

Whatcom County Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee
September 14, 2022, 6pm, Virtual Meeting Format

Minutes

Members present: Present: Patrick Alesse, Sunny Beaver, Walter Hudsick, Kelly Kendall, Gary Malick, Sandy Phillips, Pete Sharp, Sonja Max & Stephen Zylstra Co-Chairs

Excused: none

Staff present: Jason Ardt (Public Works)

Public present: Amali Morning Song

Meeting was called to order by Sonja at 6:01 PM.

1. **Public comment:** Amali Morning Song. She commutes from Bellingham to Lummi nation about twice a week and is concerned about the bridge by Smith Greenhouses. She says that Jason was very helpful. She has actually been hit by a car in Bellingham. Curious about joining BPAC. Gary agreed about how bad the bridge is. Sonja encouraged her to apply.
2. **Approval of July meeting minutes postponed.**
3. **Co-chair updates**
 - a) Stephen & Sonja met with WSDOT staff to introduce the idea of a multimodal path from Bellingham to Maple Falls along SR 542. Stephen and Sonja invited Chris Elder from WC Public Works; from WSDOT Kenneth Loen and Mike Koidal were present. WSDOT said it is a project they would support, but a county department would have to spearhead the planning (Public Works, Parks or COG). Jason says Public Works would probably not have a lead part on it, since it's not on county roads. It was recommended to focus on segments, which could be built individually. Gary says that it seems strange the State Route would look for the county to do some of the work. But, it seems we can advocate for Pedestrian and Bike projects with the state. Jason is under the impression that the WSDOT Active Transportation Plan indicates projects on a county-approved plan, should be built along state highways were feasible. Other potential contacts for this project are:
Elizabeth Sjostrum, WSDOT
Barb Chamberlain, WSDOT
Cliff Strong, WC Planning
 - b) New BPAC applicant – Steve Bailey
 - c) Group ride debrief: It was a great ride. Tailwind out *and back!* Discussed our stop on Lummi Shore Road and the offer of frozen Salmon. Talk of a fall ride. Pete suggested Maple Falls/Glacier. Gary suggested that maybe the next group activity would be a "Walk" since we are a bike PEDESTRIAN committee. Patrick discussed a survey he's done in the Birch Bay area of density of bikes and pedestrians along the road, not on the Berm. Next group event will be a walk.
3. **RFQ Update (Jason)** - Jason on the RFQ. Says Doug is going to attend the Transportation Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) for COG, and he's going to find out more about the COG safety action plan. COG submitted a grant request under the SS4A or "Safe Streets for All." Roughly a Billion Dollars per year for 5 years will be

granted directly to local municipalities by the federal government. Jason and Doug will continue to keep us posted on the progress of funding for the route map project.

4. **Website** – Jason forwarded correspondence saying it was ready to go. Stephen and Sonja say look at website, if you have comments - send to co-chairs and they will compile it for one round of feedback.
5. **Crash Report** – Jason addressed the crash report. He said he'd put up the reports - but it covers almost 3 quarters and six crashes. We looked, listened, and commented. These come from State Patrol via WSDOT. Jason has to go out and look at all the areas where there are cyclists and pedestrians involved. We discussed all six incidents in detail, with photos and maps. Gary mentioned how, as a cyclist, you can't always stay on shoulder, because the shoulder often disappears on a bridge, something that prompted further discussion. Jason looks at road conditions, shoulder conditions, and condition of markings, among other things.

6. **TIP** – Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan Discussion

East Smith and Hannegan is delayed because of right of way issues, owner does not want to provide property. Sonja asked if design was completed. Jason said he thinks design is completed.

Samish Way & Galbraith - Jason submitted a no parking zone on Samish from the City limits out to the parking lot.

Birch Bay Lynden and Blaine Road - roundabout - no idea where they are on this but Jason has requested that we get to review.

Northwest and Smith road - a traffic engineering firm reviewed and two options, a single lane roundabout or a single wire traffic signal. No decisions yet. No design begun

Slater and Northwest - full size roundabouts. Money appropriated by legislature. Sonja said she would hope bike pedestrian facilities on them, but we don't know results.

Birch Bay Drive lighted Crosswalks at the new parks property. Plan is to put in a Pedestrian activated signal. Patrick asked about a 5T limit. The 5T limit is on Birch Bay Drive from Shintaffer Rd to Harborview Rd.

Sonja asked about the bike lanes that were made narrower on Birch Bay drive when the berm was built and what the chances were of re-widening the lanes. Jason will evaluate

Marine Drive Phase II, engineering in 2024 and planning 2024, and construction in 2026

Lakeway to Cable - potential for working with Bellingham and making improvements for ped/cycle improvements. Are Multimodal improvements possible continuing from the city's version of that amenity? Jason suspects not. Sonja brought up the problem of drivers cutting corners into the bike lanes – a physical barrier would help. Discussion followed.

Lincoln Road, new extension Birch Bay Blaine Parks and Rec had discussed a bike route, and this would be a possibility for part of it. Patrick discussed the area and fact it's pretty dangerous. Raven Whitewolf is their consultant, and Patrick praised her.

Sonja shared the route map, and discussed how improvements need to be made. Problem with 548 is no shoulders and high speeds and the least time spent on 548 the better.

Portal Way reconstruction from Birch Bay Lynden to Blaine.

Sonja commented on the Little Squalicom Bridge, Jason explained it could be addressing deck or superstructure. It's a pinch point, since the bike lanes disappear on bridge, though they are on both sides. Stephen mentioned there is a fairly wide curb on one side.

37 Million received in grant funding to replace the current Lummi Ferry. Improvements would probably include bike infrastructure and ped infrastructure

"Unanticipated pedestrian and bike improvements. Some money is set aside, and includes \$170 K the first year.

We discussed an improvement crosswalk, Bennett and Alderwood need for a Hawk signal, and Geneva and Cable flag beacon upgrade. Public Works has not yet determined which type of signal (HAWK or RRFB) is appropriate at which location.

7. **Inspiration video** – Sent via email due to time constraints <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-europe-57944428>
8. **Meeting adjourned at 8:04**