

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) November 4, 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 (Chair), Jennifer Reandeau, Justin Zarzeczny, Dick Gritman, Gordon Taylor, Eric Roher and Bill Biery.

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

Guests Providing Comment: Lorrie Mittman, Peninsula Adventure Sports

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The October 7, 2020 meeting minutes were not yet available for review and were tabled to the December meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Steve Gray announced that the County Commissioners approved adding Olympic Peninsula Bicycle Alliance as a representative seat to the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC).
- Bill Biery reported the City of Sequim recent decision to remove the wood bollards located on the trail before the Johnson Creek Trestle.
- Dick Gritman reported he was going to retire from being Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) volunteer leading trail bollard maintenance efforts since 2009 that included painting bollards/warning lines, and reflective tape. PTC is looking for new volunteers to take over these maintenance duties. Appreciation of Dick's contributions was extended. Steve Gray noted County will be reviewing its role on maintaining trail bollards on County trail sections in addition to volunteer efforts.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Stevenson asked if any additional discussion on trail bollards as a follow-up to the October meeting discussion. He suggested a small change in future bollard installations to invert the bolts used to tie down the bollard such that if you remove bollard there would not be a surface protrusion. Also, he noted that fold down bollards could be a hazard when left in the down position.

Steve noted that maintenance crews like fold down bollards especially compared to the older heavy pullout bollards on the trail. He indicated that the fold downs should not be left in the down position.

Eric Rohrer agreed with Andy on potential tripping hazard of leaving folding bollards referencing them being down during the last Frosty Moss event.

Lorrie Mittman, Peninsula Adventure Sports, responded that they do not put down bollards during the Frosty Moss event. She was unaware they were left down during the last event and that was not intended.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Steve noted roll call was not done. A roll call was taken with the following members responding present: Andy Stevenson, Jennifer Reandeau, Dick Gritman, Gordon Taylor, Eric Roher, Bill Biery, and Justin Zarzeczny.

Draft Six-Year (2021-2026) Transportation Improvement Program Provisions Related to Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT)

Steve Gray shared his 15-slide presentation on the Six-Year (2021-2026) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as it relates to the ODT. The presentation covered:

- Six-Year TIP background information.
- Highlights of Year 2020 ODT project accomplishments under the current Six-Year TIP (2020-2025): Spruce Railroad Trail Final Phase at Lake Crescent, 1.6-mile Gossett to Waterline Road segment (west of Joyce), and the Diamond Point Road to Old Gardiner Road trail connector.
- Overview of remaining ODT Major Gaps and how addressed in the Draft Six-Year TIP (2020-2026)
- Six-Year (2021-2026) TIP public meeting and hearing schedule.

Discussion followed. Several members asked for copies of the Six-Year TIP spreadsheet and Chair Stevenson inquired how the County is going to target funding strategies for unfunded trail projects. Steve explained how TAC members could access and view Six-year TIP spreadsheet on the County website and will follow-up to all members with the specific link. He noted that trail funding will continue to target grant opportunities such as state Recreation Conservation Office Trail Grants (grant offered every two years), County lodging tax funding grants, Surface Transportation Block Grants (e.g., \$800,000 award to Spruce Railroad Trail Final Phase), and Transportation Alternatives (e.g., \$450,000 award to Calawah River to A-road segment). Grant funding not yet secured does not appear in the TIP, unless very confident will be awarded. Steve went into more detail on the ODT project cost and funding details for specific individual projects in Six-Year TIP (2021-2026) spreadsheet.

Chair Stevenson asked whether the scheduled TIP public hearing on November 24 is going to be in-person or by video conference. Steve noted that the County Commissioner public hearing will start at 10:30 am and public participation will be by phone-in or video conference. Information on how to participate in County Commissioner public meetings is shown on the top of their meeting agenda. He also indicated that tonight's scheduled public hearing on the Six Year TIP before the Planning Commission was also by phone-in and video conferencing.

PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

Steve noted that he covered most of the project updates during his Six-Year TIP presentation and added the following project highlights:

- *ODT-Spruce Railroad Trail Final Phase.* Appears the targeted completion date is now mid-November or so for construction completion.
- *ODT-Diamond Point Rd to Old Gardiner Road Connector.* Steve indicated he anticipates reviewing with the TAC options for vehicle access/separation at both ends. One current thought was to install the flexible glue on tubular markers as a separator along Diamond Point Road. The Washington State Department of Transportation will not support use of hard barriers such as ecology blocks, but may support water or sand-filled barriers. Chair Stevenson stated he believes some type of hard barrier between trail and road on shoulder such as jersey barriers is needed. Steve noted that this trail connector is still under construction and not officially open, and paving the remaining segment along Diamond Point Road is pending.
- *ODT-Forks Calawah River Park to A-Road Trail Corridor Acquisition.* Steve indicated that the County is now moving forward to purchase and close on the about 11-acres of trail corridor in this planned trail section at a cost of \$144,000.
- *ODT-Dawley Trail Slump Area Update.* Steve noted that City of Sequim did recently obtain successful video of the two stormwater conveyance pipes of interest under Highway 101 that originate above the slump area. The video has been reviewed by County engineers and WSDOT maintenance staff. Based on the video there is likely leakage likely, but the prior blockage in the larger 18-inch pipe is now clear and the belief is that the pipes will convey most of the water. The next step is for the County to continue to monitor to see if movement has stabilized now that the blockage is cleared.

OLYMPIC DISCOVERY TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

Steve provided an update of the continued work on the Whiskey Creek Horse Crossing trail improvements. This has been a major project with County trail volunteer crew and backcountry horsemen having had already four work party days on this project.

Steve noted that a tree had fallen on the bridge located on the ODT by the Mt. Mueller trail junction west of Lake Crescent that also damaged the rail. The tree was removed and the bridge rail repaired by Backcountry Horsemen of Washington led by Larry Baysinger.

Steve noted that PTC volunteers and Tanner Boggs, County Volunteer Coordinator, have been busy with end of season mowing and trail surface blowing activities. Trail surface blowing of debris will continue into the fall.

Gordon Taylor reported that PTC has now converted tractor for trail sweeping and blowing activities. PTC is considering purchase of a brush mower for trail edge section that can handle brushing on rougher terrain not able to be addressed by the tractor.

Gordon also noted that construction of the Morse Creek kiosk as part of the Eagle Scout is completed and awaiting installation of the new display.

Chair Stevenson noted he was impressed with the state of trail from FS 2918 to Camp Creek and extended his thanks to the Rohers (Volunteer Trail Adopters), Tanner (County Volunteer Coordinator), and County volunteer crew for their efforts.

Question came up about maintenance of ODT section in the Olympic National Park section. Gordon noted that PTC is working on a maintenance agreement with ONP. Steve added that the County has done maintenance work in the Park section such as addressing down trees, but that the future plan is for this trail segment to be maintained by ONP and PTC.

Comments and discussion was had on several recent rockfalls that occurred along the Spruce Railroad Trail section that is nearing completion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Jennifer Reandeau noted that she is now a member of the Leafline Trail Board that is planning for 450 miles of trails in Snohomish, King, Pierce and Kitsap Counties. She is hoping someday their efforts can connect to our ODT.

Gordon moved and Jennifer seconded to adjourn. Hearing no objection the meeting was adjourned.