



Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Wednesday, June 14, 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, Gary Malick, Sonja Max, Sunny Beaver, Dick Joss,,
Sandy Brewer, Kelly Kendall

Member Excused: John Upston and Patrick Alesse

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

Called to order at: 6 PM

Public comment/Public Present: Daniel Tepper, Mark Parker and Dan Kostrzewski

Approval of May Meeting Minutes - Minutes Approved Unanimously

Co-Chair Updates

- Sonja reported on some dike repair work occurring along the Nooksack River between Marine Drive and Slater Rd. For the time being, that will be maintained as an unimproved walking/biking path. Sonja suggested that we need to track changes in the status of that path as we look to establish safe routes between Bellingham and Ferndale in the future.

Sonja also reported on the tour of the Lockwood property with the COB Greenways committee. Plans are to incorporate the path between Marine Dr. and Wynn Rd. with the phase two improvements on Marine Dr. Target for completion is fall of 2026, funding dependent (per Jason).

- Stephen noted that they had met with County Executive, Satpal Sidhu, and other officials in Whatcom County in hopes of reaching an agreement on what it would take to get a greater commitment from the county in order to get projects done. Kayla Scott Bressler, the strategic initiative manager at the executives office will act as the contact point for our committee. Sonja informed her of some time sensitive issues as planning goes forward.

Red Light Cameras/Speed Control Ideas

- Gary had raised the issue of using radar, cameras and increased enforcement to encourage lower vehicle traffic speeds. Jason pointed out that it is quite involved, as per RCW requirements. The county has permanent flashing speed advisory signs on Lake Whatcom Blvd. and Haxton Way currently. The county has one portable unit with two more on order, which can be placed at a specific location by request.

Public member Dan Tepper asked about digital message boards to display PSA messages. Jason said those fall outside the manual on uniform traffic control devices and the county does not deviate from that.

Encouraging more non-car commuting

- Pete asked for ideas as to how we can bolster the efforts of programs like Smart Trips and Walk and Roll to increase the use of bikes and walking to reduce vehicle traffic and get more people to opt out of routine car usage for short local trips.

Jason suggested that the communication specialist from the county could help to add that to the county website. Dan Kostrzewski suggested an Instagram campaign with an ambassador and competition element.

Bike/Pedestrian collision report

Jason shared a collision report on an accident near Lake Padden. Driver under the influence (twice legal limit) and using cell phone hit a vehicle parked on the side of the road with enough force to push it into a pedestrian who was in front of the parked vehicle, resulting in a leg injury to the pedestrian.

Second incident- Harborview and BirchBay-Lynden Rd. at a four way stop. Driver turning hit a pedestrian who was in an unmarked crosswalk, resulting in a minor wrist injury to pedestrian.

RFQ status update

- Jason indicates that the \$50,000 for the route map update is in the budget for this year and could be carried into next year.

Use of road funds update

- Jason said that, per RCW, they can be used for transportation, but not recreational purposes.
- Update on the Galbraith crosswalk project. New engineers for both city and county are working to progress the project. Lighting issues are delaying thing, but they may complete the crosswalk and finish lighting later.

Inspiration: Video that showed the network of bicycle trails that connect within Emeryville, CA. The mayor, as a cycling enthusiast, touted prioritizing bikes and pedestrians when designing road systems.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM

Respectfully,

Kelly Kendall