one or two new projects
 - Marine Drive project
 - She brought up delay due to tire dust study. Not possible to add off street due to private land
 - Steps to grant access to public land. Give right of way. Easement, with restrictions. Allow county to purchase property. Several options. Hard for condemnation, hasn't been done traditionally by county.
- Discussed and agreed with perceived value of signage. Lower cost, measurable safety improvements. Ryan brought up the three following points

- 3 feet of space for passing
- Bikes may take up full lane
- Spedometer signs. Whatcom county only has 1 permanent speedometer and two mobile ones. Very high request volume, not as effective once moved, folks return to higher speeds.

VII. Follow-Ups

- Jason to follow up if Doug has had any contact from Bellingham contractor for bike 10 year plan by Toole Design.
- Is Multi-modal planner approved by county council? Was told to ask Bennett

X. Additional Items

- Review of talk with SJC Alliance re- comp plan
 - Meeting notes from Rachelle Bradley_ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bzQS1_E2GILUblIube0O29cvYc368Uz1/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115022909307240190213&rtopf=true&sd=true
- Member Roles. Do members of the committee want to pick up a specific goal

IX. Inspiration

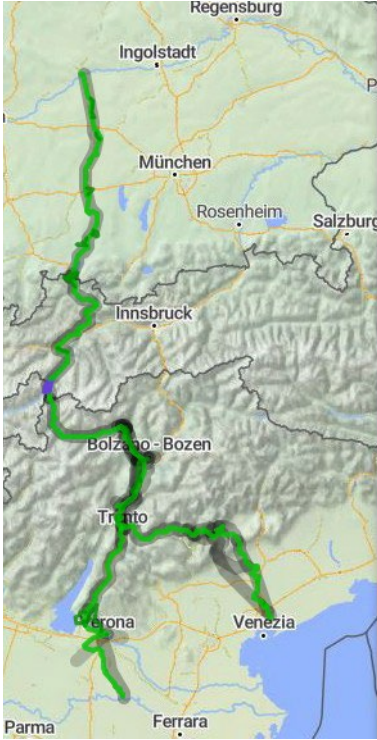
- Santa Barbara's closure of State Street <https://www.noozhawk.com/santa-barbaras-state-street-promenade-to-remain-closed-to-vehicles-through-at-least-2026/>



- Sierra Connected Communities <https://sierratrails.org/connected-communities/>



- Via Claudia Augusta <https://www.viaclaudia.org/en/via-claudia-augusta-welcome>



X. Review of Action Items

XI. Adjournment

Closing Remarks

- Chairperson concludes the meeting.