



Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 @ 6:00pm

See BPAC website (below) for meeting information:
<http://www.whatcomcounty.us/275/Bicycle-Pedestrian-Advisory-Committee>

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
2/14/24

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Gary Malick

Members Present: Patrick Alesse, Sunny Beaver, Charlie Heggem, Dick Joss, Kelly Kendall, Gary Malick, Sandy Philips, Becca Shew

Members Absent: Ryan Corley, Pete Sharp

County Staff Present: Jason Ardt (Public Works; Staff liaison to committee) Cliff Strong (Long Range Planning), Rod Lamb (Parks & Recreation)

Public Present: Carr Lanham (WA Traffic Safety Commission), Daniel Tepper (Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Foundation), Caroline Dietzgen, Diana Davison, Britt Magnuson, Dan Weikivitch, Alexis Hunzinger (remote), Keenan Thomas (remote), Sonja Max

Public Comment

- Diana Davidson & Britt Magnuson expressed frustration with being unable to safely walk from the Sunnyland neighborhood to Sunset Square due to a lack of sidewalks.
- Jason explained that those areas are entirely within Bellingham City limits and that the committee only has influence on facilities in the unincorporated parts of Whatcom County.
- Gary suggested that we pass these comments on to the city. Jason agreed that was something we could do.

Minutes Approval

- Sunny moved approval of the January 2024 meeting minutes; Dick seconded
- Minutes were unanimously approved

Comprehensive Plan Update Discussion (Led by Cliff Strong)

- BPAC members were invited to submit comments on the transportation and recreation elements of the Comprehensive Plan ahead of the 2025 update. We discussed the comments as a group and made some changes to the comments based on the discussion.
- Cliff Strong started the conversation with saying that the implementation of goals should be flexible, but agreed with our comments that the language needs to be tightened up.
- Daniel Tepper asked if there was a mechanism for Parks and Planning to work together on trail alignment. Sonja added that even though the route for the Bay to Baker trail was pretty clear, some the land reverted to private ownership.
- Rod Lamb suggested replacing the word “trail” with “path”
- Cliff Strong suggested that the committee speak to the county council
- Gary expressed that community connections are the overall goal, but that we tend to lost in the details
- Charlie added that our goals of community connection should also have schools in mind.
- Daniel suggested language requiring that Parks and Public Works collaborate to implement the comp plan policies.
- See revised comp plan comments below

Action Item

- Dick moved to approve the revised General Comments; Gary Seconded
- The motion passed unanimously.

Airport Trail Update (Gary)

- He’s been working with Jed Holmes in the Executive’s office and has correspondence with Kurt Baumgarten(KB) at the Port of Bellingham.
- Jason has been in contact with KB . The new airport director, Kip Turner, seems to be receptive to making the connection between Kope Rd and the Lockwood property.
- There will be a meeting in the coming weeks with the Port, City and County Officials. It was also requested that two BPAC members be present. Gary and Charlie will represent the committee at the meeting.
- Sonja wondered if it was possible to do a side path along Marine Dr to get around the tire dust study that’s holding up the next phase of the project. Jason said that there is no money to review that right now and that engineering will have to look at it later on.
- Gary suggested that he’s willing to wait the two years on the tire dust study in order to get the sidewalks installed on Marine Dr.
- Daniel Tepper gave some historical context and details about dealing the Port for trail planning. Despite over 500 people showing up for an Open House, the previous airport director was not supportive of the trail. He suggested that it might be possible to request that new airport director reconsider the actions taken by his

predecessor.

- Gary attended a Port Commission meeting as a private citizen and suggested that may be a more effective way to move these projects along. Daniel echoed this sentiment.
- The example was given of the letter that BPAC sent on the topic taking 2.5 months to get to the right person, as we are required to run everything through the Executive's office.

New Business: WSDOT Active Transportation Assistance Program

- Rod Lamb from Parks briefed the committee on a WSDOT program that Whatcom County has been selected for, specifically the Marrieta census block.
- The Marrieta area fits the criteria of being under-served with active transportation projects and resources
- This would be something that the new multi-modal transportation planner would lead; that position should be filled this fall.
- The committee's suggested route from Bellingham to Ferndale could benefit this area and be eligible for WSDOT resources in this program.
- Daniel asked if there had been any contact with Lummi Nation. Rod mentioned that the census tract lies entirely within the Reservation, coordination with them was absolutely necessary, specifically, Kirk Vinish Lummi Nation Public Works and Planning Director.
- Gary suggested a good connection would be from Marrietta to the bike lanes on Marine Dr at Alderwood.

Public Comment

- Dan Weikivitch voiced his concerns over the safety of a bike/ped project in the Marrieta area, as many of the people living in RVs on Cornwall Ave have moved to Marrieta and that it didn't feel safe to walk or bike on Cornwall when the RVs were present
- Alexis Hunzinger & Keenan Thomas didn't have any specific concerns and were just getting a feel for the committee's work.

New Member Introduction

- The Committee welcomed new members Charlie Heggem and Becca Shew

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

