



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

See BPAC website (below) for meeting information:

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

BPAC Minutes

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

Member Excused: Gary Malick

Staff Present: Jason Ardt (county public works liaison), Bennett Knox (county parks director)

Called to order at 6pm

No public comment.

June minutes approved unanimously. Motion by Sandy Brewer. Seconded by Kelly Kendall

Committee Comments:

- Ryan Corley was introduced as a new member. He's fairly new to town and states he's excited to contribute to the committee to help the community.
- John Upston reports overgrown shrubs in Point Roberts that present a safety concern for cyclists. Jason suggested going to the county's website to request trimming.

Finalized TIP project request:

The committee agreed that the priority project that should be added to the TIP is a multimodal connection between Ferndale and Bellingham per the Committee's route map.

SmartTrips Funding

Pete introduced idea of asking the county to contribute to the county's Smart Trips program. The county made a one-time contribution of \$20,000 upon the creation of Smart Trips more than a decade ago while the City of Bellingham, the state, federal government contribute over \$20,000 annually and WCOG contributes \$15,000 annually. The contribution would go toward expanding outreach and education into the county. The committee agreed that a letter should be written asking the executive to consider a \$12,000 annual contribution. Pete will draft said letter.

Pedestrian Route Map

Stephen introduced plan of creating a pedestrian improvement route map with the goal of connecting well-used places—schools, neighborhoods, areas of commerce. It would define priority routes to ultimately inform the Dept of Public Works on future investments in pedestrian infrastructure.

It will identify these priority locations and then find the most appropriate, best routes. It will consider where bus stops are. It will define where best to use paths vs sidewalks.

Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are asked to contact the meeting facilitator at least 4 business days in advance.

Jason said that, outside of urban areas, sidewalks will be a “hard lift” due to heavy maintenance. Sandy broached the idea of providing education on direction of travel (against traffic) for safety’s sake.

September Ride

The committee discussed their next public ride with plan for September 16 starting at 10am. There will be a loop starting at Star Park in Ferndale, south on Ferndale Rd, east on Marine Dr and then north on the Nooksack Dike Trail and up to Hovander Park. Discussed avenues for getting the word out.

The committee watched an inspirational video as is their custom. Remote playback issues continued with sound.

The meeting was adjourned.

5. Bike to Work and School Day station – May 19
6. Discuss returning to in-person meetings
7. Inspiration

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8. Announcements

9. Adjourn