

Whatcom County Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2019

Attendees

Eileen Kadesh, Chair
Matt Paskus
Kyle Morris
Gary Malick
Sunny Beaver
Mark Owings

Jason Ardt – Public Works
Harrison Winkel - Intern

Absent: Tara Satushek, Patrick Alysse, Alan McConchie, Stephen Zylstra

The meeting convened at 5:30 pm.

The minutes of the March 20, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

Those who participated in the April 7th van tour concurred that the tour was very useful in helping new committee members learn more about our priority projects. It was agreed that next time a different vehicle might be more appropriate, and it would be useful to get out of the van and walk more.

Kyle presented the idea of helping bridge communications and relationships between the BPAC and the City of Bellingham Transportation Commission. Kyle expressed interest in attending both meetings every month to encourage a better understanding between the two entities.

Tara is expected to present a draft of the Ped/Bike Plan update in June. She and Sunny are working together on this.

Update on the Blaine-Birch Bay Trail: Sheli Moore requested the County's help on the Harborview Hill section of the proposed trail route. The bridge over California Creek was also identified as an immediate priority.

Eileen and Jon Hutchings (Public Works Director) discussed the potential of identifying spot improvements needed on some of our priority project routes, such as Northshore Drive, where a climbing lane could be very useful.

Eileen presented the idea of having BPAC members and other volunteers conduct counts on selected County roads, either this summer or in the fall, in conjunction with the Statewide bicycle/pedestrian count. Some roads could include: Birch Bay Drive, Birch Bay-Lynden Road, Hannegan Road, Marine Drive, Lakeway Drive, Cable Street, Lake Whatcom Boulevard, Northshore Drive, Slater Rd., Smith Road and Airport Drive. Some committee members also suggested using STRAVA and Whatcom Smart Trips data, although it was pointed out that STRAVA data might be skewed toward stronger riders.

Eileen discussed the Community Grant Program idea further with Jon Hutchings. This program would be for small neighborhood projects, such as crosswalk or short sections of sidewalks and bike lanes.

BPAC members will be able to review the Six-Year TIP in July, before it is presented to the County Council in September. It was suggested that we get priority projects ironed out in time for this review.

Airport Trail update: Eileen indicated that she had spoken with Greg McHenry in the Port of Bellingham Planning office. He said the Airport Master Plan is under review by the FAA. The Port has proposed building a new access road. If approved and funded, the plan would be to open the old road for use by cyclists and pedestrians. There was further discussion about use of the Lockwood property for a connecting trail.

Bike-to-Work and School Day (May 17th) - Jason has designed a banner and has had it printed. Eileen said Old Town Café, Black Drop Coffeehouse, and Great Harvest Bakery will provide food donations for the event. Sunny and Stephen will assist in staffing the station from 7 – 9 am.

Jason offered to look into logistical issues regarding use of volunteers to build trails on County ROW.

Eileen mentioned that Mark Owings will be organizing a tour of our top priority projects for County Councilmembers later in the summer, perhaps in August.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.