

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)

September 3, 2025, 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, Lorrie Mittmann, Justin Zarzeczny, Wendy Clark-Getzin, Grant Herman

County Representatives: Steve Gray, County Public Works Dept. (Ex-officio TAC member)
William Habel, Regional Trails & Active Transportation Coordinator
Mike French, Clallam County Commissioner

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There were no requests for modifications of the August 6th, 2025 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

C. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- There were no modifications to the agenda.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEMBER UPDATES:

- **Support for Improvements along ODT Priest Rd to Nature Center-**
 - Member Herman expressed his support, along with the Sequim Wheelers support for County & Tribal proposed projects for improving the trail surface from Priest Rd to the Nature Center in Sequim.
- **FS2918 Campsite and Improvements**
 - Chair Commeree expressed that he believed that FS2918 was adequate for sharing with trail and road traffic, apart from the “pinch point”. A discussion followed, with other members expressing that the road is not adequate when facing a logging truck or other large vehicle. Member Gray re-iterated the proposed improvements, and that the applicants for the Campsite have to propose and execute improvements as part of their Conditional Use Permit. Additional discussion followed.

E. TRAIL PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS:

- **ODT- Forks to La Push Project Update**

Will informed the group of progress made on the Forks to La Push segment of the ODT. Cultural and Environmental reviews for the Federal NEPA process were nearly completed, but a delay with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on two properties has halted further progress. The DNR expressed that the two properties that the trail is planned to be routed through are either Occupied Marbled Murrelet sites, or potential Spotted Owl habitat. The DNR allows non motorized trails on these sites, but maintain that because the ODT allows E-Bikes, which the DNR considers “motorized vehicles”, that new trail building would not be permitted on the two sites. Further meetings with the DNR are scheduled, and an inquiry to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has been made about fitting the trail within WSDOT right of way as a last resort solution if discussions with the DNR are unsuccessful.

- **County ODT/OAT Maintenance Project Reports**

JUNE- MOWING: 12 days of mowing, including Thompson Onella, west of Crescent, Gosset Rd, Kaycee Way, essentially east to west starting at Bagley Creek. Jeff also took a field visit with our environmental permitting coordinator Deb Kucipeck to visit the Bear Creek bridge replacement site, to get an idea of what sort of permitting activities will be required.

JULY- Jeff mostly split his time for July between the OAT and ODT. As expected, a lot of time mowing, and quite a bit of equipment maintenance to ensure everything was working properly.

AUGUST- Most of August was spent working on the new bridge, especially the last two weeks of the month. The first half of August was spent mowing, and working on other smaller projects, such as checking locks and bollards.

- **County Volunteer ODT/OAT Trail Crew Maintenance Project Reports**

6-6: MP 1 1.5-14- Thursday crew worked on brushing, switch back improvements, drainage, and tread from Graul Ramapo crossing in both directions, but mostly west.

Tom mix and I spent the morning in the bear creek bridge vicinity, discussing plans for their replacement, in kind. We found a suitable tree, Doug fir about 20" which would provide all the stringers material, and good cedar

For sill logs, and another cedar for decking. The work would take roughly 4-5 days and we would need to buy a box of 12" galvanized spikes.

6-12 MP 21

Worked brushing, tread and drains back to the east, improved the picnic table zone, took a few snags, continued pole sawing efforts and tread widening! Trails looking good. The puncheon bridge near MP21 will need replacement in a year

or two. Picnic table needs replacement.

6-19- Holiday

6-26: MP0-M1: General tread improvements on one of the most heavily trafficked sections of the OAT.

7-3: Continuing last weeks, but from MP1-2

7-9:MP3

7-17: Crew went out further west, to MP 14-15, more routine maintenance including brushing and sweeping.

7-24: Around the same area, finishing a bit of the previous weeks work, and starting work on replacing a crib wall.

7-31- more maintenance, and finishing replacement of the crib wall.

8-7- Crew started prep work on replacing the Bear Creek Bridge on the OAT.

8-14- Crew continued to move material to the bridge replacement site, and started up the decking milling operation. The rest of the crew worked on tread improvements around MP12-13

8-21- Continued work on the Bear Creek Bridge, more material moving. Tread work around MP 11.

8-28- Demolition started on the old bridge, and a temporary bridge structure was assembled and put into place for the GOAT run. More treadwork around the clearcut at MP11

- **Other ODT/OAT Reports**

ODT Emergency Access- Will informed the group that he had reached out to local law enforcement and all County fire districts letting them know how to access the trail during an emergency. Most groups were aware, but keys were distributed to a few departments that were unsure whether or not they had the correct keys for access.

F. DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS

- **Update on ODT Emergency Access**

Will informed the group that he had reached out to local law enforcement and all County fire districts letting them know how to access the trail during an emergency. Most groups were aware, but keys were distributed to a few departments that were unsure whether or not they had the correct keys for access

- **Lodging Tax Project Proposals Update**

A discussion regarding proposed improvements to the Olympic Discovery Trail from Priest Rd to the Dungeness Nature center occurred. See meeting recording for full discussion

- **Diamond Point Utility Work Discussion**

The group discussed the possibility of enhancing the recent utility work completed by the PUD along Diamond Point Road to include some sort of non-motorized trail, with the possibility of extending the clearing and improvements to the ODT at Highway 101 to the Diamond Point Community.

- **Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan Update**

Member Gray updated the group on the annual Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan, and when the public has a chance to comment on proposed projects. Commissioner French mentioned the possibility of utilizing Real Estate Excise Tax funding to purchase property and right of way for the Discovery Trail.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jeff Bohman of the Peninsula Trails Coalition recommended increased signage along Highway 110 for wayfinding and bicycle safety, especially as the trail grows further west.

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