



MINUTES: Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

ATTENDANCE

VOTING MEMBERS

QUORUM: Yes No

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Kendall | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payden Waldo | <input type="checkbox"/> John Upston | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Bush |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick Alesse | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Kostrzewski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charlie Heggem | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gervasio Tirigall | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrew Davis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandy Brewer | | | |

NON-VOTING STAFF/GUESTS PRESENT

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Ardt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bennett Knox | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Riley Sweeney | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nancy Whipple |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Elsworth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Corley | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | |

CHAIR: None

MINUTES TAKER: Payden Waldo

Date: February 11, 2026, Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm,

Location: Civic Center Garden Level Conference Room 322 N. Commercial St., Bellingham WA 98226

Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aaVfX6biQICPFoT5w3rL2Q

CALL TO ORDER _____

1. Welcome

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES _____

1. The Chair introduces the minutes from the prior meeting and asks for discussion or changes.

2. The Chair then entertains a motion to accept the minutes.
 - a. Motion: _____ b. Second: _____
 - b. All in Favor, any opposed?
 - c. Motion: Carries Fails

Committee deferred approval of Jan Meeting Minutes to the March meeting.

Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are asked to contact the meeting facilitator at least 4 business days in advance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the Public are invited to provide up to 3 minutes of public comment on any topic pertaining to the committee.

- Ryan Corley discussed time with the committee.
- Was notified earlier in the month that he would not have his time renewed as Chair of BPAC. Ryan took over halfway through his predecessor's tenure and indicated his expectation that he was going to be given a full term.
- Ryan made a request during public comment for more context on the decision to not extend his term as Chair.
- Riley Sweeney provided feedback that there was a desire for a more collaborative spirit and that the executive wanted to move in a different direction.
- Dan K. provided feedback that much of the committee was surprised by the announcement and have gotten limited clarity on the decision to not continue Ryan's time as chair of BPAC.
 - Requested more clarity on the meaning of "effectiveness" in association with the decision to not extend Ryan's chair appointment.
 - Requested clarity on the decision in writing to the committee.
- Kelly K. commented that he felt Ryan has been very effective during his time as Chairperson of BPAC. He went on to say that Ryan was thrown into the appointment and has not been given due credit for his time and also felt that the decision was out of the blue.
- Riley S. agreed communication could have been better.
- Gervasio T. made a request that key performance indicators be lined out for the committee by the executive. Asked if we need a framework and how evaluation should be managed. Suggested that collaboration is critical but so is outlook.
- Sandy B. reminded the committee and public that the charter of BPAC only requires meetings 1x/quarter and also that he felt Ryan adapted well into the role.
 - Mentioned a concern he has that BPAC's role is to advise and challenge the committee on issues not go along with them.
 - Agreed that having expectations clarified by the executive would be beneficial.
- Dan K. made a request that someone with appointment power come clarify expectations and ramifications

Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are asked to contact the meeting facilitator at least 4 business days in advance.

of not meeting aforementioned expectations.

- Also moved to defer appointment of new chair until we get these expectations
- Moved to make notetaker temporary chair for the purposes of this meeting.
 - Sandy seconds both points
 - Motion Passed
- Riley S. agreed to provide, in writing, aforementioned expectations and ramifications of not meeting them.

INSPIRATION

Committee member presents on an inspirational topic related to bicycle and pedestrian issues.

- Pat Bush provided impromptu inspiration for the February meeting
 - Recounted story about his daughter writing letter to committee about putting a crosswalk in at the South Side entrance to Galbraith
 - Pat discussed a lot of personal experience taking kids across that stretch of road pre-sidewalk and wishing one was there.
 - Understands that progress on these improvements move fast at times and slow at others
 - Can share in both the positivity and frustration
 - Wanted to remind everyone of the positive power that this group can provide.
- Nancy W (Public):
 - Has BPAC ever made a formal delegation to go to public schools and talk about bicycle safety?
 - Do we have a booth at various public events like WTA?
 - Do we, as BPAC, ever address motorized e-scooters?
- BPAC group answers
 - In the past, volunteers have always tried to get involved in public safety from the committee
 - Committee has not been directly involved in school education in recent history
 - Discussed e-scooters and bikes in January
- Ryan offered commentary about going to schools. There was some funding for the Sheriff to go to schools and advise.
- Pat B: Bellingham Public schools have some bike education through PE classes.
- Pat A: Blaine schools have done something similar in the past as well

CHAIRPERSON UPDATE ---

In this section the Chairperson gives an update on topics they were worked on.

1. Discussion regarding County Executive's decision not to reappoint former committee chair

a. Reasoning, expectations, next steps

Appointment of new chair was deferred to March meeting as discussed in Public Comment section

2. Selection of new chair

a. Jason

- i. In the past we have done co-chairs. It has worked in some cases and not in others.
- ii. Usually, appointees are someone who says they want it
- iii. We should not deliberate behind the scenes via email or otherwise.

FOLLOW-UPS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS ---

In this section the Committee members follow up on topics they were asked to work on at previous meetings .

- Nothing to report on this section

WHATCOM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION UPDATE ---

In this section Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Staff give an update.

1. Update on Sr. Planner position

- Suggested we had a hire during the January meeting
- The new hire worked for 3-weeks and then exercised their right to return to their previous role as defined by union contracts.
- Currently interviewing other candidates.

2. Project Updates:

- a. Bay to Baker: Meeting upcoming to put in grant request queue
- b. Coast Millennium
 - i. Trail summit/partnered with Recreation NW
 - ii. Potential WSDOT grant for Marine Dr to Ferndale Connection
 - iii. The City of Bellingham has a design for connection through Lockwood property.
- c. Maple Beach (Pt. Roberts)
 - i. Still putting together promenade improvement project scope
 - ii. Members of community in Point Roberts felt that Maple Beach should be focused on

Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are asked to contact the meeting facilitator at least 4 business days in advance.

- iii. Pt. Roberts has funding available from a specific gas tax which helps fund projects through a Transportation Benefit District.
- 3. Dan: Asked if there was any understanding why Parks and Rec were having trouble filling the Multi-model trail planner role.
 - a. Response from Bennett:
 - i. Middle ground on pay
 - ii. Asking a lot of this position
 - iii. Need someone who is very excited about trails and multi-model transportation
 - iv. Still have eligible applicant role
- 4. Pat B. gave recognition for the new Bay-to-Baker trail sign off of 542.
 - a. Bennet: That was WSDOT

WHATCOM COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

In this section Whatcom County Public Works Staff give an update.

- 1. Response from Public Works on November 12th Letter to Executive
 - a. Riley S:
 - i. This is an example of the executive responding to letters
 - ii. BPAC asked for specific projects to be added to the TIP
 - iii. Will seek BPAC advice for ranking TIP projects along active routes
 - iv. Money to do improvements on roadways that have shoulders vs. those that do not.
- 2. Share the Road signage requests
 - a. Yew St Rd
 - b. Northshore Rd
 - c. Samish Wy
 - i. Earlier approach speed reduction near Galbraith crossing
 - ii. Did study of actual speed which showed existing speed limits were appropriate
 - iii. Multiple advanced warning signs ahead of cross walk
 - iv. We like to avoid putting up excessive signage
 - v. Pat shared lots of personal experience regarding taking school kids across that cross walk and being concerned for their safety despite safeguards.
 - vi. Jason: County council has purview to change that speed limits
 - vii. Discussed putting rumble strips in ahead of the parking lot on both sides of the crosswalk. Jason will discuss with the Traffic Engineer
 - viii. Jason: Suggest maybe taking a county council member on a ride and showing them the dangers that still exist around the crosswalk.
 - ix. Discussed potential Wade King Elementary School project
- 3. Birch Bay Dr Crosswalk
 - a. Jason showed pictures of the completed crosswalk – collaboration with WCPW Maintenance & Operations

Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are asked to contact the meeting facilitator at least 4 business days in advance.

4. WTA Transit Access Fund Application

Also discussed the WTA Transit Access Fund. We were not selected for funding but WTA said this was a worthy project.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION TOPICS _____

1. 2026 Work Plan

- a. TIP Projects
- b. Grant Funding
- c. Priority Project List

2. Specific requests for biennium budget cycle

Discussed at \$200k level to update 2011 Bike/Ped Plan

3. Multimodal Network Shoulder Upgrade Prioritization

COMMITTEE VOTING ACTION _____

1. The Chair introduces a topic in need of a committee vote and asks for discussion or changes.

2. The Chair then entertains a motion to vote on the item.

- a. Motion: _____ b. Second: _____
- b. All in Favor, any opposed?
- c. Motion: Carries Fails

Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are asked to contact the meeting facilitator at least 4 business days in advance.

NEW BUSINESS _____

In this section the Committee members are asked to provide topics for discussion at upcoming meetings.

New topics for discussion

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

GOOD OF THE ORDER _____

Last minute announcements for the Committee

Andrew asked the committee to excuse him for the next 3 meeting so he can attend the Sheriff's Office Community Academy. The committee agreed and asked that he report back about it at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Time adjourned: 19:55