

Whatcom County Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

June 20, 2018 Minutes

Present: Daniel Tepper, Eileen Kadesh, Gary Malick, Sunny Beaver, Jason Ardt (new public works rep)

Absent: Alan McConchie, Sue Adamson-Towner, Annie Honrath, Chris Elder, Christ Thomsen

- May meeting minutes approved 5-0
- Airport Trail Update
 - Eileen and Daniel met with Jon Hutchings on 6/12 to discuss the airport trail. Jon Hutchings talked with Jack Louws about the project and Louws agreed to reach out to the Port.
 - Eileen, Gary, and Daniel will have a follow-up meeting with Louws (meeting unscheduled at this time)
- Outreach
 - Sunny and Eileen will do a brief presentation for the County Council Public Works and Health Committee on September 11, 2018
 - A main talking point will be the need for a full-time Active Transportation Planner position within public works.
- Discussion of County Budgeting Process
 - Daniel shared the minutes from the 5/29/18 Special County Council Meeting where the Executive and Councilmembers expressed their priorities for the next budget cycle.
 - Active transportation was not on anyone's priority list, which means the BPAC is not having any influence on this particular legislative process.
 - Daniel also mentioned the significance of the TIP vs. the Capital Facilities Budget. The TIP is a wish-list; the latter is the projects that will actually be funded and completed.
 - Discussion about alternative funding sources ensued; Eileen suggested that the Committee should be working even more with Public Works, Parks, and Planning.
- Discussion of Draft Work Plan
 - Eileen drafted a work plan for the committee to review ahead of a 6/26 meeting with Jon Hutchings.
 - The main questions that came up: how do we do this without a budget?; Does a volunteer citizen board have the qualifications to perform the activities?

- There seemed to be general agreement that many of the items listed in the work plan should be the responsibility of Public Works. Having an FTE dedicated to active transportation would make this more realistic.
- There's a possibility of a UW student undertaking some tasks related to the BPAC work plan as a capstone project.
- Discussion of project ranking criteria
 - Sunny wondered if UGA status should be weighted more heavily when ranking projects. Jason said that the County is actually less likely to complete a project in an area that will be annexed by the city.
 - Daniel brought up the concern that the ranking system would likely work differently for different types of infrastructure.
 - Gary added that priority should be given to dual purpose projects; i.e. those that contribute to the safety of all users.
- Other Business
 - Bob Wilson of COG will give an update on the Kendall Trail at the July meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm