

# WHATCOM COUNTY BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## *Meeting Minutes*

March 20, 2019

### **Members present**

Alan McConchie  
Sunny Beaver  
Mark Owings  
Stephen Zylstra  
Eileen Kadash  
Jason Ardt (Public Works)  
Patrick Alesse  
Kyle Morris

### **Guests**

Harrison Winkel (WWU geography student interning with us this summer)

### Note:

Sue Towner resigned in the last month, so we have one vacancy.

### **Approval of previous meeting minutes**

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Minutes approved

### **Trail Summit**

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Mark, Stephen and Eileen attended the trail summit on February 28, 2019.

Sponsored by Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Foundation, invited lots of local groups, state agencies like Fish & Wildlife, Blaine - Birch Bay Parks District, Kendall Connectivity Trail Association. Each group / entity gave presentations.

One presentation noted that the City of Bellingham has 70 miles of trails, and Whatcom County has about 70 miles, as well.

Fish & Wildlife presented on new trails around Slater Road.

Question was how do people find out about these new projects?

AllTrails app was mentioned as a place that has most of these new projects listed.

Recreation Northwest is putting together a comprehensive trail map for the county.

## **Report on the plan for Whatcom County Bicycle Plan update**

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Eileen, Tara, & Stephen have been working on this. Met on March 5th.

Goal is to make the report a lot smaller and tighter so people will actually read it. Also include an Executive Summary.

Sunny will reach out to Tara to try to help.

Tara plans to come back next month with an outline.

We want to include more about Safe Routes to School. Contact Chris Elder about that.

## **Proposed plan for the Priority Projects packet**

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We're going to start by focusing on the top 5 or 10 of our list to get started on developing our one-page summaries.

Alan & Harrison shared the sketch of the one-page sheet which will become refined during the summer internship.

Reviewing for our new members: this priority list is our effort to update the list in the Bike- Ped Plan from 2010.

## **Update on the ADA consultant project**

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Eileen is on the panel for hiring the ADA consultant.

Supposedly the consultant will start in May, the project will be complete in August, and taken to the Council in October.

We're hoping to see opportunities to make more pedestrian improvements.

The consultant's mandate is to go over all the County roads that have sidewalks and identify obstructions, issues with curbs, problems with crosswalks, etc. They will identify the projects and help the county prioritize when to make those improvements.

## **Bike-to-Work Day Station**

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Suzanne Mildner from the County Exec's office will partner with us and provide the tent, etc at the Courthouse.

Any ideas for goodies to give away? Patrick offered to print stickers.

## **Priority Projects Van Tour**

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Sunday, April 7 is the van tour.

Leaving at 9am from the parking lot in front of this building. You can park your personal car in that lot. If you want to securely park your bike in the garage under this building, Jason has access to that.

## **Planning for follow-up meeting with Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director**

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He's interested in meeting, but he wanted us to consider some questions first.

1. How does BPAC intend to square the new priority list with the County's existing service model?

BPAC's top priorities are now all off-right-of-way trails. Will that be a mandate for Public Works to do (which normally doesn't work outside of the ROW) or will it be the responsibility of Parks to do it?

Maybe organizing our list a little differently to separate funded projects from unfunded ones would help.

2. Is BPAC willing and able to hold the line on existing programming while we explore new collaborations?

We need to be clear that we strongly support the existing projects, too.

All those projects would be on the 6-year TIP.

(note that Kendall Connectivity Trail is a WSDOT project, not County. Exec is committed to not building an off-ROW trail that's along a road that isn't ours)

3. Lay out the intention for the Community Project Program

But where is this money going to come from?

This is one way to keep our plan dynamic.

4. Clarify the work that such a proposal would generate and cost to run it (related to the community project program)

Would someone from Public Works need to do research on it? Who's doing oversight?

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.