

# Whatcom County Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Meeting - August 21, 2019

## Members present

Eileen Kadesh (Chair)	Sunny Beaver
Rodney Vandersypen (Public Works)	Stephen Zylstra
Gary Malick	Matt Paskus
Mark Owings	Patrick Alesse
Sonja Max	Tara Satushek
Kyle Morris	

## Guests present

Carol Frazey (Whatcom County Councilmember)

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Eileen Kadesh

Approval of minutes from July 17, 2019 meeting

- Gary moved approval of minutes; Sonja seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

## Follow-Up and discussion from 8/7/19 presentation for the County Council Public Works Committee

- Carol Frazey enjoyed the presentation, and is enthusiastic about the work of the committee. She was particularly interested in the small community grant idea.
- Emphasis was placed on the reluctance of Public Works (PW) to take on bike/pedestrian projects if they don't have a transportation benefit.
  - Rodney: PW can't use road tax funds for trails unless they can guarantee a transportation benefit.
  - Sonja: Parks can't use REIT funding for trails outside of parks; the biggest hurdle is property acquisition.
- Sunny & Eileen: There is no one in PW dedicated to active transportation.
- Tara: How does our written plan fit into other planning endeavors? What will the Council and Executive do with the information?
  - Rodney: The plan is referenced in the Comprehensive Plan, which makes the projects eligible for funding.

- Carol Frazey indicated that we need to be “loud” and have a plan to get the attention of the County Council. She also expressed a willingness to bring up the small community grant idea with the full Council.
- Eileen asked about the priorities of the Council. Councilmember Frazey said the jail, Cherry Point comp plan amendments, and climate change are among the top priorities.

#### Discussion about Marine Drive bridge and pedestrian danger

- Gary recently witnessed a pedestrian being forced into traffic on the Marine Dr bridge.
- He emailed John Hutchings about it and PW sent Jason Ardt out to take a look. The same dangerous situation was also witnessed by Jason.
- Possible solutions discussed were signs indicating which side of the bridge to walk on and lowering the speed limit, which is currently 40 mph. The County Council would have to approve any speed limit changes.
- Gary also has a meeting planned with a representative from the Lummi Nation and will provide the committee with future follow-up on the topic, including a report from Jason Ardt.

#### Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Discussion

- Eileen said that Sheli Moore (BBBPRD2) has several items that the County could undertake in order to advance the Bay to Bay Trail.
  - CA creek crossing; get funding for bridge into 6-year TIP
  - Shoulder enhancements on a .3 mile section of Anderson Rd and .2 mile section of Drayton Harbor Road
  - Crossing at Drayton Harbor Road

#### Airport Trail Update (Eileen)

- The plan is under the second FAA review, which is 45 days
- Master plan scheduled for adoption by the Port Commission at the September or October meeting.

#### Bike/Ped Count Discussion

- The state is not doing the annual count this year for the first time in quite a few years
- Matt: concerned that the counts may actually undermine our cause; i.e. low counts will not justify our desired projects. Emphasize that the projects need to stand on their own merits, independent of counts
- Sonja: Suggested using any initial counts as a baseline for future comparisons.
- Rodney: Suggested that we ask Jason about using traffic counters with bikes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.