

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) September 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order. The meeting was conducted via video and phone conferencing. In person public meetings, are currently prohibited by Governor Order due to COVID-19.

Members Present: Andy Stevenson, Jennifer Reandeau, Gary Gleason, Dick Gritman, Kat Sample, Chuck Preble, Charlie Commeree, Gordon Taylor, Eric Rohrer and Bill Biery.

County Representatives: Steve Gray, County Public Works/Road Department

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Gordon Taylor moved to approve the August 5, 2020 minutes and Gary Gleason seconded. Steve Gray noticed that the meeting date in the draft minutes header was wrong and he will correct. The minutes were approved with all in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve noted he received an email report of a bicyclist colliding with a trail bollard between Pierce Rd and Diamond Point Road. The report indicated the person sustained significant injuries with a hospital stay, but expected to fully recover. Steve indicated the Committee may receive public comments on this issue. He noted that there is an assortment of bollard types along the trail and throughout the various ODT jurisdictions, and that Dick Gritman, TAC Member, volunteers as a member of the Peninsula Trail Coalition to maintain bollards and to paint warning approach lines.

A question was asked on what is a bollard. Steve noted that a bollard is typically a metal pole barrier in center of the trail and sometimes also on edges to discourage vehicle access onto the trail. They are generally located where trail intersects a road or other locations where vehicle access is a concern.

BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

(1) Draft Clallam County presentation for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grant for trail corridor land acquisition for the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT)—Forks to La Push Segment

Steve Gray indicated he is going to present his draft presentation related to the County's grant application to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for approximately 1 million dollars to support acquisition of trail corridor for the planned ODT-Forks to La Push segment. He will be making a final presentation later this month via zoom to the RCO grant evaluation committee. The presentation is structured around RCO criteria used to evaluate applications such as need, threat, trail linkages, etc, and the maximum time allowed for the presentation to the state evaluation committee is 15 minutes. Steve shared his presentation by video and proceeded with the presentation. Following the presentation, Committee members and other meeting participants provided feedback to Steve on his presentation.

A question was asked in regards to the next-steps in the RCO grant review process and role of RCO staff. Steve noted that he would be preparing a final powerpoint presentation and script to submit in advance of his presentation to the evaluation committee. The evaluation committee who scores each project does not include RCO staff.

Andy Stevenson who is on the RCO grant evaluation committee added that the committee is comprised of citizen volunteers and are the ultimate project scorers based on a rubric that was given, that has various criteria and scoring possibilities. He noted the scoring committee was going to be see 29 presentations over 2.5 days, and the allotted time to read script and presentation ahead of time is limited. Following individual scoring, the Committee will be presented with the results to review. Projects with widely disparate scores will probably generate discussion. He also noted this is the first time RCO has conducted the applicant presentation and committee review process by zoom.

Steve added that the public can view the grant project presentations via zoom, but cannot comment. He will provide a follow-up report at the TAC's October meeting.

(2) Mapping and signage for the ODT route from Joyce to the Spruce Railroad Trail

Steve Gray noted that the ODT-Spruce Railroad Trail (SRRT) construction is expected to be completed in October, and that current ODT trail maps show the official route from Joyce to the ODT-SRRT is via Joyce-Piedmont Road. Given the recent completion of the ODT-Gossett to Waterline Road segment and the Waterline Road connection to the ODT-SRRT, Steve posed the general question to the Committee on whether to update maps to make the official ODT route from Joyce to the ODT-SRRT via the new ODT-Gossett to Waterline Rd and also Waterline Road instead of the Joyce-Piedmont Road. To get to the start of the ODT-Gossett to Waterline Road segment requires trail users to travel on SR 112 about 2 miles past Joyce. Road bikers may still prefer Joyce-Piedmont Road due to Waterline Road being currently a gravel surface. Steve indicated the map update could show that the Waterline Road section is gravel to alert trail users.

Andy Stevenson added that he wants to see that the 1.6 miles of new trail between Gossett and Waterline Road be incorporated as part of the official ODT route. This section of trail cost nearly 1 million dollars and he does not believe we want to delay until the Waterline Road section is paved. He believes the route is more scenic, safer, and enjoyable route than Joyce-Piedmont and is rideable for most bike types. He does not believe most cyclists would be turned away from this gravel section and that this route is the best route for the various trail users types versus Joyce-Piedmont.

Discussion followed with Jennifer Reandeau making the motion to update the map with the Gossett Road being the main trail route. The motion was seconded by Andy Stevenson. Gordon Taylor asked if the updated maps should also show the new ODT-Onella Road section. Jennifer Reandeau agreed and added to her motion. Andy Stevenson also agreed.

Steve Gray noted the motion on the table was to update the official ODT route to show the Gossett Road and Waterline Road segments and also the new Onella Road segment. The motion passed with all in favor. Gordon Taylor noted he would start the process to update the Peninsula Trail Coalition (PTC) ODT website map and also update the ODT west central area maps.

Discussion continued related to the continued closure of the ODT-SRRT section due to trail construction and the recent closure of East Beach Road between Joyce-Piedmont and US 101 to general public due to safety reasons of rock and debris rockfall off the burn area. The issue noted was due to these closures westbound trail users in particular may not be aware of these closures and won't realize they can't currently continue on the SRRT or get back to US 101 via East Beach Road. To avoid bicyclists hitting this dead-end and having to back track, Andy Stevenson recommended placing at least signage at the ODT-Elwha Bridge Crossing to alert trail users that if they are continuing west they would need to get back to Highway 101 via Highway 112. He noted that this issue goes away once SRRT opens. Following discussion, there was general agreement to place a sign at the Elwha Bridge. Steve Gray committed that he would create a sign and place it at the ODT-Elwha Bridge crossing. Jeff Bohman, PTC President, confirmed that a trail alert notice has also been placed on the PTC website.

Gary Gleason inquired whether there would be ceremony following completion of the SRRT as was done before with the first tunnel. Steve indicated that in coordination with Olympic National Park a ceremony is planned to be scheduled this fall shortly following project completion. However, due to COVID-19 limitations, the event will be limited invite (including press) and consistent with current COVID 19 protocols.

PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

Steve referred Committee members to the August 2020 project summary report in their packet materials and summarized project accomplishments within last 30 days that were highlighted in the Report.

Jeff Bohman said that the PTC Board at their next meeting expects to hear from citizens in the Durrwachter Road area about future ODT trail alignment in their neighborhood. He asked if the County had received any recent interest or concerns from people in this neighborhood. Steve Gray indicated he had not been contacted.

Jeff also asked about any current County effort related to the trail alignment related to the gap between Joyce and Gossett Road. Steve indicated County not specifically working on this gap at this time.

OLYMPIC DISCOVERY TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

Steve provided highlights of recent ODT maintenance efforts including the clearing of the horse bypass route on the Adventure trail and tread work repairs, and significant brushing work along the trail corridor between Priest Road and Dungeness River Park.

Bill Biery noted the City of Sequim replaced the top rail boards on the Johnson Creek Trestle and removed a wasp nest close to the trail that was impacting trail users. He also noted that the significant root bumps in sections of the trail along Hendrickson Road were recently painted to alert trail users. Currently, the City does not have available funding to repair these sections.

Steve Gray also noted trail root damage (bumps and crack) just east of the Railroad Bridge Park. Recently, the County volunteer trail crew cut the roots along the side of the trail damaged areas. In addition, the County did patching of trail cracks. The cracks and bumps have also been painted.

Steve noted that root damage repair is a time intensive process, but has had success where damage is more limited and isolated (e.g., one side). The damage near Railroad Bridge Park spider webs across the trail will require a more extensive repair.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Bloomer commented that he has been researching the bollard issue related to crashes and developed a report for our cycling community. He indicated okay for Steve to pass on this report to the TAC and suggested it may be worthwhile for the TAC to put onto a future agenda. He also provided comments on the draft ODT-Forks to La Push presentation stressing the need to emphasize cycling safety concerns on SR 110.

Mr. Bloomer also asked if anything new to report on the Dawley Slump. Steve indicated the County continues to monitor the site. County is still targeting the need to get camera in drainage conveyance pipes under US 101 prior to moving forward to a design and repair.

ADJOURNMENT

Andy Stevenson moved to adjourn which was seconded. Hearing no objection the meeting was adjourned.