

Whatcom County Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee

October 17, 2018

Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm

Members present: Eileen Kadesh (chair), Alan McConchie, Sue Towner, Daniel Tepper, Jason Ardt (public works), Chris Elder (planning), Gary Malick, Sunny Beaver

Guests present: Aaron Dutton (member of public)

Sheli Moore & Ted Morris (Blaine-Birch Bay Parks and Recreation District)

Approval of minutes from September 13th meeting. Minutes approved unanimously

Presentation by Sheli Moore & Ted Morris of the Blaine-Birch Bay Parks and Recreation District (BBBPRD)

- The BBBPRD is looking to create a safe bike route between Birch Bay and Blaine (see map handout)
- The route is 8.9 miles, 5 miles of which are pre-existing
- They are working on getting easements to the east of Drayton Harbor Rd, as it is very busy with vehicular traffic.
- Easements for a park at California Creek have been secured through a partnership with the Whatcom Community Land Trust.
- Public Works has a planned stormwater project on Harborview Drive, which is part of the route.
- Plans for a bicycle bridge over Dakota Creek
- Construction of the sections covered by the easements expected to start in 1-2 years, using volunteer labor when possible.
- The district currently has \$100K in funding
- Requested that the BPAC add this project to their priority list.
- Daniel noted that Parks and Recreation Districts have shouldered much of the work for trail projects that aren't in parks and commended the BBBPRD for its work.

Action Taken: Eileen Kadesh moved that the project be added to the BPAC's priority list; Sue Towner seconded and the motion carried unanimously

Chris Elder provided an update on the scoring criteria

- Addition of criteria for city coordination and project design
- He noted that he's been meeting with the cities of Lynden and Ferndale to see how county trail can connect to city trails
- Daniel suggested that the ranking criteria be linked to the required safe route plans required of the school districts and that the BPAC would need access to these plans

Action Taken: Daniel moved to have Planning & Development Services (PDS) compile a list of Safe Routes to Schools plans for the committee; the motion carried unanimously

Further Discussion of the Scoring Criteria

The committee went through each item and made the following changes (see original and edited documents)

- Gary: Is there any way to gauge safety concerns other than with collision data from public works? (ranking item #1)
- Alan: What about roads that are perceived as unsafe, but don't have any collisions? (#1)
- Eileen: How do we define direct access? (#2, #4)
- Daniel: Sidewalks are not required in the county, which ties into safe routes to school (#2)
- Eileen: how do we define low, medium, and high cost (#7)
- Daniel: We don't have data on matching funds available to us. Jason was asked to propose something with more data (#8)
- Alan: Do we have all the data to determine if a project is engineered and permitted? (#11)
- Daniel - Should a project have a recreational and/or transportation benefit? (#11)
- Eileen and Jason will work to get the point totals down to 100
- All committee members were asked to rank three projects from the priority list. Applying the criteria will require seeking out narratives on the projects

Other Items

- Matt Paskus sent a letter to WWU spatial lab about having a student help us. We can likely get an intern during the spring 2019 quarter. Matt will supervise the intern.
- Trails Summit tentatively scheduled for early 2019
- A new committee member, Mark Owings, was appointed by Jack Louws. The confirmation of the appointment goes before the County Council at the 10/23/18 regular meeting.
- This was the committee's first meeting in its new location: 322 N Commercial St
- November meeting to be re-scheduled due to the Thanksgiving holiday

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40pm