

Whatcom County Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee

July 18, 2018

Minutes

Members present: Eileen Kadesh, Alan McConchie, Gary Malick, Daniel Tepper

Staff present: Jason Ardt, Public Works

Chris Elder, Planning

Members absent: Annie Honrath, Sue Adamson-Towner, Matt Paskus, Sunny Beaver

Highlights

- The meeting was called to order by Eileen at 5:37 pm.
- Eileen mentioned that Bob Wilson had to leave work early today, so he asked to postpone his presentation until our August meeting.
- Gary moved to approve the June meeting minutes, seconded by Daniel. Minutes approved unanimously.
- The group discussed the upcoming meeting with Jack Louws. Eileen mentioned that Gary, Daniel and she would be attending; Sue may also attend if she can.
- Eileen mentioned that she plans to discuss the Committee's goals, work plan, and priority projects. Two of the highest priorities for this meeting will be 1) to push for a full-time Active Transportation Manager that ideally would work directly under Jon Hutchings, and 2) to ask for more funding for bike/ped projects.

Gary mentioned that we should bring examples of other counties that have full-time bike/ped coordinators.

Daniel mentioned that the County once had a full-time real estate person whose salary was split between Parks and Public Works. Now the County has one real estate person just in Public Works who works on acquisition of property for County road projects only.

Gary believes we should ask for permission to pursue other funding opportunities for projects such as getting a crossing of the railroad tracks at Old Marine Drive.

The projects we plan to focus on in the meeting with Jack are Marine Drive area improvements, the Airport Trail, and the Nooksack Loop Trail, starting with the Bellingham to Ferndale section.

Eileen offered to talk with Gary further about crossing the railroad tracks along Old Marine Drive. Daniel mentioned that this idea was discussed at length when he was new to the Committee, but Joe Rutan basically said it was fraught with problems and would never happen.

Daniel said if the Marine Drive improvements happen on a piecemeal basis, that would not be useful.

- Jason handed out the draft Six Year TIP and pointed out the bike/pedestrian projects that are included in the plan:

1. **Birch Bay Berm (R1)** - This project has been postponed until late 2019 because the County and the Tribe can't come together on remediation relating to cultural resources and where to rebuy excavated dirt.
2. **Marine Drive (Locust to Alderwood) (R9)** – funded for construction in 2021
3. **Marine Drive II (Alderwood to Bridge 172) (R21)**– no funding
4. **Lincoln Rd (project R20)** - This is a brand new road, which would have bike lanes and sidewalks. Public Works is still looking for funding.
5. **Lakeway Drive Corridor Improvements (R25)** – This relates to putting in bike lanes, rather than a wide shoulder. Eileen asked if it would also include money for sidewalks on the north side of Lakeway between Lowe St. and Euclid. Jason said he did not know.
6. **ADA Barrier Removal (R31)** – pending a consultant study, which will start in late 2018

The Committee members present discussed the fact that there are no trail projects included in this TIP despite the fact that they are on our priority list. There was consensus that active transportation projects should be called out, not just road projects.

Daniel also emphasized that Whatcom County Public Works' TIP format is not user-friendly. He showed the Committee the TIP from the City of Bellingham, which is much easier for a layperson to understand.

- Eileen brought up the fact that we still have three vacancies on the Committee. There was a discussion of how we might let more organizations know about these vacancies. It was suggested that we reach out to the Mt. Baker Bicycle Club, the Mt. Baker Club, REI, the Lummi Tribe, Whatcom Community College, the WMBC, bike shops and Whatcom Watch to recruit new members.

Eileen also brought up the fact that several members of the Committee have been missing meetings on a fairly regular basis and asked what the group would like to do about that. It was suggested that meeting time or meeting day might be obstacles for some people. However, the group would like to wait until the fall to pin this down as it's difficult for many people to make meetings during the summer.

- Jason asked if we wanted him to ask for money for refreshments. In addition, Eileen suggested that all of the Whatcom County advisory committees should have a small budget (e.g., \$500). She specifically mentioned that when we wanted to print a banner for Bike-to-Work Day, we had no funds for that.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.