

Minutes – Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facilities Community Advisory Committee

April 15, 2025 – Kitsap County Public Works Building, Port Orchard

Members Present:	Members Absent:
Janet Kidd (Chair)	
Brian Watson (Vice Chair)	
Nathan Menefee	
Deborah Weinmann	
Jessy Osterloh	
Rick Feeney	
Jess Chandler	
Scott Satter	

Public Works Staff Present:

David Forte
Melissa Mohr

Guests/Public:

David Onstad (In-person)
John Willett (virtual)

Approval of Previous Minutes:

- Brian Watson moved to approve the minutes from March 2025, and Jessy Osterloh seconded. The March 2025 meeting minutes were approved without objection.

Public Comment:

- David Onstad provided oral and written comments. He introduced himself and read his written comments concerning the recent resolution by the commissioners regarding the STO and the Kitsap Environmental Coalition.
- John Willett commented on the committee’s discussion and the STO resolution. He recommended that the committee communicate with the commissioners one-on-one because it appeared there was confusion. He recalled a comment from the early meetings regarding the String of Pearls in conjunction with the need for non-motorized trail access, stating, “Why do I have to drive to take a walk?”

Discussion Items:

An agenda item was added without objection to discuss the STO resolution.

1. STO Resolution (Acknowledging the status of the Sound to Olympics Trail Resolution 053-2025):

- Janet Kidd reported she had sent an e-mail to Commissioner Rofles because there was some confusion on Janet's part about what was being put on hold. The Commissioner replied, stating that the whole project (STO trail) was still on the TIP for planning purposes. The STO project requires grant funding and can't move forward without this funding. David stated that many of the segments had other funding options that have a high probability of funding, but given the resolution, public works can't actively try to secure funding sources.
- Deborah Weinmann commented that it would be helpful to know what Commissioner Rofles understands is happening and what the process of moving forward looks like.
- Rick Feeney suggested having a meeting with the commissioners, but David recommended it would be easier to meet with them individually. Rick recalled positive public responses from past STO planning meetings. Nathan Menefee noted that the public, including the public that attended those meetings, probably aren't aware of this resolution impacting the STO.
- There was discussion on the trail surface because some of the concerns noted by the KEC included asphalt surfaces. David confirmed that the plan calls for asphalt. Somebody had suggested that the county move to prep the trail but not pave it, but David noted that prepping the structure of the trail is most of the work. Additionally, an unpaved shared-use path requires extensive maintenance. It was noted that paved paths have been successful in many different ecosystems and that there are pros and cons to utilizing asphalt surfaces.
- Brian Watson discussed the developer, Pope Talbot, who used to own the land. He noted there is concern that the support from a developer may make the surrounding area attractive for development. There was a discussion on the history of the property exchange/ownership and assurance for recreation conservation.
- Deborah Weinmann raised integrity and trust issues with the commissioners, given the reversal in direction with Resolution 053-2025. It's possible that future projects may not proceed because of the lack of faith in adhering to the established process.

- Jessy Osterloh commented that some of the KEC concerns were that environmental reviews were completed in a piecemeal fashion. David Forte explained the environmental review process and how each segment had a review. The feasibility study also looked holistically at the project. The feasibility study is used as each segment goes under review.
- A consensus decision was made for the committee to move forward with talking individually with the commissioners about the resolution. Deborah Weinmann could cover North Kitsap, Brian Watson would cover Central Kitsap, and Rick Feeney and Janet Kidd would cover South Kitsap.

Gorst Study Update:

- David Forte shared a range of route alternatives being considered with the committee. David commented that WSDOT appears to be taking seriously non-motorized routes being part of the solution, including if a bridge option is chosen. All options are Level II separated facilities. The technical advisory committee to meet again in about 3 months, where they will hope to bring in high-level data for all of the options, and then will decide on how they will score the options.

Anderson Hill Corridor:

- David Forte reported that Public Works is doing a study on the corridor that runs from Airport Apex down to the traffic circle/Frontier Place. David offered that Public Works could work with the NMCAC to review the project/study opportunities, constraints, and needs. He would send the PowerPoint out to the group. He stated that Anderson Hill did not get a lot of attention in the non-motorized plan, and extensive development in the corridor is in the pipeline.

Member and Staff Update:

- Rick Feeney reported that a litter patrol occurred the prior Sunday from Gorst to Bremerton. He reported it had a good turnout, including a Commissioner. As a bicycle rider, he noted that extensive silt build-up occurred along jersey barriers, reducing the shoulder width. He communicated his concerns through his State Rep., and WSDOT addressed the issue. Brian asked if Rick could help get attention at another bike chokepoint in Gorst that had significant vegetation overgrowth.

- Brian Watson noted that he received a lot of important updates from the League of American Bicyclists on governmental affairs. Brian was encouraged by the intense questions the DOT Secretary received at a hearing regarding the negative approach the current administration has on bike infrastructure. He offered that members and the public could check out the website for more information, and may want to consider becoming a member.
- Brian also provided a brief update on his participation in the Kitsap County Adopt the Spot program, where residents can adopt segments of roads to do litter clean-up with resources provided by the county.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 19:01.