

Whatcom Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2022
Zoom Conference call

Members Present: Sonja Max, Stephen Zylstra, Sandy Phillips, Patrick Alesse, Brian Johnson, Sunny Beaver, Pete Sharp, Robin Thomas, Kelly Kendall

Members Absent: Gary Malick

Staff Present: Jason Ardt (Public Works liaison)

Public Present/Public Comments: None

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Sonja

Approval of February meeting minutes; moved by Stephen, seconded by Sunny and approved unanimously

Co-chair report:

- It was announced that a new committee member, Walter Hudsick, has been approved by the Executive
- Sonja said that Walter has experience writing RFQs and may be able to help write one for the route map project.
- Sonja and Stephen met with Lane Potter of the Bellingham Parks Dept. regarding the trail through the Lockwood property from Marine Drive to Wynn Road. This would allow for an alternate route to the bridge. Lane indicated that could be considered with the Public Works bike and ped improvements from Alderwood to the bridge. Lane invited Stephen and Sonja to present this trail proposal to the Greenways Committee.
- Sonja shared a preview of the new BPAC web page that Brian has developed. Discussion ensued about the links and the possibility of setting up a Facebook page on a trial basis to allow for public comments and feedback. Question arose if a Facebook page would be allowed by the County. Consensus was to put the Facebook page on hold for now.

COB/Master plan update:

- City of Bellingham transportation planner Chris Comeau is unable to join us in April. He plans to come to the May meeting.
- Sonja observed that the city has specific prescribed guidelines for lane widths/sidewalks/bike lanes. How does this apply when transitioning to an Urban Growth Area (UGA)?
- Jason indicated that roads in UGAs are the responsibility of the County to maintain. If those areas are annexed by the City, the City pays back the county on a 10-year pro-rated depreciation basis.
- Patrick shared his informal survey of bike and pedestrian traffic on the multi-use trail along Birch Bay between Alderson and Harborview Roads.

Inspiration:

- Sonja shared videos of multi-use trails and bike lane improvements in Boulder CO and Austin TX.
- Robin brought up the recent maps published in the Bellingham Herald regarding areas that will be affected by sea level rise. In particular, she cited the raised pathway along Haxton way. She questioned what provisions are being made to allow for this when plans are developed. Sonja indicated that the first step is to get it into the county comprehensive plan.

Updates:

- Jason reported that the Galbraith parking lot improvements should be opened by May.

- Jason also reported on a hit and run collision on Northwood Rd near Pangborn. It occurred between a car and cyclist in August at 05:00 am and the cyclist sustained minor injuries.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:24 PM