

Minutes for Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facilities Community Advisory Committee

September 17, 2024

Members present:

Laura Westervelt (Chair)
Nathan Menefee (Vice-Chair)
Rick Feeney
Janet Kidd
Scott Satter
Brian Watson
Deborah Weinmann

Members absent:

Jana Waldroup
Jess Chandler

Public Works staff present: Melissa Mohr, David Forte

Guests:

David Rodriguez Perez
John Bantz
Russ Higgins

Meeting called to order at 5:31 PM.

Public Comment:

David Rodriguez Perez commented on the DRAFT Comprehensive Plan, stating the language about implementation sighting an example of “the painted bike lane” as not effective. Further stating there was “value in doing things right, versus half-hearted.”

John Bantz commented that the wider the lane the faster vehicles go, so bikers don't use those lanes, unsafe. John had questions about what the county was focusing on. Would like the county to look at holistic picture on biking, lots of opportunities, “avoid fences to cherry picking.” Concerned about the cost-of-living problem for example \$40,000 for a new car. Would like a discussion about how to fund bike riding.

Additionally, John commented during the Non-motorized Plan discussion that making connections across was good. Suggested identifying areas to promote bike lanes and get them connected, hilly paths, and stated there were lots of opportunities to attract bikers.

Approval of Minutes:

Rick Feeney moved to approve the July 16, 2024 minutes. Scott Satter seconded.
Motion Passed.

NM Plan – Continue NM Plan Review:

Laura Westervelt digested and came up with an outline of what the future Non-Motorized Plan could look like based on the prior comments and discussions. Some comments in response to the outline follow.

- Can the Transportation (Public Works) and Recreation (Parks) departments work together?
- Include an aspirational route from North to South (airport) in the Appendix. South Kitsap near parks is currently unfeasible due to private property owners.

- Aim for a simple guide that is useful.
- Determine the scope, make sure goals align with the Comprehensive Plan, and identify the direction and key elements.
- Be reflective about what worked and didn't work with the current plan.
- Accessibility for horses not feasible and should not be a high priority.
- Ensure there is a public process to record discussions.
- The plan should tell the story as to why things are changing. Recommends a committee charter to "produce something" should be in there.
- State vision and action upfront.
- Plan should be both pragmatic and aspirational.

Draft Comprehensive Plan Transportation Policies & NM Plan

A discussion took place in response to the most recent release of the DRAFT Comprehensive Plan update. Important comment follows.

-Regarding Transportation Goal #8, need to consider the benefits of non-motorized elements for the environment versus the damage to the environment when building transportation infrastructure.

Member & Staff Updates:

Bikes for All Event – Brian Watson connected with Accessibility folks and shared they are interested in collaborating with the Non-Motorized Committee. Suggested Working Group for the update to the Non-Motorized Plan should include representation from the Accessibility Committee.

Update to Non-Motorized Plan needs to include usage rules for electrically charged devices on non-motorized facilities.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.