



Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Wednesday, April 12th 2023 @ 6:00pm

See BPAC website (below) for meeting information:

<http://www.whatcomcounty.us/275/Bicycle-Pedestrian-Advisory-Committee>

Members Present: Stephen Zylstra, Pete Sharp, Patrick Alesse, Kelly Kendall, Gary Malick, Sonja Max, Sunny Beaver, Dick Joss, John Upston, Sandy Brewer

Staff Present: Jason Ardt, (Public Works Liason), Elizabeth Kosa, (Director of Public Works), Bennett Knox, (Director of Parks and Rec)

Called to order at: 6 PM

Public comment/Public Present: none

Approval of March Meeting Minutes - Minuets Approved Unanimously

Co-Chair Updates

- Sonja & Stephen met with a resident on the north part of Britton Road, Gervasio Tirigall. who has safety concerns for people walking and biking along a stretch of Britton Road just north of the City Limits. Stephen and Sonja recommended the neighborhood create a petition for a safety study and lowered speed limit, with the goal of adding bike and ped facilities. It also may be put on the route map.
- Sonja introduced new committee member, Dick Joss.
- Walter Hudsick resigned. He had to move to another location.
- The city is doing a tour of the Lockwood Property on June 9th, and the Port will probably also be there. Our interest in that property is as an alternative to the dangerous bridge on Marine Drive near Wynn Rd.
- Also, the city (Bellingham) has opened comments for their bike and pedestrian plan. Sonja will send a link to their website.
- On 2 May, Sonja and Stephen, along with Ms Kosa and Mr. Knox, will meet with the Executive to talk about active transportation opportunities.

Public Works Director Introduction & BPAC background

- Sonja introduced the new Director of Public Works, Elizabeth Kosa. Ms Kosa explained some of her background before coming to Bellingham

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- The members of the committee provided an introduction to her, including where they lived and why they joined the committee. We also mentioned how big an asset Jason is to work with, and how much assistance and clarification he provides the committee.
- Sonja explained what we do in examining the needs for multi-modal facilities, be it roads or trails, in the county and how we recommend such things. She displayed our current route map, and elaborated on some of our ideas, as well as the plan for a consultant, and possibilities, as we understand it, for funding of the consultation.
- Stephen explained how we had talked with Jon Hutchings about working with Public Works to identify priority bike and pedestrian routes around the county. He said that our #1 priority is the route to Ferndale.
- Gary mentioned the benefits of Marine Drive, Phase 1, and that Phase 2 is coming up.
- Pete mentioned (as a side note) that he'd been out exploring the Ferndale area and found an area that was nice to ride in South of Thornton, East of Mountainview, Jason identified this as an area called "The Meadows," which is in the City of Ferndale. It is an area where it would be possible for families to enjoy riding with safety.
- The Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan for the County was adopted in 2011. Sonja highlighted a quote from the then head of the Federal Highway Administration stating that it was expected each state transportation department would allow for new construction to include consideration of bicycle and pedestrian useage. Ms Kosa wondered about the possibility of a note on Title Six and Equal Access. Sonja mentioned the possibility that we should consider the updating of the plan. Discussion followed.
- Gary mentioned the need to keep lanes, etc maintained, and also complemented public works for cleaning up and responding to calls about some need for work on paths.
- John mentioned that walkers would want to cross streets to bus stops. Sonja mentioned the need to overlay some of our paths with bus stops.
- Ms Kosa asked how far the RFQ for the consultant had gone. Jason updated some of the situations that had been encountered when developing it. He thinks it may be ready to go shortly. It's a question of funding. There is \$20K each in the 2023 and 2024 Paths and Trails budget.

Bike to Work and School Day.

- Not sure it is going to happen, they will get back on it. If it happens, it will be from 7-9am on May 19th. Sonja asked for volunteers and she'll let them know if it happens. Gary suggested the station at Western as an alternative.

Resumption of in person meetings.

- Jason said that IT can do part of the year in person and part of the year remote if they keep county Zoom Access, and it doesn't look like that is going away. Jason mentioned that a good alternative location for in person meetings would be at the county annex at NW and Smith, where there is also a good conference room with a big screen.

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Ms Kosa suggested a hybrid version if necessary. John is willing to come down from Pt Roberts if there is a pattern. Sonja thought that it would be dependent on the proper equipment, for hybrid. Patrick said that maybe once a quarter would be good. Gary gave reasons for staying virtual. Sunny likes a mixture, so does Kelly. Maybe once a quarter for in person. Co-chairs will discuss. Sonja asked for a show of hands on the Annex location. Looked positive.

Announcements:

- Jason said that Gary's bike parking recommendation was approved last night (11 April)

Inspiration: Video that showed the engineering of break-away poles, and how they are positioned right where pedestrians are supposed to be standing

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM

Respectfully,

SANDY PHILLIPS, AKA SANDY BREWER

5. Bike to Work and School Day station – May 19

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6. Discuss returning to in-person meetings
7. Inspiration

8. Announcements
9. Adjourn

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