

Whatcom County Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee

April 13, 2022

Minutes

Members present: Sonja Max, Stephen Zylstra, Gary Malick, Sunny Beaver, Pete Sharp, Robin Thomas, Kelly Kendall, Sandy Phillips, Walter Hudsick, Patrick Alesse

Staff present: Jason Ardt (Public Works)

Public present: none as of start

Sonja Max called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

1. There were no public comments.
2. Gary moved to approve the minutes of the March BPAC meeting. Sunny seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Welcome new committee member, Walter Hudsick. He is the interim President of Bellingham Technical College and a long time bike commuter.
4. **Co Chair Update** - The Chairs attended the Greenways meeting. They were involved in discussions around the idea of putting a trail through the city of Bellingham Parks department-owned Lockwood property connecting through Port of Bellingham property with the overall idea of connecting from Alderwood Ave to Wynn Road. The project has been estimated at costing \$1-1.5 million.
5. **Slater Road** - Stephen updated us on a possible \$1.3 million grant from the state for road improvements to raise the roadbed along Slater Road, from the railroad to the river. The BPAC wants to be proactive in giving input on making sure these improvements are bike and ped friendly. Jason will be checking into this.
6. **Samish Way/ Galbraith Crossing** Robin gave us an update on the project to provide a crossing of Samish way at the newly built parking lot with 148 stalls

for those using the Galbraith mountain bike trail system. The Bike club built the lot, the county is designing and funding the crossing and the city of Bellingham is building it. The city council still needs to approve this, so this project may take a bit more time to complete. Robin mentioned that street lights in the area would be a good idea. Pete asked if it was a straight or diagonal crossing. Jason said it will be a straight crossing. Robin and Jason mentioned updating a draft of the letter to the executives office to reflect our concerns of safety in this area.

7. **Upcoming Grants-** There are a large amount of new grants that will be available in the near future. These are geared to bike and ped projects. Jason mentioned the county is applying to use some of the dollars to support the bike ped improvements on phase 2 of the Marine Drive upgrade. Gary mentioned applying for funding for projects that will provide safe crossing of the railroad tracks just after phase 2's boundaries. The idea of either a parallel Bike /Ped bridge not attached to the existing bridge or a At-Grade crossing at the end of Old Marine Drive was discussed.
8. **Bike to Work and School day-** It will be on May 20th this year. BPAC would like to have a table at the south entrance of the courthouse from 7:30 am - 9:00 am. Members are needed to run the station and look for donations to have as giveaways.
9. **Summer Meetings** – a discussion was had regarding BPAC summer meetings, The August meeting may be an organized group ride, more information to come
10. **Inspirational Videos** – Sonja shared 2 inspirational videos, the first one on Edge Lane Roads, a low-cost solution to narrow roads and how to promote safe sharing of the public roads (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OfHjukWIU>). The second one was on the San Luis Bike trail, a 9 mile trail along the Rey River (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBdMqvhiCMI>). Members commented on how nice it would be to have this along the Nooksack river between Ferndale and Bellingham.

11. **Announcements** - Pete shared about the Ski to Sea bike route being different this year.

12. **Meeting adjourned** at 7:23 pm