



MEETING MINUTES

DESCHUTES COUNTY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 6, 12:00 to 1:30 pm

ODOT, 63055 N Hwy 97, Building M, Baney Conference Room, Bend

Members Present: Jennifer Letz, David Green, Diane Flowers, Matt Muchna, Bob Nash, Wendy Holzman, Neil Baungard

Agency/Organization: Tanya Saltzman (Deschutes County), Brian Potwin (Commute Options), Chris Cheng (ODOT)

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

Introductions

Attendees of the meeting introduced themselves and, if applicable, identified the organization they represent.

Public comment

David G. noted that the ODOT sidewalk at Butler Market is great.

Approval of Prior Minutes

The January 2025 minutes were approved, with a minor amendment.

Committee Business

- AT Large position update – posted, closes February 14
- COACT/COIC Crash Prevention Committee: this group will work on messaging; Jennifer has gone to a few meetings but is looking for another BPAC member to represent BPAC. Next meeting is Feb. 14 1-2 via Zoom.
 - Diane Flowers volunteered.
- Safe Sidewalks award: Tanya to organize and set deadline at end of March.

2025 BPAC Summit planning (David Green and others) – April 10

- Getting Complete Streets speaker finalized this week
- Working on poster with Matt and Anthony
- Envision Bend paid for room; Commute Options paid for refundable AV deposit; MPO will help with honorarium for people coming from Portland
- Still looking for people from Crook or Jefferson County (primarily planners). Chris Cheng might have some contacts. If we can't get people from the counties, we could also try Madras or Prineville.
- Anthony put together two posters (Save the Date and primary), will share when ready
- Food: Derek had previously said CET could provide coffee. For lunch, people will be able to order from a designated sandwich shop and they'll deliver to the conference.

Working group updates

- Outreach: need to clean up mailing list from some bouncebacks; Matt will look into it.
- Community connections: Dave G. wants to schedule out various community connections and relevant groups to participate in BPAC meetings
- Transit: Kim Curley provided update on legislative session. Kim is on Oregon Transit Association.
 - Transit industry is asking for an increase in payroll tax.
 - Transit lobby day in Salem is April 1, looking for rider stories for that. Contact Kimcrey@gmail.com.

External Committee Reports

None this month.

Other Updates

Bend

- From Matt with respect to a recent Envision Bend report: priorities noted from various interests included well-funded public transit, and citywide bikeways and pathways. In Environment, adapting to climate change and an interconnected regional trail system. Report is on the Envision Bend website.

Sisters

- Public works: trying to get funding for bike path from Village Green Park to Forest Service boundary. So far, no success, but they'll keep applying for grants and trying to move forward anyway. It would be completed by the end of the year.

- Considering starting a Sisters Country BPAC because these issues keep coming up within the city. Will probably start discussing at next Council session.
- Old McKenzie Highway access when gate is closed continues to be an item of discussion. This is an economic driver for the community.

Redmond

- Will host next BPAC meeting March 6 at City Hall. Lunch will be provided.
- Bike map is now online via Redmond BPAC webpage
 - Considering adding a pedestrian layer
- March 6 will be meeting with Redmond Parks department
- Have adopted 2025 work plan, will be covered at March meeting. Three highlights:
 - Sidewalk infill within city
 - Completion of Homestead Canal Trail
 - Updating Bike/Ped Master Plan

Deschutes County

- Tanya explained the Clear and Objective text amendment project and noted that some changes are being made to the County's zoning code in Title 17 to make them clear and objective. While some of Title 17 relates to certain design standards for roads and right-of-way facilities, this would just be a clarifying text amendment exercise in compliance with ORS related to housing and housing development and wouldn't substantively affect any of the intent or policies included in those provisions.

ODOT

- Lots of things are up in the air concerning federal funding uncertainty; ODOT has a public-facing website discussing these
- Mobility Matters: watch party will be held at ODOT offices for this conference held by PSU, Feb 27 8:30-3 pm. Can share info via Jennifer
- Safe Routes to School grants were announced recently: Bend, Redmond, and ODOT received funds. New crossing on OR 126; building multi-use path south on 97.
- OR Community Paths applications were due last month. Region put in for 7 grants; hoping for good results in the next month or so.
- Bend-Sisters-Redmond planning might finally be kicking off. This would likely look at a mix of right-of-way and non right-of-way projects, and will be looking for BPAC input.

Commute Options

- Walk and Roll to School Day was very successful
- Bend-LaPine hasn't hired for a safe routes coordinator yet, but they hope to, especially in light of new grants
- Hired a new transportation options coordinator, will be starting at end of the month, will likely attend BPAC meetings
- Hiring for Safe Routes to School staff in southern Oregon
- Vanpool program is doing well. Adapted to recent change in funding structure. 25 vanpools in Central Oregon.

Other items:

- April and May meetings can be held at ODOT but in different room
- Dave G. noted that riding on the sidewalks in some places gives a sense of what elevated bike lanes can be
- Neil noted BPRD/City IGA plowing areas has been great; also noted how in some multi-use path scenarios it still relies on nearby business to clear and one business not doing it can adversely affect those using mobility devices

Meeting Adjourned at 1:23 pm

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 6 – 12:00 to 1:30 pm – Redmond City Hall