



# Clark Communities Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Clark County Public Service Center  
1300 Franklin St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Vancouver, WA

## MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Members Present:	Judith Perez Keniston (Chair), John Hall, John van der Burgh, Raymond Bartlett, David Zilavy, and Vivienne Meljien
Absent:	Michael Newton (Vice-Chair) and Megan Filippello
Staff and Partners Present:	Harrison Husting (Clark County), Dylan Bass (WSDOT), Brett Setterfield (City of Vancouver), Jennifer Campos (RTC), Amy Koski (Clark County Public Health)
Guests:	N/A

- **Welcome**
- **Public Comment**

There were no attendees that provided public comment.

- **Meeting minutes from January 23, 2024**

Chair Perez Keniston asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting.

- David Zilavy pointed out a few typos on pg. 2 and asked to correct “SR-502” to “SR-503” and “Padden Parkway train” to “Padden Parkway trail”.
- Harrison Husting stated that he would make those edits.

Chair Perez Keniston asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections. Raymond Bartlett moved to approve the minutes, and John van der Burgh seconded the motion.

- **Staff Updates**

Amy Koski, Clark County Public Health –

- The Climate Change and Resiliency planning project for the Comprehensive Plan Update has formed two advisory groups. The Climate Advisory Group has about 20 members and was appointed by the County Council. The Environment Justice Coalition is a group of 15 community-based organizations that the county will be contracting with to deliver public engagement to their communities. These groups had a joint kick off meeting on February 21, 2024.

Jennifer Campos, Regional Transportation Council (RTC) –

- RTC's board adopted Clark County's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) at their February meeting. This is a process that happens every four years. Since there is a lot going on with the County's Comp Plan update, especially with GHG emissions and their climate element, RTC will most likely be updating the RTP in two years. The updated RTPs for Klickitat and Skamania Counties were also adopted.
- RTC has a \$300,000 federal grant for the Safe Streets and Roads for All program, which looks at reducing serious injury and fatal collisions in the county. RTC's priority has been to get the county and cities ready to for WSDOT funding opportunities this year for their call for projects. To be able to apply, one of the requirements is to have a local road safety program or local safety plan in place. With the work of a consultant, all the local road safety plans have been completed for the incorporated cities in the county. RTC also helped the cities of Vancouver, Camas, La Center, Battle Ground to submit applications. The county will be able to apply for funding next February, so work on the county's local road safety will begin later, along with the more comprehensive Safety Action Plan. There will be more information that will be provided to this group as more collision data and information become available.

Brett Setterfield, City of Vancouver –

- The first round of engagement for the Upper Main Street Safety Mobility Project has wrapped up. The project team will be summarizing findings and will present this information to the city's Transportation Mobility Commission (TMC) on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program is at the tail end of its application period. There were 34 applicants at the end of January. For 2023, the two projects that were awarded were along NE 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave and NE 39<sup>th</sup> St.
- The Fourth Plain and Fort Vancouver Way Safety and Mobility Projects has generated a lot of inquires from the public. The striping has been laid out in two separate phases. There is a lot of work that will be done in the dry season, so it should be resolved by late spring or early summer.
- In December, the McGillivray Blvd. Safety and Mobility Project team first shared the results of the community engagement to the TMC. The team came back with some redesign options at the last meeting, and the TMC approved the recommended design. The recommended design was the curb side mobility lane with one travel lane.
- The 112th Ave Safety and Mobility Project is moving forward. The paving schedule has been adjusted based on funding. The paving for the southern section, from 20<sup>th</sup> St and Mill Plain Blvd, has been pushed out to 2025-2026, and the northern section, from 28<sup>th</sup> St. and 51<sup>st</sup> St, is now tentatively planned for 2028.

Setterfield asked if there were any questions.

- Chair Perez Keniston asked if Setterfield could clarify what the TMC stands for.
- Setterfield stated that the Transportation Mobility Commission is a city advisory group that has been appointed by the city council. This group listens to all transportation-related projects and makes recommendations to the city council. The goal was to alleviate some of the burden that is put on the city council, knowing that they have a lot of topics to hear about at each meeting.

Dylan Bass, Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) –

- The Pedestrian & Bicycle Program and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding opportunities released its call for projects for the next biennium. The SRTS application deadline is June 7<sup>th</sup> and the Pedestrian & Bicycle Program is May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The HAWK signal at SR-500 and 166<sup>th</sup> has been installed and the permanent has been put in place. That project is considered complete.
- The region traffic office is working on the design of a proposed HAWL signal at SR-503 and Prairie High School. There have been some pedestrian crashes there, and WSDOT is nailing down the exact location of that crossing. County staff will be invited to project update scheduled for later this week.
- For the SR 500 Street Paver Project, from Fourth Plain to NE 76 St, WSDOT is doing a Complete Streets pre-design phase. During this phase, they are working on defining the scope and budget.

Bass asked if there were any questions.

- David Zilavy asked for more information about the SR 500 Paver Project
- Bass stated that the project would be a grind and inlay pavement preservation project. Bass stated that since it is more than \$500,000, it triggers WSDOT's Complete Streets process. As part of the pre-design phase, Bass explained that WSDOT will be collecting information on existing conditions and looking at ways to improve active transportation facilities to increase accessibility and mobility for all users. Bass stated that WSDOT will also create a stakeholder group and go out to the public, which the project office will continue that effort into the ultimate design.
- David Zilavy also asked for additional clarification about the HAWK signal treatment mentioned previously.
- Dylan Bass explained that HAWK stands for High intensity Activated Crosswalk, also known as Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons. Bass point out that it is like the signal across from the Fred Meyers on Hwy 99.
- David Zilavy asked for clarification about the bicycle and pedestrian funding opportunities for the next biennium.
- Dylan Bass stated that those are any pedestrian and bicycle projects, on or off state routes, that a local jurisdiction may be looking to fund.
- David Zilavy asked who typically proposes these projects and gets the funding.
- Chair Perez Keniston stated that it is usually cities, counties, and non-projects.
- David Zilavy asked if there is a budget amount for this line item.
- Dylan Bass stated that he did not know that exact amount but could track it down and provide it to staff.
- David Zilavy stated that they would also like to know the history of that funding source. Zilavy asked if this area, region, or county gets much money from that line item in WSDOT funding.
- Chair Perez Keniston stated that they used to work for WSDOT and explained that local agencies apply for this grant funding, and that regionally they do really good. Perez Keniston stated that the city of Vancouver, the County, and some of the smaller cities have gotten

money for good projects. Perez Keniston stated that it is a competitive process because its statewide, meaning you compete against locales like King County and Seattle. Perez Keniston also explained that applications also depend on an emphasis area. Perez Keniston stated that in last cycle equity was a focus. This meant that projects with linkages with vulnerable population neighborhoods and schools ranked higher. Perez Keniston stated that it is an outstanding process and if you know if a school interested in applying for some funding, reach out to county staff.

- Dylan Bass thanked Chair Perez Keniston for providing the extra context. Bass stated that for most funding opportunities, WSDOT is looking at those vulnerable communities and communities historically impacted to try to more funding to them. Bass stated that if there is any interest in a project, submit an application.
- Raymond Bartlett asked if these funding opportunities are in the millions or billions of dollars for pedestrians and bikes.
- Dylan Bass stated that he would get back to the group on that, but most likely it's in the millions.
- Harrison Husting stated that after looking through the report from the last call for projects, the County was awarded a project for Truman Elementary School. Husting stated that if members wanted to look more at the list of projects awarded statewide, they can find the information online.
- Dylan Bass found the estimated funding and stated that there is over \$23 million available. Bass stated that 5% of that amount is available for planning projects and the remainder would be for infrastructure, shovel ready projects.
- Harrison Husting stated that the county has had some internal discussions about which projects they would like to move forward for these opportunities and for schools. Husting stated that the Programming Team has reached out to Superintendents or Principals and have tried to get an idea of some safety improvements that they would like to see; however, if anyone from the community has additional ideas or things, the county would greatly value the input. Husting stated that opportunities like these are the main funding source for bicycle and pedestrian projects for the county.

Harrison Husting, Clark County –

- The Hwy 99 Sidewalk Project will be having an Open House this Thursday at Sarah J Anderson Elementary School from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, and there will be an online participation option. This project stretches from 102<sup>nd</sup> to 104<sup>th</sup> St.

Harrison Husting asked if this was a project that the committee would like to review, per previous conversations.

- Chair Perez Keniston said yes. Perez Keniston clarified to the committee that this would entail receiving the designs prior to a meeting and coming back with comments.
- John Hall stated that since it was pedestrian-related, it would be appropriate to review.
- Husting stated that he would follow up with the project management team and request for them to come and provide a presentation, depending on where they are in the design phase.

- **Presentation: 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update**

Harrison Husting gave a presentation on the County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update process. Husting provided an overview and history of planning in Clark County. The last Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2016, and the next is required to be completed by June 30, 2025. Husting explained that the Growth Management Act (GMA), which was adopted in 1990, guides the process for each local jurisdiction. The main goal of the GMA is to manage growth through coordinated planning and protect natural resource land. Husting explained the GMA's Comprehensive Plan required elements and what is generally found within a comprehensive plan.

Husting then reviewed some of the changes to the Transportation element that have been added as requirements since 2022. Most of these changes have been a result of HB 1181, which is the source of the new Climate Change and Resilience Element. Husting explained that the climate element will have two sub-elements: a Resiliency sub-element and Greenhouse Gas reduction sub-element. There is also a Climate Advisory Group that will help develop goals and policy recommendations for the Climate Change and Resiliency element. Husting stated that the county is working on a Transportation System Plan that will serve as the Transportation Element. Husting then reviewed the project timeline for the Comp Plan, as well as some upcoming dates to keep in mind.

- John Hall stated that he has been doing some reading about some things in Oregon, where there is a squeeze between affordable housing and available land because of their [urban growth] boundaries. Hall stated that affordable housing is an issue all around, and asked how that might affect decision making going forward about the boundaries.
- Husting stated that this will most likely be address at the next Planning Commission meeting and at the March 5<sup>th</sup> County Council meeting when they discuss population and employment allocation. Husting also explained that when the county does their Environmental Impact Assessment, most likely one option will be to expand the UGA boundary.

- **Follow up from CCBPAC Chair meeting with County Manager on February 9, 2024**

Chair Perez Keniston provided a recap of the Chair meeting with the County Manager. Perez Keniston stated that the County Manager was provided a copy of the work plan and shared the committee's desire to organize a Policy Ride and other education-related events. Perez Keniston stated that concerns were brought up about safety and they discussed ways to communicate this to staff. Perez Keniston also shared that they talked about the committee's desire to review project designs at 30% and 60%, like it has in the past. Perez Keniston stated that they discussed how the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is 14 years old, and that the committee is ready assist in updating this plan when the county is ready. Perez Keniston also shared that there is a desire for a joint meeting with County Council in the Fall to discuss what the committee has achieved.

- Raymond Bartlett asked if it seemed that the County Manager has a bicycle and if she rides it.
- Chair Perez Keniston stated that it sounds like she lives far away that is not very bicycle friendly and that with the distance, Perez Keniston doesn't think the County manager commutes to work. Perez Keniston stated that the committee can invite the County Manger to the Policy Ride.
- Raymond Bartlett stated that they could lend her one, and that it would be instructive to take her on a walk in the areas that are working well and areas that aren't for pedestrians. As well as a bicycle ride for those areas that are working well and not well for bicyclists. Bartlett also stated that he hasn't seen any data on who the bicyclists are in the county, like commuters or school children, and that this might be good information to collect to provide her.
- Chair Perez Keniston state that if the county manager doesn't have the time, maybe this could be the focus during the joint-meeting. Perez Keniston stated the committee could achieve this through pictures or even a video.

- Raymond Bartlett stated that he agreed but stated that the County Manager may not be very familiar with what goes on for pedestrians and bicyclists; therefore, anything to help get her closer to knowing that personally would be helpful.
- Chair Perez Keniston stated that the committee could always request it.
- Vivienne Meljien asked if someone could spell the county manager's name in the chat, so Meljien could write them down in their list of people to invite to the Policy Ride.
- Harrison Husting stated that he would send that information.
- Chair Perez Keniston stated that she talked to her director at work, and that when Meljien is ready to create a list of people to invite she could help.

- **2024 Work Plan**

Chair Perez Keniston transitioned into the 2024 Work Plan agenda item and opened the floor to Vivienne Meljien to discuss the Policy Ride.

Vivienne Meljien stated that she has reached out to Megan Filippello to ask about timing. Meljien mentioned that she has become a board of trustee member for Clark County Medical Society since joining CCBPAC, and they are also coordinating to get state legislators to come to one their meetings. Meljien provided some possible dates on May 11<sup>th</sup>, September 5<sup>th</sup>, and September 21<sup>st</sup>. Meljien asked the group for their opinion on timing and dates.

- Chair Perez Keniston ask to clarify if Meljien is thinking mostly weekends or weekdays.
- Vivienne Meljien said weekends since most legislators have weekday jobs in the summer and fall. Meljien said she could also take a day off to do mid-week.
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- David Zilavy stated that there might be more participation on the weekend. Zilavy also asked for clarification about the Policy Ride.
- Meljien stated that the purpose is to get decision-makers and representatives to come and feel what it's like.
- Jennifer Campos stated that in her experience policy rides have been during the week, so it's part of the council's work that they are doing.
- Vivienne Meljien thanked Campos for the input, and asked if anyone was opposed to waiting until September.
- David Zilavy stated that it seemed reasonable to wait until September.
- Vivienne Meljien stated that she will try to aim then for the first week of September. Meljien mentioned that she had been putting down a list of people and listed representative from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 49<sup>th</sup> District, City Council, County Council, Community Planning, Community Development, the Department of Health, the County Manager, and the RTC Board.
- Chair Perez Keniston mentioned that WSDOT should be included.
- Meljien stated that she would need some help compiling a list of emails. Meljien stated that they should try to loop in Bike Clark County and mentioned the Vancouver Bicycle Club to maybe assist during the ride. Meljien then discussed possible routes.

- Perez Keniston mentioned that Bike Clark County has some good routes, and that it might be good to try to highlight the Port.
- Vivienne Meljien asked if there should be one or two routes.
- Chair Perez Keniston stated that it would be good to have one route and pacers.
- Vivienne Meljien asked if it would be good to have sponsored gear or safety items for participants.
- Chair Perez Keniston said it would be good to talk to Peter at Bike Clark County, and that maybe we could invite him to a future meeting to talk more about this.
- Harrison Husting stated that he received an email from someone attending online that there is a Bike around Clark County scheduled for July 27, 2024.
- Raymond Bartlett mentioned that he is part of the Vancouver Bicycle Club, and they usually break up into multiple routes to make it easier to get through traffic. Bartlett mentioned that he would be happy to help.
- Chair Perez Keniston mentioned that Micheal Newton has expressed interest in helping with other events, and asked if others could think about additional events to be involved in.

Chair Perez Keniston asked Harrison Husting to provide an update on the committee website. Harrison Husting highlighted some changes that have been made from input received to date. Husting asked for there was any more input.

- David Zilavy mentioned that the “Active Transportation in the County” page link does seem to be working.
- Harrison Husting stated that some of the maps that would be hosted in this page are not public yet, and that he is working to get those having permissions changed. Husting showed the map of bicycle and pedestrian-related collisions that would be host on this page.
- John van der Burg pointed out that there was no crash data for the City of Vancouver.
- Harrison Husting stated that he only had access to crash data for unincorporated parts of the county.
- John van der Burgh asked if there was a way to merge the data to show the County and the City.
- Harrison Husting stated that he could look into it, but that this map would most likely only be able to have data for incorporated parts of the county. Husting asked Campos if this would be something that is covered in the Safe Roads and Streets for All process.
- Jennifer Campos stated that there will be a comprehensive collision analysis for all of Clark County, and that there will be similar data. Campos also mentioned that the city of Vancouver has a collision dashboard on their website.
- Chair Perez Keniston asked if Husting could include a link to the City of Vancouver’s dashboard on the webpage,
- Brett Setterfield stated that he could provide the link to those resources.

- Vivienne Meljien asked if there was a way to have a “drop a comment” box in a map for people to provide inputs on things like intersections and streets.
- Husting stated that there is no current way of capturing that information on map. Husting stated that he could inquire to see if that is something that could be set up for the committee. Husting stated that there is a form that people can use to submit Road Concerns.
- Vivienne Meljien stated that it would be nice to be able to drop a pin.
- Chair Perez Keniston mentioned that If people have additional comments, to reach out to Harrison to get those changes made to the website.

- **Discussion: Regular Monthly Meeting Times**

Chair Perez Keniston transitioned into the ongoing discussion about moving the regular month meeting time. Perez Keniston asked members that were not at last month’s meeting if they had any comments about moving the time to 5:00pm.

- Vivienne Meljien stated that maybe 5:30pm would work. Meljien stated that she sees patients at work until 5:00 and would need to be able to get home.
- Chair Perez Keniston mentioned that Filippello also had a potential conflict with work. Perez Keniston stated that they will leave the issue to rest and keep it at 6:00pm.
- David Zilavy mentioned that he is available any time after 4:00pm.

- **Recruitment Update**

Harrison Husting provided an update about the recruitment to fill the current vacancy on the committee. The advertisement closed on February 23, 2023, and the county received 15 applicants. The applicants will be invited to the March meeting for their mutual interviews.

- Chair Perez Keniston raised concern that 2 minutes may not be enough time for each applicant to provide an introduction and the group may need to ask additional questions. Perez Keniston stated that it would be good to try to get applicants to come in person, or for them to keep their cameras on so that the group can get to know them better.
- Raymond Bartlett asked if there was any way of selecting a subset of the 15 applicants to invite to interview. Bartlett stated that if they could be asked to submit answers to a set of questions, that might help with the screening process.
- Dave Zilavy stated that he agreed that 2 minutes wasn’t a lot of time. Zilavy suggested providing them with 3 minutes, even though that only provides one extra minute.
- John Hall stated that it might be good to ask for answers to additional questions like expectations, experience and areas of strength.
- Chair Perez Keniston asked Husting how that would work with the county process.
- Harrison Husting stated that he would need to check with his supervisor and see what they recommend would be the best course of action. Husting stated that he would need to go back to the bylaws to make sure that we are following everything by the book. Husting stated that he would get back to the group before reaching out to the applicants.



- Chari Perez Keniston asked that once it is figured it to send the letters of interest to the committee for them to review.
- Harrison Husting stated that he could send those out as soon as possible, but if the committee wanted applicants to provide answers to additional questions, then that would take an additional week or two. Husting asked how much time committee members would need to review all the information ahead of the next meeting.
- John van der Burgh stated that a week would be enough. John agreed that 3 minutes would be a nice amount of time for the introductions. Van der Burgh pointed out that trying to create a new process and getting it into play might push it out a few months; therefore, maybe the group may need to just make a commitment to listen to everyone.
- Raymond Bartlett stated that he would like to know why applicants would like to join the committee and would want to look at ourselves to see what spaces are missing in the group's representation. Bartlett stated that it might be worth taking two months to get this information. Bartlett stated that a week would be fine for review.
- David Zilavy reaffirmed Bartlett's response about what the group is looking for from applicants. Zilavy listed enthusiasm, interest in multi-modal transportation, and familiarity with the process. Zilavy stated that it is a learning opportunity. Zilavy also stated that a weekend would be enough time to review material and that 3 minutes would be enough time. Zilavy stated that if they posed some question, that might help to evaluate applications.
- Vivienne Meljien stated that having materials a week and a half to two weeks ahead of time would be needed with her schedule. Vivienne stated that it would be good to have someone with skills that the committee lacks, and that someone with time and enthusiasm would be ideal.
- John Hall stated that he initially thought getting answers to key questions sounded like a good thing but wanted to back up on his previous comment about slimming down the group. Hall stated that everyone should be given a chance. Hall stated that he would need a week or less to review material.
- Chair Perez Keniston stated that she would need at least a week, but that she is flexible. Perez Keniston asked Husting to check with his supervisor, but that it sounded like the group was okay with hearing from every applicant for 3 minutes reviewing materials as is.
- Husting stated that he would be following up about next steps and getting the letters of interest out to the group as soon as possible.

- **Adjourn**

Chair Perez Keniston asked for any final comments before ending the meeting. There were none, and the meeting was adjourned around 7:54 pm.