



Clark Communities Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor
Vancouver, WA

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, March 26, 2024
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Members Present:	Judith Perez Keniston (Chair), Michael Newton (Vice-Chair), Raymond Bartlett, Megan Filippello John Hall, Vivienne Meljien, John van der Burgh, and David Zilavy
Absent:	None
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 (Applicants):	John Bower, Miriam Hammer, Kelsey Huwaldt, Richard Kolber, Michael McLean, George Vaughan

- **Welcome**

The meeting started around 6:00pm. Chair Perez Keniston provided a welcome and introduction to the purpose and charge of the committee.

- **Public Comment**

There were no attendees that provided public comment.

- **Meeting minutes from February 27, 2024**

Chair Perez Keniston asked for a motion to approve the minutes from February 27, 2024. Dave Zilavy moved to approve the minutes, and Megan Filippello seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

- **Staff Updates**

Dylan Bass, Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) –

- The I-5 and 179th St Interchange Project has kicked off the pre-design phase. The project office is looking at certain aspects, like bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the area. When a conceptual design has been formulated, they would be interested in getting some feedback from the CCBPAC.
- The SR-500 Bike/Ped Bridge project is anticipated to start work in July, and it should take around five months to be constructed.
 - Michel Newton asked for clarification on the location of the bridge.

- Bass clarified that it would be located on SR-500 at the intersection of NE 54th Ave and NE Stapleton Rd.
- John van der Burgh asked if WSDOT plans to ever put in the bridge that was originally planned, which would also include access for cars.
- Bass stated that that was outside his area of expertise but could get more information from staff and bring it back. Bass stated that the bike and pedestrian bridge is the only bridge that is currently funded at this location.
- John van der Burgh clarified that he was wondering if it would be in conjunction with the original bridge or a standalone project.
- Bass stated that he understood it as a standalone project.

Jennifer Campos, Regional Transportation Council (RTC) –

- RTC is working on a Unified Planning Work program, which outlines the tasks and work for the next year.
- There will be a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SSR4A) Project presentation that will be presented to the RTC Board on April 2, 2024. This will be a brief overview of the project. RTC will also be starting the community engagement phase towards the end of April, where there will be a survey for the public to provide input.
 - John Hall asked if this project would be related to the complete streets concept.
 - Jennifer Campos explained that is related to the safe system approach, which assumes that road users make mistakes and looks at how you can design streets to be more forgiving. Campos also stated that complete streets is integrated into the safe systems approach.

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 has completed the existing condition for that project.
- The second round of engagement has started for the 112th Ave Safety and Mobility Project. The city is looking for public feedback on proposed corridor improvement built in the near-, mid-, and long-term time frames. There is also a survey, which will be distributed later to the committee.
- City staff discussed how they might be able to help the CCBPAC with the Policy Ride. Setterfield stated that he would wait to share more information until later in the meeting, given that it's on the agenda.

Amy Koski, Clark County Public Health –

- The Climate Change and Resiliency Planning Project has formed two advisory groups. 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. The Climate Advisory Group will then take that feedback and help form policy ideas and goals that will be taken to the County Council. This project will focus on resiliency and greenhouse gas reduction. These recommended goals and policies could be related to bicycle and pedestrian

related infrastructure. There will be some surveys that will come out for the project at the end of April and early May.

- The Walkability Action Institute (WAI) group, which is a group of staff from local government agencies in the region that looks at active transportation, is working to identify some priorities from their 2024 Work Plan. This could be shared with the BPAC in the future meeting once it is solidified.

Harrison Husting, Clark County –

- The County is looking at Population, Housing, and Employment allocation as part of its Comprehensive Plan Update. The Planning Commission has asked to extend their hearing on the subject, which has rescheduled the work session with Council until April 3, 2024 and the public hearing on April 23, 2024.

- **Intertwine Alliance Regional Trails Advisory Group**

Harrison Husting shared that the Intertwine Alliance, a Portland-based non-profit organization, reached out to him about a new regional trails advocacy group that they are forming for the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area. Husting shared that their focus would be on a bi-state regional trail network, and they have reached out to local jurisdictions to participate. Husting asked if anyone from the committee would be interested in participating in their meetings and reporting back on their work to this committee. Husting stated that Intertwine Alliance does not have a set time for the meetings yet, but it looks like it would occur during business hours.

- John van der Burg shared that he may be interested but would want to learn more about the meeting times and commitment.
- Husting shared that there is a doodle pole where they are collecting people's availabilities, and he could share it with those who are interested.
- Michael Newton asked if trails meant bike trails, hiking trails, or both?
- Harrison Husting stated that it would probably be both.
- Dave Zilavy shared that he would be interested in participating in the group. Zilavy shared that he is aware of the Intertwine Alliance and likes their efforts regionally to convene people and tie things together.

Husting stated that he would follow up with John van der Burg and Dave Zilavy to get them on the email list and share the initial information with the rest of the committee via email.

- **2024 Work Plan**

Chair Perez Keniston transitioned into the 2024 Work Plan agenda item. Perez Keniston started the discussion with the Policy Ride and stated that Friday, September 6, 2024, was discussed at the last meeting as a possible date. Perez Keniston opened the floor to Vivienne Meljien to share other news and updates.

Vivienne Meljien shared that she was thinking that this could be a morning ride, starting at Ester Short Park and ending at the Vancouver Waterfront. Meljien also shared a thought that there should be two routes, one focusing on a school or regular commute, while the other focusing on a big employer or accessing health care. Meljien stated that these should be comparable in timing and skill level. Meljien shared that Jennifer Campos and Judith Perez Keniston have offered to help through RTC, and that she

has been in communication with Bike Clark County (BCC). Meljien stated that BCC has offered to loan bikes and helmets and get volunteers to help with the event. Meljien shared that they might also be willing to provide safety vests with the BCC logo to give to participants. Meljien stated that she still would like to reach out to the Vancouver Bicycle Club and the Vancouver Cyclery. Meljien shared that she has been working on an invite list and would like to reach out to local news to get the media involved.

- Chair Perez Keniston stated that if Meljien was able to send her the invite list, she could help populate it. Keniston also shared that she and Harrison Husting were discussing that not all elected officials may be comfortable on a bike. To make sure everyone is engaged, Perez Keniston suggested that they might want to explore a walking or mobile tour with C-TRAN to showcase pedestrian facilities. Perez Keniston pointed out that Zilavy's role at the school could help bring a different perspective and that there are good pedestrian areas in the county highlight. Perez Keniston asked the group what people thought about having a pedestrian and bicyclist route.
- Vivienne expressed that it was a good idea.
- David Zilavy stated that he's been meaning to touch base with Meljien to offer his help. Zilavy shared that he could help get in touch with legislators.
- Vivienne Meljien stated that she would love the help and asked Megan Filippello if she could help with contacting legislators.
- Megan Filippello stated that she would love to help.
- Vivienne stated that she would follow up with Zilavy and Filippello in an email.
- Raymond Bartlett stated that he thinks it would be a good to have a tour that features the inefficiency of sidewalk distribution in the unincorporated area. Bartlett expressed that they are miles and miles of unused sidewalk and other places that have blocks of heavily used 'cow trails' with no sidewalks. Bartlett shared that he would be interested to work to help identify those areas for the tour to show the inefficiencies in the system.
- Vivienne Meljien stated that that sounded great. Meljien also shared that she has been thinking about ways to get businesses involved.
- Chair Judith Perez Keniston stated that she could connect Meljien with the Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC), who might know who to contact.
- Harrison Husting reminded that if CCBPAC members are communicating outside of regular meetings, they need to be careful of Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) requirements. Husting suggested that the Chair create a subcommittee so that future coordination goes through the proper channels.
- Chair Judith Perez Keniston asked if Dave Zilavy and Megan Filippello would like to help Meljien with the process as part of a subcommittee. Perez Keniston asked Husting how many others could join.
- Harrison Husting stated that as long as a quorum is not met it would be fine.
- Chair Perez Keniston stated that if Meljien wanted to print flyers that she should contact the county or RTC.
- Vivienne Meljien asked if the committee would need any permits to gather a crowd.

- Jennifer Campos clarified that no permit is needed. Campos stated that the county and city should follow up, but that they haven't had to do that in the past.

Chair Perez Keniston transitioned to discussing education events as part of the 2024 Work Program. Perez Keniston started the discussion by reviewing the intended purpose of this item and opened the floor to Michel Newton, who had shown interest in helping facilitate some events.

- Michael Newton stated that he liked the idea but has been unable to plan anything.
- Chair Perez Keniston asked if it might be possible to plan something for Bike Month.
- Michael Newton expressed that he does not know what is involved in getting a Bike Rodeo event set up.
- Chair Perez Keniston asked if anyone had any other ideas to get ready for Bike Month in May.
- Michael Newton stated that he could reach out to Bike Clark County to see about their middle school training and if they could coordinate efforts.
- Richard Kolber, member of the public, mentioned that he has been part of some bike rodeos at schools and that could be done here.
- Vivienne Meljen asked if there was a way to do tabling at the Farmer's Market, where they could give out educational materials.
- Chair Perez Keniston stated that they would need materials from the local agencies and asked if Public Health or the City of Vancouver had any materials.
- Amy Koski stated that Public Health still has some brochures and materials from the Bike Safety campaign.
- Chair Perez Keniston asked what people thought.
- Michael Newton expressed that he would be interested in tabling.
- Vivienne Meljen suggested that the committee could recreate a road using chalk to serve as a visual aid when talking to people.
- Chair Perez Keniston stated that that would be a fun activity, given that she sees kids using chalk at the farmer's market all the time.
- Miriam Hammer, member of the public, expressed that she would like to see adult drivers be more educated for bicyclist and pedestrians.

- **Recruitment for vacant committee position**

Chair Perez Keniston transitioned into this agenda idea and explained that the committee has one vacant position that it is looking to fill. Perez Keniston stated that there were thirteen applicants. Perez Keniston clarified the process and stated that each candidate would be give three minutes to answer a series of questions. Candidates would then be asked to leave the room after all introductions, so that the committee could deliberate on their recommendation. Harrison Husting reiterated for the applicants that the County Manager will make the final decision and that the appointment will be final once the chosen applicant is approved by the County Council during a public hearing meeting.

- Miriam Hammer asked for clarification if they would be answering questions or be given three minutes to provide a speech.
- Chair Perez Keniston stated that she would ask the questions.
- Harrison Husting clarified that he had communicated to the applicants that they would be given three minutes to provide an introduction and had forwarded them the questions ahead of time. Husting stated that the communication asked applicants to address as many questions as possible in their three-minute introduction. Husting recommended that Chair Perez Keniston read out the questions ahead of time to remind the applicants.

Chair Perez Keniston read aloud the follow questions for the applicants and CCBPAC members:

- Describe your interest in active transportation.
- What part of County do you live?
- Please share if you currently bike, walk, or take transit to work, run errands, or recreate.
- Why do you want to serve on the committee? And what specific experiences do you bring to the table?

Chair Perez Keniston invited each applicant to provide an introduction:

- Cherly Nelson was not present.
- Deanna Solis was not present.
- Elizabeth Aftring was not present.
- George Vaughan is a lifelong resident of Clark County. Vaughan has had a lifelong interest in active transportation. Vaughan mostly walks, although he would like to bicycle more often. Vaughan expressed that it is challenging to walk and bicycle in his neighborhood. Vaughan lives in the NE Hazel Dell neighborhood in unincorporated county, which has experienced a lot of growth and historical challenges for walking and bicycling. Vaughan shared that there is a lack of infrastructure and increase in traffic. Vaughan expressed that he walks where he feels the safest, including on various greenway trails and the river walkway. Vaughan shared that he would like to join the committee because he has some ideas on how to increase the network. Vaughan expressed that he understands the challenges that seniors, novices, and those with disabilities experience. Vaughan has seen the challenges with growth in the incorporated areas and the danger that comes with it. Vaughan expressed that he is alarmed by the increasing statistics of bike and pedestrian-involved crashes.
- John Bower is a born and raise resident of Clark County. Bower is an e-bike commuter, who works at the Evergreen Public School District as a substitute teacher. Bower lives in the northern Hazel Dell and southern Salmon Creek area and is familiar with traveling throughout eastern Vancouver. Bower often travels along HWY 99, 99th St, 78th St, Padden Pkwy, the Burnt Bridge Creek Trail, 18th, McGillivray, 199th, Ridge Creek Trail, and Columbia Ave. Bower shared that he wants to be on the committee because of safety issues and expressed that the county lacks safe infrastructure for people biking, walking, and rolling. Bower shared that he was recently involved in a collision at 78th and St. John's, where he was hit by a truck turning right. Bower stated that this experience solidified his interest in local policy and infrastructure. Bower expressed that he would like to be on the committee because if there are enough people worried about safety, then we can make the right choices about the kind of networks that we build for walking and biking. Bower also stated that he would like more experience with local government so that he can bring

more meaningful issues to his students. Bower shared that he believes that he could bring his combination of lived experience commuting and educational experience, Bachelor's in History and Master's in Teaching, to the committee.

- John Leech was not present.
- Keith Forrester has been a Clark County resident for 25 years, and lives in the Fisher's Landing neighborhood. Forrester shared that he walks and bikes for exercise and occasionally will use these modes to go to the store. Forrester expressed that he has been trying to bike and walk to the store more often, but he has been finding it very challenging. Forrester shared that it is partly because he is used to taking his car, but mostly because he finds that it is not safe. Forrester stated that this interest in active transportation comes from a place of wanting to make SW Washington a more attractive place to live, grow, and go to school. Forrester expressed that incorporating safe physical activity in transportation can help people be healthier. Forrester stated that it will take a system and structure within our local governments that supports roads that are easier to ride on and walk without gaps. Forrester stated that he thought there was enough people that looked like him on the committee and would like to withdraw his application for consideration. Forrester expressed that he would like to see broader representation and more diverse perspectives on the committee.
- Kelsey Huwaldt moved to the Battle Ground area over a year ago. Huwaldt shared that she completed her first Olympic-level triathlon last year and got into bicycling while training. Huwaldt shared that she got to explore much of the county's paths and trails, including Battle Ground Lake, Lucia Falls, and Moulton Falls. Huwaldt shared that after the triathlon, she experienced an injury and has since been appreciative and more aware of accessible pathways and trails as she recovers. For her job, Huwaldt leads student and employee communication at OHSU. Huwaldt shared that it is extremely difficult to commute to the Marquam Hill campus and that communicating travel options and encouraging active transportation has been a large part of her job since joining in 2016. Huwaldt shared that prior to switching to remote work in 2020, she would commute daily using a combination of transit, biking, and running and is intimately familiar with C-TRAN and TRIMET services. Huwaldt stated that she has professional experience with active transportation, developing spaces, community relations, and working within government. Huwaldt shared that as a passionate active transportation user, she wants to be part of helping develop it across the county.
- Michael McLean has worked in various roles within transportation throughout his career. McLean shared that he was a bus driver for the Rapid Transit District of Southern California and a later became a truck driver, doing both local and cross-country routes. McLean shared that he has more recently worked as an expedited delivery driver. McLean shared that he lived for a time in Milwaukee, WI, where the city is very walking friendly and has a healthy public transit system. McLean shared that he moved to Vancouver, WA six years ago and now lives downtown. McLean expressed that the area that he lives is walking friendly and that he was appreciative of the bicycle facilities. McLean shared that his only form of transportation is his e-bike and C-TRAN. McLean shared that he has enjoyed the area's trails. McLean stated that he would like to be part of the committee to help plant the seeds of ideas of change. McLean would like to help make it preferable and easier to ride a bicycle to where you want to go.
- Miriam Hammer has lived in Clark County for 22 years and has gone everywhere walking, biking, and taking public transit. Hammer shared that she lives in the Rose Village neighborhood of Vancouver, commutes to the Van Mall neighborhood, and often walks downtown. Hammer expressed that she loves hiking and biking on roads and trails when it is safe. Hammer shared that she had previously lived in unincorporated county and walked and bicycled to her job on 99th St in Orchards and found it challenging with few bike lanes and sidewalks. Hammer shared that she has a Masters in Natural Resource Economics, which would be helpful when weighing the costs and benefits to active transportation alternatives and has been an addiction counselor for almost 16 years. Through this work, Hammer shared that she has learned to use effective,

respectful, and sensitive methods to identify values with people and work toward goals. Hammer expressed a desire to make it easier for residents to enjoy the outdoors, exercise, and improve mental and physical health, and reduce their carbon footprint. Hammer shared that she recently was hit by a car while riding her bicycle. Hammer stated that she would like to help work with driver education programs to help drivers better understand driving around bicyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair users, and hearing and visually impaired. Hammer stated that she believed her combination of skills and working with people could be a benefit to the committee.

- Patty Hastings was not present.
- Richard Kolber as been involved with bicycling for over 50 years. Kolber shared that many years ago, he was hit by a truck driver, who was under the influence, and ended up in the hospital. When living in Santa Clara County, Kolber rode his bicycle in urban and rural areas for commuting and pleasure. Kolber shared that he now mostly rides his bicycle for pleasure with the Sierra Club bicycling club from the Clark PUD to Vancouver Lake, as well as in parts of the eastern Vancouver. Kolber shared that he lives in North Image and it's hard to bike because of the lack of bike lanes. Kolber shared that he also walks in downtown and takes C-TRAN. Kolber shared that when he lived in Sunnyvale, CA, he served on their BPAC from 2012 to 2016. Kolber shared that the Sunnyvale BPAC created a safety education card that was sent to households as part of the utility bill. Kolbar expressed his interest in Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and that he would like to see more connectivity so that people could travel from one side of the county to the other.
- Scott Sloan was not present.

Chair Perez Keniston thanked applicants for coming to the meeting and asked them to leave as the committee deliberated on their recommendation.

- Michael Newton asked about applicant Ron Willis.
- Harrison Husting explained that Ron Willis had reached out and asked to withdraw his application for consideration.

Chair Perez Keniston asked each member to provide 2 candidates to move forward to narrow down the candidate pool.

- Michael Newton voted for Miriam Hammer and John Bower.
- John Hall voted for John Bower and Miriam Hammer
- Vivienne Meljen voted for Kelsey Huwaldt and John Bower.
- David Zilavy voted for Kelsey Huwaldt and John Bower.
- Raymond Bartlett voted for John Bower and Miriam Hammer.
- John van der Burg voted for Kelsey Huwaldt and John Bower.
- Megan Filippello voted for Kelsey Huwaldt and Miriam Hammer.
- Chair Perez Keniston voted for John Bower and Kelsey Huwaldt.

Chair Perez Keniston restated that John Bower received 7 votes, Kelsey Huwaldt received 5, and Miriam received 4. Chair Perez Keniston asked Husting to confirm the tallies and if this meant that John Bower was the choice.

- Husting confirmed that the tallies were correct and recommended that the floor be opened back to the group for further discussion and to have another round of voting.

Chair Perez Keniston opened the floor for further discussion.

- John van der Burg stated that he thinks it makes sense to have everyone pick their favorite and choosing from those top 2-3 choices.
- David mentioned that Kelsey Huwaldt was his first choice and he liked that she has organized educational events for transportation and that she has an understanding of government while working for OHSU.
- Michael Newton stated that it feels strange going back and taking a different approach. Newton expressed that narrowing it down to two was difficult. Newton also expressed that the committee should reach out to those who got votes to encourage them to stay engaged. Newton stated that it caught him off guard that they were not done voting.
- Raymond Bartlett stated that he liked the idea that they voted once.
- Megan Filippello stated that she would be open to the idea of going back to those top two choices. Filippello asked if they should go back and talk more about the criteria like demographic diversity and other strong suits.
- Chair Perez Keniston shared that the group already voted and wasn't sure if the voting would be different. Perez Keniston stated that she would revisit a motion if people wanted to revote.
- Michael Newton asked for clarification and stated that it seems late in the game to decide new rules.
- Harrison Husting apologized for adding any confusion. Husting stated that he wanted to provide everyone with an opportunity to provide input as to the reason why they would like to recommend one individual. Husting stated that if the committee would like to stay with the outcome of the first round of deliberations, that would be fine. Husting stated that he would just need a motion and that the committee properly recommends one individual with a majority vote.

Chair Perez Keniston asked the committee who would like to revote. After looking around the room at raised hands, Perez Keniston expressed that the majority of members would like to revote. Perez Keniston asked for consensus if there needed to be further discussion on selection criteria. A consensus was reached among the group that further discussion was not needed. Perez Keniston asked each member to provide their top candidate.

- Megan Filippello voted for Kelsey Huwaldt
- John van der Burg voted for Kelsey Huwaldt
- Raymond Bartlett voted for John Bower
- David Zilavy voted for Kelsey Huwaldt
- Vivienne Meljen voted for Kelsey Huwaldt

- John Hall voted for John Bower
- Michael Newton voted for Miriam Hammer
- Chair Judith Perez Keniston voted for John Bower

Chair Perez Keniston restated the votes as such: 4 votes for Kelsey Huwaldt, 3 votes for John Bower, and 1 vote for Miriam Hammer. Perez Keniston opened the floor for another additional discussion.

- John van der Burg expressed his gratitude for all the interest that there was from the candidates. Van der Burg shared that it is hard to gauge qualification for a volunteer position.
- John Hall stated that he seconded Van de Burg's comments. Hall shared that the decision is part of the committee's personal direction and who they think can best help meet that.
- Michael Newton asked if the committee could reach out to those who got support to ask them to stay engaged and apply for future opportunities.
- Chair Perez Keniston expressed that she was very impressed with the candidates and stated that many could have complimented the current group.
- Vivienne Meljen agreed with Perez Keniston's comments. Meljen expressed wanting to reach out to Keith Forrester as well, even though he opted out.
- Michael Newton stated that Forrester was toward the top of his list.
- John van de Burgh stated that Keither Forrester let him know that he plans to join future meetings. Van de Burgh mentioned that Forrester has been at previous meetings as a non-member and seem encouraged.
- Chair Perez Keniston stated that they can try to find ways for all the applicants to be involved in some capacity or another.
- Vivienne Meljen asked if we could keep the applicants on an email list.
- Harrison Husting stated that there is an email distribution list for the committee. Husting stated that when he reaches out, he can include a link for them to sign up.
- Chair Perez Keniston mentioned that she and Harrison Husting have been talking about future process with filling vacancies. Perez Keniston mentioned that instead of trying to interview fifteen candidates in one meeting, there could be a better process with more question to ask up front. Perez Keniston stated that she would be working with staff in the background to have it prepared for next time.

- **Adjourn**

Chair Perez Keniston asked for any final comments before ending the meeting. There were none from committee members. Chair Perez Keniston asked Harrison Husting is there was anything left that needed to be done for forming the subcommittee and provide the County Manager with an applicant recommendation. Husting stated that there should be a formal action.

Chair Perez Keniston asked for all those in favor of recommending Kelsey Huwaldt for the vacant position. The vote was unanimously approved.

Chair Perez Keniston asked for a motion to form a subcommittee for the Policy Ride with Vivienne Meljen, David Zilavy, and Megan Filippello as the members. Michael Newton moved to approve the formation of a subcommittee and Vivienne Meljen seconded. The vote was unanimously approved.

Chair Perez Keniston adjourned the meeting around 7:50 pm.

DRAFT