

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) February 5, 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, Judy Sarles, Lorrie Mittmann, Jim Mraz, Wendy Clark-Getzin, Erik Rohrer, Jennifer Reandeau, Justin Zarzeczny

County Representatives:

Steve Gray, County Public Works Dept. (Ex-officio TAC member)

William Habel, Regional Trails & Active Transportation Coordinator

Jeff Ralton- Trail Maintenance and Volunteer Coordinator

Mike French, County Commissioner

Guests/Public: Steve Durrant (PS2P), Timothy Tucker (City of Port Angeles (COPA) Parks Department), Tim Hayes (COPA Public Works), Jonathan Boehme (COPA Public Works), Jeremy Pozernick (COPA Public Works)

- ## B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
- There were no requested changes to the meeting minutes during the meeting. The December 4th meeting minutes were approved.

C. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- A request was made to move the City of Port Angeles' presentation to the beginning of the meeting due to time constraints.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEMBER UPDATES:

- **City of Port Angeles RAISE Update**

City Engineer Jonathan Boehme spoke to the group about COPA's 4 RAISE projects.

Project #1 is Race St Phase 2, which is a continuation of the ODT extension up Race St, to the National Park Visitors Center. The RAISE project provides funding to complete the 100% design, engineering and environmental. This project will start this year. Jonathan stated that they are currently working through the fund obligation with WSDOT, so they can get started. The City has elected to complete their RAISE projects in house whenever possible. Jeremy Pozernick has been given responsibility as project lead on the RAISE projects. Jonathan estimates approximately a year and a half before finalizing final design, and that construction is already partially funded.

Project #2 is Race St Phase 3, which will run from the end of Phase 2, to 911 Park on the Waterfront. The RAISE project will cover planning, alignment, and 30% design.

Project #3 is the Waterfront Trail Restoration and Sustainability Project. The goal of this project is to help avoid some of the current challenges facing the Waterfront Trail section of the ODT including landslides, washouts, and others in the future. This project will likely primarily be performed by consultants, who will be looking at ways to help keep the trail open in the future, and lower annual maintenance costs. This project will likely be starting in approximately 2026.

Project #4 is the Gales Addition ODT connector. This project is in very early stages. The goal is to connect the ODT in another point to the Eastern Neighborhood of Gales Addition.

Q&A-

- Member Reandeau- Raised concerns that horses were not permitted on the ODT sections through Port Angeles, and asked if whether or not that was being considered as

part of the RAISE project. Jonathan stated that it wasn't part of the RAISE project. Tim Tucker said he was aware of the issue, and that it would be an ordinance change to permit Horses within City limits.

- Chair Commeree- Inquired about the Hill Street Bridge, and why the city did not request funds for the construction of a new bridge. Jonathan replied that the RAISE grant was a design and planning only grant, and that the Hill Street ODT Trail project is already at 100% design, but construction funding as not yet been secured.
- Member Stevenson- Requested the funding amounts for each project. Jeremy Pozernick replied that Project 1 has \$1.2 million in funding, Project 2 & 3 have \$600,000 each, and Project 4 has \$1 million.
- Chair Commeree- Inquired about Project 2 routing & alignment. Jonathan said that part of the RAISE funding will be determining the preferred alignments.
- Member Stevenson- Asked if the planning for Project 2 included provisions for correcting the grade around 911 Park. Jonathan stated that it would.
- Member Gray- Steve asked for a description of project focus on the sustainability study for Project 4. Jonathan stated that #1 is the revetment, which is a frequent source of trail closures, #2 is landslide & flooding stabilization such as culverts and drainage systems. The study will be wide ranging, including consideration of trail location movement, trail raising, etc.
- Member Stevenson- Andy agreed that a careful study needs to be done involving coastal engineers and geologists looking into the future. He expressed that outright moving of the trail would be a mistake.
- Member Gray- Asked about Project #4, and what sort of options the City would be exploring to connect Gales Addition to the ODT. Jonathan stated that they were still very early in the planning process, and that the overall goal is to connect the neighborhood to the trail. He said that there are no easy solutions. Timothy Tucker added that the most problematic section of the trail was found within this area, and that possible alternatives would be exploring eliminating unsafe detours and high maintenance costs.

Jonathan briefly touched on some of the other active transportation projects the City had recently undergone, especially the repaving of 4th street, and the bicycle lane designation as part of that project. He highlighted the fact that the City was able to add this to an already existing project for not a large increase in cost, and that the city would be pursuing additional projects like this. Timothy Tucker added that other cheap active transportation solutions were being pursued, including eliminating parking on the bicycle side of 4th street, moving the bike lane on Hill street from the south to north side, improving safety for bicyclists.

- **City of Port Angeles Waterfront Trail Updates**

Tim Tucker updated the group on the damage occurred during winter storms during February of 2024. Tim said that the project was involved with FEMA. He stated that one aspect consisted of fairly routine repairs that had occurred in the past, which typically require minimal additional permitting, with existing contractors. FEMA stated that what had been done in the past could not be done with FEMA dollars, and that a new contract had to be produced for repairs involving FEMA funding. Hopefully by mid-February, the contracts will be going out to bid. Delays with FEMA have complicated timelines. Andy asked if there was a dollar amount associated with the FEMA related work, Tim replied that the overall dollar amount was about \$800,000, but wasn't positive how the dollars were split amongst the Waterfront projects.

- **Other Member Updates and Announcements**

Chair Commeree inquired what the status of the RAISE projects was after an executive order was issued by the White House temporarily halting all federal grants. A short discussion ensued following this. Steve Durant (PS2P) replied that he was under the impression that WSDOT's opinion was to continue making

steps towards funding obligation. The county responded that they also did not yet have a solid answer on next steps from either federal or state partners, but were proceeding forward regardless.

Member Stevenson inquired about the letter of support for EFM's newest grant application, and whether it was on track. Steve told him that it was being worked on, and that the letter would soon be brought to the commissioners.

E. TRAIL PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS:

- **Signage Update**

William Habel informed the group of soon to be installed warning signs at Bagley Creek, Sieberts Creek, Pristine Lane, and the Thompson/Onella Bridge. These signs include Blind Corner, Grade Warnings, Speed Warnings, among others. Also purchased was a SLOW stencil for use in other areas where signage may not be required, but extra attention is required

- **Infrastructure and Trail Inventory**

William Habel informed the group of an upcoming project documenting and mapping infrastructure resources found on the Olympic Discovery Trail. These will include infrastructure such as bridges, signage, bollards, etc. Documenting these resources will allow resources to be saved in a central location, with the possibility of sharing collected data with the public via the online trail maps. Member Stevenson requested that the data also be available in KML format.

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

For the entire year of 2024, there were 3800 volunteer hours. I can't emphasize how important this is. Going off of the independent sector's Volunteer time valuation, this is the equivalent of \$153064, or 475 8 hour days. We can't thank the volunteer crews enough for what they do.

For December, the Volunteer crew primarily stuck to the Discovery trail, especially on the Kitchen Dick to Carlsborg Road segment. Much of this was spent trimming & removing trees and running the brush on the trail. For January, the crew spent most of the month doing much of the same, especially in the Carlsborg/Kitchendick/Vautier Road area. Lots of trimming, lots of chipping. On the 30th, the crew went out to the Clearcut site around MP 17.5 with the assistance of the Washington State Conservation Core to help assist with clearing and rebuilding the trail, as the logging operations had severely impacted the route. Member Zarieczny informed the group that the impacted section should be ready to be re-opened.

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

In December, the county spent 3 days on the Adventure trail, and 14 days on the ODT.

Much of this activity was related to the trimming activities in the Sequim area, lots of chipping and trimming. Jeff also did tractor work in the same section, mowing, brushing, etc. He also repaired that section of bridge that got damaged during the early December storms near Sequim Bay Rd.

For January, Jeff Spent 9 days on the ODT, and 4 days on the adventure trail. Lots of mowing and brushing, especially on Gosset-Waterline Rd. On the OAT, Jeff ran the blower, did some tree trimming, and signage repair.

- **Other ODT/OAT Reports**

Next month, Lauren Bromley from Washington State Parks is going to give a presentation on the future of the Miller Peninsula State Park.

The new excavator for the Trails Maintenance Tractor has been ordered using Clallam County Lodging Tax funds.

William Habel gave a brief overview of Public Works' planned 2nd round Lodging Tax funds. Public Works is applying for an E-bike to allow for easier maintenance and access of the Olympic Adventure Trail, and to allow for vehicle free surveying and maintenance on the Discovery Trail when a full sized vehicle is not required, or not appropriate. The application will be for around \$9900, and includes bike racks, equipment trailers, and a tipper rack for transporting the bike.

F. DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS

- **DNR Waterline Gate Bypass**
 - William Habel highlighted the efforts of Member Zarzeczny and Member Taylor to construct a trail gate bypass on the Waterline Rd section of the ODT. Members also requested additional DNR keys from Member Zarzeczny for adopters. Member Zarzeczny said he would see what he could do.
- **Thanking Jeff Ralston**
 - The group thanked Jeff for his years of incredible service to the Olympic Discovery & Adventure Trails. Jeff reassured the group that he would continue to volunteer on Thursday crews.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Member Taylor wished Commissioner French a happy birthday

H. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.