

**Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission  
Minutes  
October 1, 2004**

**Present**

Greg Bennett, Chair  
Susan Nelson, Vice-Chair  
Andrew Ross, Vice-Chair  
Rosie Toy  
Josh Storer  
Jack Schubert

**Staff**

Jon Katin, Public Works  
Steve Rogers, Public Works  
Ron Noble, Police Department  
Jon Martyr, Police Department

**Absent**

Emily Larkin, Ex-Officio ASOSU  
George Grosch, City Council

**Visitors**

Walt Prichard, Mid Valley Bike Club  
Patty Parsons, Benton County  
Jimmy Faulkner, Jefferson Elementary  
parent  
Jerry Rooney  
Dehn Blunt, Holiday Inn Express

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Information Only</b>	<b>Held for Further Review</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
1. Approve September 3, 2004 Minutes			Approved as corrected
2. Visitors' Comments	X		
3. Bicycle/Pedestrian Yield Sign at New Fire Station			BPAC consensus to install bike/ped yield sign on path near Fire Station #5
4. Extension of Multi-Use Path to Holiday Inn Express			BPAC proposed that a connection be made from the existing multi-use path at Rieverfront Park to the Holiday Inn Express path with a provision for a connection to the proposed Benton County Rails with Trails project
5. Community-wide Auto-Bicycle/Pedestrian Crash Education and Enforcement	X		
6. Information Sharing	X		

**CONTENT OF DISCUSSION**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Bennett.

### **1. Approve September 3, 2004 Minutes**

BPAC agreed that a definition of what constitutes a motorized vehicle should be added to the discussion of “Motorized Vehicles on Multi-use Paths” on Page 3 of the minutes. Rosie Toy made a motion to approve the September 3, 2004 minutes as amended. Susan Nelson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. Ron Noble said he would provide a matrix to BPAC which provides information regarding the legal aspects on the use of various motorized vehicles.

### **2. Visitors’ Comments**

Patty Parsons shared information regarding the effort by the Healthy Weight and Lifestyles Committee to increase physical activity in the community. She said they support infrastructure improvements and policy changes that support active communities. Patty reported that three elementary schools in Corvallis will participate in Walk to School Day on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Elected officials and staff from the City of Corvallis and Benton County will walk to school with students from Corvallis and Philomath. Patty said 98% of the Wilson Elementary students participated last year. Patty asked BPAC members to contact her if they were interested in walking students to school on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Jimmy Faulkner said he is volunteering at Jefferson Elementary School in an effort to get more students to ride their bikes or walk to school. He said he hopes to get funding for the installation of bike racks at the school in a location that has better access and avoids being located near vehicle parking areas. He added that he supports the effort of the Bicycle Transportation Alliance in providing bike safety classes in schools but recommends starting at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Greg Bennett said when automobile parking is required, and is so expensive, it is a shame parents have to raise money for bicycle parking when it’s such an insignificant amount of money to spend. Jimmy asked City staff to find out why the crosswalk was removed at 36<sup>th</sup> Street and Polk Avenue. Josh Storer said the BTA teaches to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students because they are old enough to make judgement decisions regarding speed and distance of automobiles.

Jerry Rooney reported that bicycle ridership is high on 16<sup>th</sup> Street and he is concerned that construction of the new Corvallis High School is making it dangerous to travel and bicycle use will be discouraged from that corridor. Steve Rogers suggested that he talk with staff at Development Services. Jerry suggested that BPAC go out to 16<sup>th</sup> Street and observe the situation for themselves. Jack Schubert suggested that a couple of the members go out to 16<sup>th</sup> Street and report back to BPAC. Steve said staff will review Jerry’s suggestions.

Dehn Blunt said the extension of the multi-use path along the Willamette River from Riverfront Park to Holiday Inn Express would make it easier for his customers to get to downtown to shop, eat, visit Riverfornt Park without getting into their cars. Steve said the project should go the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program process and it is important for BPAC to make a recommendation regarding the extension of the path and what features should be part of the project. Jack Schubert said it should connect with Benton County’s Rails with Trails project. Steve said there is a drainage right-of-way between Public Works and Hewlett-Packard that is a possibility for a connection.

Jack Schubert made a motion that a connection be made between the existing multi-use path that ends at

Tyler Avenue and the Holiday Inn Express path and that a connection be made with Benton County's Rails with Trails project. Susan Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Bicycle/Pedestrian Yield Sign at New Fire Station**

Steve Rogers said bicyclists and pedestrians traveling on the multi-use path near the new Fire Station #5 will enter the roadway and have potential conflicts with emergency vehicles as well as other vehicles. Steve said there is an option to place Yield or Stop signs on the path prior to the roadway. He is seeking BPAC's recommendation.

Jack Schubert said it is better to put up a stop sign. Susan Nelson said a yield sign is better. Josh Storer said a yield sign is safer and it takes a lot of energy for the bicyclist to stop and start again after coming to a full stop. Greg Bennett suggested that no signs go up until the road goes through. Susan Nelson said that it may be a good idea to have a sign because of the Fire Station is located there. Rosie Toy said placing a sign now may get bicyclists use to yielding prior to opening up the road to through traffic. After listening to all the comments, the BPAC consensus was to add a yield sign now.

### **4. Community-Side Auto-Bicycle/Pedestrian Crash Education and Enforcement**

Greg Bennett said he is interested in an on-going discussion of bicycle/pedestrian safety issues. He said it is a community-wide issue especially since the recent fatality of a bicyclist and noted that there have been several letters in the Gazette Times. Jack Schubert said it is important for bicyclists and motorists to follow the law and operate their vehicles safely. Susan Nelson suggested that BPAC discuss pedestrian safety issues next month.

### **5. Information Sharing**

Steve Rogers said the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) was formed two years ago as required by federal law. The MPO is developing a Regional Transportation Plan and there is opportunity for BPAC input. There will be a visioning meeting in November.

Steve said the City Council is considering priorities for budget reductions. A business plan will be will be developed for each activity and the Council will establish a service priority process.

Steve said the Oregon Department of Transportation will conduct an Environmental Impact Statement for a new Van Buren Street Bridge. There will be a position available for BPAC. An open house is scheduled at 4-7 p.m. on November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Corvallis-Benton County Library.

Steve said a new street sweeping schedule will begin with a 25% reduction in service. Local streets will be swept once a month. The reduced sweeping program will be evaluated. The Leaf Sweeping program will begin soon.

Greg Bennett thanked the BPAC members that participated in the cleanup. Rosie said there were a lot of blackberries. Susan said it would have been nice to have a broom. Lee said one can be provided for the next cleanup.

Greg Bennett said the Willamette Street multi-use path is close to completion. He said that there will be an opening celebration in the spring. The path is now open but Bennett is awaiting additional information from Parks & Recreation

Andy Ross said Jefferson Avenue was converted to one-way at 26<sup>th</sup> Street. OSU is considering a contraflow bike lane. Benton Place was also converted to a one-way and does not have a contra flow in the other direction.

Lee Shoemaker said the City will participate in transportation promotional events including University Days, Where It's @, and Try Transit Week.

**Next meeting:** November 5, 2004, at City Hall Meeting Room "D", 7:00 a.m.