



Benton County Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

MINUTES

**BENTON COUNTY
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC)
January 11, 2018
7:00 p.m. ~ 9:00 p.m.**

Avery Large Conference Room
360 SW Avery Ave.
Corvallis, Oregon

Owen Millehrer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Committee Members Present: Kate Hunter-Zaworski, Jim Patton, Bob Durst, and Jim Luebke

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Owen Millehrer

Guest(s) Present: Laurel Byer

I. ADMINISTRATION

- Approval of November 2017 Minutes – Kate made a motion to approve both sets of minutes as submitted. Jim L. seconded the motion and all approved.

II. SPECIAL GUEST(S): Laurel Byer (Benton County Engineer)

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- **TSP Review** – Laurel Byer provided handouts and gave an overview of the status of the Transportation System Plan, which is in the process of being updated. There have been two Technical and two Stakeholder meetings which were held in August and December of 2017. The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2018.

Distributed documents that were discussed include memorandums which include Existing Conditions, Goals and Objectives, How to Look at Future Conditions, and Some of our Assumptions.

The first open house will be at the beginning of March 2018. Ms. Byers stated that one of her goals is to reach out to areas outside of Corvallis, since it has its own process on the TSP. Details have not yet been finalized on open houses that will be held in Monroe, west of Philomath, Adair Village, and North Albany.

There is currently a website set up which has Technical Memorandums and Meeting Summaries from the first two meetings. It is located at www.co.benton.or.us/tsp. There is also an option to sign up for notifications and a map to add comments with pinpoints. The consultant is the same as for the City of Corvallis, DKS and Associates. Benton County is involved by Ms. Byers being a member of the City of Corvallis Committee. One of the Committee goals is to mirror the 2040 vision process – not only their goals, but the way they have done their public outreach. They have received lots of feedback from many communities. Laurel felt that word of mouth would be the best way to notify people of the upcoming open houses. She mentioned that Owen Millehrer has done a great job representing the Bicycle Advisory Committee and their concerns by communicating with her on a regular basis.

Laurel said that one of the most important feedback that would bring the most benefit for her, is to have input on updating the roads map. She is looking specifically for other options besides widening roads and/or shoulders, due to budget restrictions and possibly other higher priorities.

Owen informed the Committee that Ryan with OSU Rec & Engagement contacted Laurie Starha regarding a TSP project. The project would be to create two new bike paths, one at Oak Creek and another connecting 13th Street to Highland and Lester. The goal is to get people to go to Chip Ross and Oak Creek and McDonald Forest. Ryan's question is how to get this included in the TSP. Kate suggested that a sharrow be used for bikes and cars to share, since the pavement is so bad and it would force bicycles off the road.

- **Action item: Laurel will have Owen forward the meeting announcement to Committee members. She will also make note of the bike path on the map.**
- Corvallis – Albany Bikeway – Ms. Byers provided an update on the 3 phases of the project which include: 1) the one built in Corvallis, 2) Funding in North Albany to build a piece between Scenic to connect Hickory to North Albany Road, and 3) ODOT monies for STIP, to enhance the process to design and construct ideas thru consultants D.E.A. (David Evans & Associates).

The consultants are in the process of reaching out to property owners, doing surveys, and environmental work. When those are complete then they will move forward by obtaining Right of Way and current goal is to build in 2018.

Laurel reported that there was some opposition met when attempts were made by the consultant to obtain Right of Way by railroad property owners. They reviewed all options and went thru a public process, ending up with only one option which is along Highway 20 corridor. The consultants have come up with a preliminary high-level design to ensure all factors would be feasible. It could work with the highway, an 8' shoulder, a concrete barrier along one side, a 10' multi-use path, and a 2' gravel shoulder. Another pinch-point is along Bowers Slew, so they have looked at going under the Highway with a tunnel to get on the north side of the Highway then stick on that side to get to Scenic.

There are still conversations to be had and there have been design meetings with ODOT traffic engineers and roadway engineers. They did not have any issues with the proposed ideas with the Jersey barriers. ODOT Rail suggested talks with the railroad companies – the first will be in January with Portland and Western, whom are the operators of the railroad and Union Pacific are the owners.

To move forward after that, there will probably be more public meetings to share findings by the consultant. After public meetings then it would be presented to the Board of Commissioners. If the BOC approves then sources for funding would be sought.

- **Action item: Laurel will attend future meeting to review design plans and discuss concerns with the Committee.**
- **Other** –

Maintenance – There was question on whether Midge Kramer Bike Path is public owned or a public right-of-way, and the many concerns for safety in that area due to road and bike path conditions.

Proposal for Funding – Owen gave an example of when the RAC created a proposal for project-specific funding, attempting to show safety hazards existed so site improvements could save money in the long run. He is suggesting that the Committee take a similar approach. Mr. Millehrer has spoken to the County Road Manager and Finance Manager, whom agreed to attend the next meeting. Owen would like to gather data such as what the last treatments were, measurements of paths the County owns, etc. He requested that one or more Committee members take pictures of areas along the map for documentation of concerns (i.e. drainage issues, cracks, chip seal) to bring to the next meeting to discuss strategies.

- **Action item: Owen will arrange for the Benton County Road Manager and Finance Manager to attend the next meeting to discuss funding proposal.**

Committee Vacancies – Owen reported that the Committee is down to 5 members, so there are currently 3 vacancies. He encouraged members to ask people if they would be interested to become a member.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- State Transportation Bill – No update given.
- Advisory Cycling Lanes – No update given.
- Crescent Valley High School Concerns – No update given.

V. PUBLIC INPUT – (None)

VI. NEXT MEETING

- March 8, 2018

VII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.