

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)

August 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order and conducted via video/phone conferencing.

Members Present: Charlie Commeree (Chair), Andy Stevenson, Gordon Taylor, Judy Sarles, Justin Zarzeczny, Erik Rohrer, Jim Mraz, and Lorrie Mittmann.

County Representatives: Steve Gray, County Public Works Dept. (Ex-officio TAC member)
Mike French, County Commissioner

Guests/Public: Jeff Bohman, Michele Canale, and Molly Ericksen from the Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC); Kenneth Reandeau, Merrin Packer (City of Sequim).

B. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Taylor moved, and Member Sarles seconded to approve the July 3, meeting minutes. The motion passed with Member Mittmann abstaining since she was not present at the July meeting.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS/MEMBER UPDATES:

- Member Gray announced that the County has hired a Regional Trails and Active Transportation Coordinator who is anticipated to start work in September. He also summarized his trip to Washington D.C. with a contingent of other Olympic Peninsula in support of the completion of the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT). Discussion followed.
- Chair Commeree provided observations related to his bike ride from Hendricksen Rd in Sequim to Hill Street in Port Angeles. He recommended:
 - Add ODT route signage at Evans and Fifth Street intersections with Hendricksen Rd.
 - Paint ODT emblem stencil on separated trail section along Hendrickson Road. Member Taylor noted that PTC is currently not allowed to put stencil on trail surface under their MOU with the City.
- Merrin Packer, City of Sequim, noted the city has a bike committee and they are actively looking at where Sequim can improve signage and requested Chair Commeree send these locations for suggested ODT route signage additions to Sequim.
- Chair Commeree also noted that signage at ODT Priest Road and Hendricksen Rd intersection is confusing and recommended ODT route signage through the Railroad Bridge Park to navigate trail route around the nature center.
- Chair Commeree noted trail surface from ODT-Siebert Creek to the Port Angeles Gun Club (along US 101 near Deer Park Road intersection) is rough for narrow tired bikes. Member Gray noted that is an older chip seal section and that chip seal surface is a rougher surface type. New ODT sections have been asphalted and that is the current surface standard.
- Chair Commeree noted he recently walked the first several miles of the Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) section from the SR 112 trailhead and gave credit to Jeff Ralston, County Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator, and the trail volunteers for the condition of the trail.
- Member Mittman noted that the PTC put on the Tour of Lavendar past weekend. The event attracted 100 more riders this year with of total of 902 riders.

E. TRAIL PROJECT AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. ODT improvement/expansion project updates:

a. *ODT-Forks to La Push Project Update:*

- *Calawah River Trail Bridge:* Member Gray presented a map and provided an overview of the planned ODT-Calawah River Bridge crossing from the Forks Calawah River Park and how the bridge crossing connects to planned trail section to the SR 110/US 101 intersection and the Sitkum-Sol Duc Road. Public Works is reviewing scope of work and budget prepared by the selected consultant team for the design, environmental review, and permitting of the planned trail bridge. The next step will finalize scope towards contract award.
- *Forks to La Push (Along SR 110/La Push Rd) Trail Section.* Member Gray presented a map and provided an overview of the ODT-Forks to La Push project route along the SR 110/La Push Rd corridor. He reviewed a letter from County Public Works to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) - Western Federal Lands (WFL) Project Team that was included in the packet materials. In addition, he summarized related project discussion and outcome of the August 1 meeting with FHWA-WFL Project Team attended by Member Gray, Commissioner French, and Joe Donisi (County Engineer). Expected next step will be a follow-up meeting with the WFL project team and preparation of a draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on project moving forward. Discussion followed.

b. *RAISE Grant Update:* The language of the multi-jurisdictional RAISE grant Agreement between US Department of Transportation (USDOT), the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and 13 other project partners (includes Clallam County) subrecipients has been approved by USDOT. Review of the Agreement by the County Commissioners is scheduled on August 12 with action anticipated on August 20. All subrecipients must sign the Agreement prior to execution – WSDOT & FHWA last to sign. Once this Agreement is executed, obligation of federal RAISE funds to support project implementation will be through subsequent agreements between the County and WSDOT to access the \$3.75 million of the \$16.130 million total grant awarded to Clallam County projects.

Chair Commerree indicated he wanted the TAC to discuss the priorities of County's seven RAISE project areas related to scheduling work. He supports the planning of the westward continuation of the trail from the ODT-Elwha River Bridge as a top priority. Getting on SR 112 to continue west is not desirable. He requested to put on agenda for next meeting to discuss what the TAC thinks are the priorities. Member Gray noted planning for the scheduling projects is part of the Six-Year (2025-2030) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update. He also noted that six of the seven projects are planning/preliminary studies. Only one project the Waterline Road section is funded for 100% design.

Member Stevenson noted that before considering priorities the TAC needs to understand work the County has already put in, what already know, what the known problems are, and what are the likely solutions. Some of the scheduling needs to consider the realities of what is on the ground. What we done, what we know, and what we understand are key issues on what goes next. He agreed with Chair Commeree about SR 112 not being desirable and noted that he has been dedicated to working on closing the Joyce gap for 17 years and still am dedicated but it may well prove there are other things that are more mature, more ready for action, and more achievable in a shorter time frame and he thinks important to bring those issues forward when talk about scheduling.

Further discussion tabled to Item F.3 of today's agenda on the Six-Year TIP update as time permits with continued discussion on project priorities related to the Six-Year (2025-2030) TIP update to occur at the September TAC meeting

c. *OAT-Whiskey Creek Bridge Project:* Member Gray provided several presentation slides to overview the project for the construction of the 60 foot long, by 6 feet wide reinforced polymer bridge (FRB) across Whiskey Creek on the Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT). The slides included photos of bridge abutment improvements (gabion baskets) being currently constructed by volunteers. He noted that permits have been

approved and that the bridge trusses expected to be delivered this week. He also noted that the new bridge will:

- Supports all users – pedestrians, bicyclists, & equestrians.
- Individual bridge parts weigh less than 150 lbs or less.
- All parts are prefabricated and ready to assemble on site.
- Assembly does not require any special skills.
- No heavy equipment necessary
- County purchased 3" thick Doug Fir planks for decking to accommodate equestrian loading
- Delivery of FRP truss in time for installation prior to close of September fish window for construction.

Discussion followed. Member Sarles recommended in future consider instead of just horizontal fir decking also put running boards in the middle for equestrians that may also increase stability. Member Stevenson asked whether the manufacturer considered our more ridged fir decking versus their standard decking product, and whether there will still be a stock ford? Member Gray responded County went with local Doug Fir versus their yellow pine decking option. He also noted that the County is not constructing a stock ford at this point, and County does not have a permit to do so. The bridge is intended to be multi-user crossing.

Discussion followed related to manufacturer recommendation to sign bridge to one horse crossing at time. Member Sarles indicated that recommending only one horse at a time is more dangerous because horse do not like to be separated, safer to have them go together. Member Gray noted that Public Works has not concluded on any specific signage.

d. *County DNR River Road Property Acquisition Update.*

Transfer of grant funding to support the property acquisition into escrow account still on track by early September with closing sometime later fall.

e. *Towne Road/Dungeness Levee Project Update.* Member Gray noted

Levee re-grading to support trail and road is completed. Trail area is at grade with gravel surface. The curb separator between the trail and road installed. Work in progress includes construction of parking area on south end that will have path to where both levee sections come together. The Army Corps of Engineers permit modification for the stormwater system has been issued. Other work to complete by the contractor includes installation of guardrail and stormwater management improvements. Anticipate contractor work to be completed by end of August or early-September. County Public Works will chip seal road section following completion of contractor work. The trail is currently open during non-working hours.

2. County Volunteer ODT/OAT Trail Crew Maintenance Project Reports:

The County volunteer crew led by Jeff Ralston held three Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) work parties during July: (1) one day on tread/drainage work between milepost (MP) 8.25-9.25; (2) one day on bypass trail tread at MP 17.25; and (3) one day on Whiskey Creek Bridge related preparation work.

3. County ODT/OAT Maintenance Reports:

6 days on ODT mostly mowing work. Other work included installation of new memorial bench on the ODT between Kacee Way and the Elwha River Bridge crossing.

13 days on OAT mostly related to Whiskey Bridge approach work and staging for the bridge replacement. Other work included volunteer work party coordination and support.

4. Other ODT/OAT Reports:

- Member Gray provided an update on County signage improvements related to the ODT-Carlsborg Road and ODT-Health Road crossings. He presented an overlay map showing the location and type of warning signage improvements on both roads related to each respective ODT crossing.

F. DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. *Input on location and messaging/content priorities for updated existing, or constructing new, information kiosks on the ODT and OAT.* Member Gray noted that PTC is looking for input on priorities to rehabilitate existing kiosks and new informational kiosk construction using their awarded 2024 County lodging tax funds. PTC has identified the following priorities:

- Fully rehabilitate the two existing (aging) kiosks at the OAT 112 Trailhead
- Construct a new kiosk to be placed at a County-specified location along the Gossett-Waterline segment
- Construct a new kiosk at the parking area at Old Blyn Hwy, at the west end of the new ODT segment.

Discussion followed and suggestions included:

- Consider other Kiosk updates such as near the Carlsborg Road and Kitchen-Dick Road crossings.
 - Consider standard kiosk information content such as area trail map and trail etiquette guidelines.
 - Locations of bike lockers and public transit stops along or in vicinity of trail.
 - Kiosk at western end of trail in La Push. Member Stevenson noted that PTC has initiated discussions with the Quileute Tribe.
2. *Equestrian path material types and standards along the ODT.* Member Gray reported that typical equestrian path material types along the paved shoulders of the ODT for equestrian use is standard reject sand – 3/8” minus crushed rock with fines.
 3. *Continued discussion on Clallam County 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) related to trail projects for the upcoming 2025-2030 update.* Discussion tabled to the August meeting due to time.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Merrin Packer, City of Sequim. Commented that the City of Sequim received an inquiry from an out-of-county trail user about e-bike charging infrastructure along the ODT. Sequim has outlets at picnic structures at Carrie Blake Park, but don't have any e-bike specific infrastructure for charging. Are other jurisdictions interested in installing e-bike charging infrastructure along the ODT specifically at parks and shelter site? Chair Commeree inquired if plans to have electricity at kiosks. Jeff Bohman, PTC, noted that is not part of their grant funding. Member Gray reported that there is no e-bike charging infrastructure along County managed ODT corridor or current plans to install. Merrin asked if Sequim pursued grants or other options for e-bike charging infrastructure within the city limits is that something of interest to the TAC. Chair Commeree supported concept. Member Taylor noted that e-bikes have different power charging cords, only practical way would be to install 110V receptacles and say you can plug into them with your cord. Questions were asked who pays and is there an actual need. Chair Commeree noted he commends the City for the installed bike fixing stations. Member Stevenson noted many other priorities than e-bike charging systems such as added restrooms, parking areas, or basic needs on the trail.

Molly Eriksen, commented a potential good place for bike charging is at the Railroad Bridge Park.

Michele Canale. Noted that next Clallam County Lodging Tax call for projects is in October.

H. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.