

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

City Hall

4:00 PM January 3rd, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm, by Mike Fuller

1. ROLL CALL

Denise Jeska	Chair, Disabled Community	absent
Michael Fuller	Vice Chair, General Public	present
John Brunning	North Idaho Trail Foundation	present
Amy Evans	City Council Liaison	present
Greyson Storey	Student Representative	absent
David Passaro	Bicycling Community	absent
Michael Light	Landscape Architect	absent
Michael Wood	North Idaho College	present
Brant Souvenir	General Public	present
Bill Irving	Environmental Community	present
Allister McIntyre	Alternate Student Representative	present

City Staff Attending	
Monte McCully	Trails Coordinator, Liaison
Michael Kempton	Lead Maintenance Worker, Records

Public Attending
none

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES – Action Item

John Brunning made a motion to approve the November 2023, minutes, Bill Irving seconded the motion, there being no further discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

5. STAFF REPORT

Monte informed the committee that the City of Post Falls is applying for an Recreational Trails Program grant to rebuild the two mile section of the North Idaho Centennial Trail from the Washington state line to Pleasant View Road. He explained that this was the oldest section of the trail constructed and that the asphalt had deteriorated to the point that the cracks have become so numerous and large that it was affecting the safety of cyclists and that the amount of maintenance needed to repair the trail would exceed the cost of rebuilding it. He explained that this project was supported by the joint agencies that are responsible for trail maintenance and that they were seeking public support for it. A question was asked about plans to reroute part of this section of trail in conjunction with relocating the ITD weigh station. John Brunning explained that any possible relocation would be many years in the future and that something needs to be done soon to mitigate the hazards. Amy Evans asked if it would be helpful for the committee to write a letter of support and Monte replied that it would. After a brief discussion it was determined that a motion to amend the agenda to include an action item approving a letter of support for the trail rebuilding project be made. Monte added that a large trail improvement

project utilizing staff and volunteers was planned for National Trails Day June 1st on Tubbs Hill. This project will relocate and improve the connector trail between the museum and loop trail. Monte concluded the staff report by telling the committee that he had started adding posts to the committee's Facebook page.

6. ACTION ITEMS

Mike Fuller made a motion for the committee to submit a letter of support for Post Falls application for a grant to rebuild two miles of the North Idaho Centennial Trail and Amy Evans seconded it. The motion passed.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Presentation by Bill Irving**

Bill Irving gave a presentation relating his advocacy of bicycling and walking to the efforts to mitigate climate change and the overall benefits to the community at large. He touched on a book he had written on the subject titled "Losing Home". He explained that transportation is the primary driver of climate change mostly through automobile exhaust. His goal is to create a bikeable community where all residents live within walking or cycling distance of the businesses they need as well as parks, schools and other amenities. Bill shared that the average walkability score for Coeur d'Alene is 35 out of 100, which means most residents need a car to conduct basic business and that he would like to see this improved to, at minimum, the score the mid-town district currently has of a 62. Bill further expanded on additional benefits including: improved health with less cases of asthma and diabetes, increased levels of economic activity (since 79% of potential home buyers want to live within easy walking distance to parks and stores), and improved social engagement to combat the effects of an epidemic of loneliness. Bill concluded by speaking about the negative effects associated with excessive parking requirements and how, in his opinion, the city should reduce or eliminate minimum parking requirements for new buildings, the same way Sandpoint did a few years ago. John Brunning shared how the minimum parking requirements adversely affects non-profit groups like St. Vincent DePaul by forcing them to construct expensive parking lots in their housing projects that are largely utilized by people that do not own or operate motor vehicles.

- **Chip Sealing Bike Lanes**

Monte explained that the City's Street Department intends to include bike lanes to simplify these projects. A discussion followed highlighting the negative impacts of chip sealing bike lanes which included safety hazards by creating a rough, uneven surface, mechanical problems primarily due to tire failure and discouraging the use of the bike lanes in general, especially by casual cyclists, and forcing them to seek other alternatives like riding on sidewalks or not riding bikes at all. It was generally agreed that the members of the committee should make their opposition to chip sealing bike lanes known through appropriate channels.

- **Critical Corridors for Sidewalks/Sidewalk Mapping.**

Monte shared that the committee had completed their recommendations to make a change to city ordinance related to sidewalk requirements and that they had identified eleven critical corridors for its implementation and now the effort to have the ordinance change approved by city council will need to be forwarded by Planning or Engineering. The committee will continue to monitor the progress of this item and to provide support when requested.

- Pedestrian-Bicycle Committee Newsletter.
Monte showed the committee a copy of the winter newsletter created to provide information related to maintaining sidewalks primarily aimed at local businesses. A suggestion was made to add information related to the sidewalk application grants. It was decided that this information would be included in the next newsletter as almost all sidewalk improvements are made in the spring, summer, and fall.

8. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – Information Items

- Awareness/Advocacy/Education:
Michael Wood reported that he had spoken to members of the City of Moscow Idaho's Safe Routes to School about their program and shared that they got their coordinator for this program through the local school district.
- Infrastructure:
Mike Fuller met with the City's code enforcement officer regarding business encroachments on public walkways in the downtown business district. They had scheduled a tour to identify specific issues, but it was cancelled due to work requirements and hopefully will be rescheduled in the near future. Monte asked if they were identifying non-compliant sidewalk ramps or the complete lack of them at various intersections. He suggested that the sub-committee concentrate on identifying intersections without any ramp first.
- Bikeways Master Plan
No update
- Bike and Walk Week:
The committee was informed that a point person to shepherd this upcoming event needed to be assigned. Mike Fuller agreed to work on this project.

9. ROUND TABLE – Information Items:

John Brunning updated the committee on traffic counts on the North Idaho Centennial Trail at the Harbor Center location and that Centennial Trail Foundation was having a meeting open to the public at Vantage Brewery on Tuesday, January 23rd.

Monte McCully shared information about an application that tracks use of parks and trails among other municipal services called Placer AI.

10. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, February 7th 4:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room 6.

John Brunning made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Michael Wood seconded the motion, there being no further discussion and all being in favor, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 pm.

HOBO Trail Counter Site at M.P. 14

	2022	2023
Jan.	4,552	-
Feb.	5,630	-
March	9,135	6,818
April	-	9,898
May	-	18,263
June	-	22,308
July	-	28,782
Aug.	24,231	18,355
Sept.	18,400	14,568
Oct.	13,186	10,390
Nov.	3,267	4,629
Dec.	2,350	3,000 (est.)
Total	80,751	137,011

Notes: For the months of May, June, July 2022 the counter was at sites other than M.P. 14.

For the months of January and February 2023 there is no data due to counter malfunction.

For December 2023 the count was estimated. The counter was downloaded on 12-11-22 and the count was estimated for the remainder of the month.

Totals for 2022 and 2023 for the months where we have data for both years for comparison:
2022 = 70,569 and 2023 = 57,760.