

**City of Coeur d'Alene Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes**  
December 1, 2004

**Members present:** Jennifer Wiltse, Vern Newby, Mac Cavasar, Chris Copstead, Larry Kmetz, Deanna Goodlander

**Members absent:** Sam Hoggatt

**Others present:** Mike Gridley, Nick Lilyquist, Sheri Carroll, Bill Dodd, Steve Roberge, Bill Peck, Will Button, Matt Tosi, Matt Gillis, Mike Prokop, John Bowman

**Minutes** from prior meeting were unanimously approved – motion by Chris, seconded by Jennifer.

**Public Comments:** none received

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Project identification for grants** – Jennifer reported that the due date for the grant application of January 30, 2005 is quickly approaching. Jennifer asked the members to submit a list of projects for consideration and prioritization to submit for grants. Mike reported that receiving grants for the Ped/Bike Committee projects is crucial as the City of Coeur d'Alene is unable to provide funding for projects. Mike provided examples of much needed projects as the implementation of the Bikeways Plan with a city-wide striping project; a ped/bike passage way under the Atlas / I-90 bridge; a crosswalk at NW. Blvd / Lincoln Way and the 15<sup>th</sup> Street corridor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PRESENTATION: Seltice Way Ped/Bike underpass – Gordon Dobler:** Gordon introduced Darius Ruen who presented to the Committee an update on the Seltice Way/Bridge project. Mr. Ruen described the condition of the bridge as well as the options considered to repair the damages to the bridge. Mr. Ruen indicated that he had worked on a design that would replace the bridge with a 160 foot long tunnel that could be used for a pedestrian/bike path along the Union Pacific right of way. This would save the Post Falls Highway District money but would greatly narrow the opening under the existing bridge. Railroad issues were discussed and the fact that UP had not agreed to narrowing its right of way. Members raised concerns about safety for trail users if the bridge was replaced by a tunnel. Also this would eliminate the possibility of using the UP corridor for other means of transportation.

In addition to issues raised by the creation of a tunnel, discussion was had regarding the lack of right-of-way for pedestrians and bicyclists in the plans for the new bridge. Members noted that Seltice is used for commuters and accommodations should be made for cyclists and pedestrians who are traveling on Seltice. Gordon expressed that the plans are too far along to

make any changes at this point. Gordon noted that the Centennial Trail is in proximity and could be utilized.

Members of the Committee provided input to Mr. Ruen for consideration in the construction of the proposed pedestrian / bicycle path through the underpass of the bridge. They generally stressed the need to maintain the current opening and also to allow for safe use of Seltice.

**Sherman Avenue project follow-up – Vern Newby:** Vern asked if there were any comments regarding the project. There were several comments / concerns regarding the placement of the Centennial Trail within the plans. Chris Copstead noted that the plans are in the early stages and therefore the trail location has likely not been determined as of yet. Mike noted that the City has a workshop scheduled for this project on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion of Ped/Bike Winter Issues – Vern Newby:** Vern asked if there were any winter issues needing discussed. Vern provided an example of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street underpass. When the street is plowed the snow covers the sidewalks running through the underpass. The responsible party needs to be contacted to request the sidewalks be kept clear. Sheri Carroll noted a problem during leaf pickup wherein the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street bike path was covered with leaves for at least a week and a half. It was noted the trail on Mullan had the same problem. Chris Copstead reported trouble with homeowners parking across sidewalks on their driveways causing pedestrians to have to walk into the street. Larry reported the continuous problem of homeowners not shoveling their sidewalks. Mike indicated the he or Vern could be called when these type of issues are discovered. They in turn would make a report to the Police Department or the Code Enforcement Officer.

**Project Identification for Enhancement Grants (con't) – Mike Gridley:** Mike noted that the pedestrian / bicycle enhancement grant has a deadline of January 30<sup>th</sup>. Mike had a meeting with Elaine Smith, the City's Grant Writer, who indicated that ITD receives few requests for educational type grants. Examples would be driver education, enforcement issues with Police or taking educational information to the schools. Mike added that another project could be implementing the bikeway plan by striping streets and developing safe routes to school. Larry suggested a small bus service route. After discussion, it was determined that this may be too large of a project for the enhancement grant. Jennifer added that she would like to see a crosswalk at River Avenue across Northwest Boulevard. Deanna concurred with the Jennifer. Vern requested Jennifer determine who would be the person to make this request of and then draft a letter, on behalf of the committee, recommending said crosswalk be considered.

**Round Table:** Vern noted the Committee has 3 vacancies to be filled - 1 Engineer or Landscape Architect representative; 1 representative from School Dist. 271 and 1 representing the special needs/physically challenged community. Vern requested clarification of the procedure to fill the positions. The Ordinance provides:

**In case of a vacancy in membership, the Committee should forward recommendations for appointment to the Mayor for consideration. The vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Mayor, confirmed by the City Council, and the appointee shall serve during the unexpired portion of the term of the position that**

**became vacant. The Mayor shall not be limited in making the appointment to the persons recommended by the Committee.**

Deanna suggested she make an announcement noting the openings at a City Council meeting. Vern suggested a press release. Item to be continued. Discussion was had regarding coordinating Ped/Bike with Growth Services and also to discuss the Bikeway Plan. Mac and Larry agreed to set up a meeting. Deanna suggested it would be valuable for the committee to have a workshop with City Council to educate them on Ped/Bike issues and projects.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.