

# NKTA Trail Plan Committee Minutes 6/14/10

Poulsbo Engineering Conference Room 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Present: Linda Berry-Maraist, John Willett, Dennis Oost, Sue Abbott, Patsy Bryan, Lynn Schorn, Daria Nelson, Carolina Veenstra, Cris Craig, Dave Haley, Lee Derror, John Hawkins, Ian Hoffman

## News of Interest:

Dennis provided update from County:

1. Overall schedule will slow to allow time to be done well, the end of year deadline for adoption is off (no 9/1 deadline). Non-motorized plan will include more public process.
2. Idea of one County "Trail Planner" directly under Commissioners, sole responsibility would be trails/bike routes, coordinate with all departments and work with volunteer groups.
3. Looking for NKTA to continue moving forward with expectations that County will set overall standards, hierarchy of trail types and integrate plans for consistency.
4. Shoulder discussion; low volume/low speed roads have less need for wider bike shoulders than high volume/ high speed roads.
5. Trails should be designed to highest standard for longevity and to minimize expense of future upgrades. All trail standards should reference an adopted government standard. WSDOT clarified deviation process in June 2009.

## Discussion:

- Group is very, very happy with Dennis' news of likely changes at County level, both organizationally with one person under Commissioners and schedule which will allow integration of plans and more public process.
- John Willett: KRCC Trails committee will focus on trail standards.
- Substantial discussion about trail standards; if County sets trail standards too high they will be a barrier. We expect standards for trails to be an ongoing discussion and will be an issue ultimately decided by commissioners. NKTA should make our own recommendations but with open communication w/ KRCC committee and County.
- There is a huge range of adopted government standards. Our focus 1) Trail standards should facilitate connectivity and be achievable in nearer term. 2) The trail system will grow incrementally over time, first steps should not be burdened with engineering/permitting for future dreams. 3) Must anticipate and accommodate future changes by obtaining adequate easements that will allow trail system to grow incrementally and evolve over many years. We don't know the future.

## Housekeeping:

- Adopted 5/17/10 minutes with corrections.

## Survey:

- Would like to get down to 5 pages if possible.
- Figure 1 could include Table 1 information beside it as double column bar chart, illustrating age breakdown of survey responders compared to age of Kitsap population.

- It would be interesting to compare community breakdown of survey takers to actual community population percentages but that info. may not be available.
- Figure 3 isn't needed.
- Table 2, 5 and 6: we've broken down bike users into 3 categories (bike on sep. shared use paths, bike on shoulders and bike on dirt and gravel. This could diminish the overall import of accommodating bikes, i.e. if you add up the overall #s of those three categories, bicyclists are a really big #. On final survey product we need to watch that dividing bikes into 3 categories doesn't mask the overall #s of various bicyclists.
- School access: we need to provide the data for the number of people under 18 who will use trails to get to school, overall populace is not students.
- Commute use of trails: sort for working age population, probably between 18 and 60.
- Key issues we want to "punch" visually: 1) Only 25% of NK residents think there are safe places to bike in their community. 2) Large disparity between communities in perception of safety for walking, with Hansville at 89%, a NK avg. of 67%, Poulsbo at 59% and Suquamish at 36%. 3) Walking trails are highest priority across all communities and all age groups. 4) Being able to bike separated from cars is second highest priority overall and in most communities. 5) Younger people are more interested in running trails and older people are more interested in kayaking. 6) Overall 94% believe a trail system is important to quality of life in NK, 93% would use trails. 7) Proximity to cars is a huge issue for most people and bicycling, only 29% of people are comfortable biking on a 2' shoulder but 71% at 5' and 92% are comfortable when separated from traffic. Higher traffic communities feel less safe biking than low traffic communities. 8) 78% of people think water trails are important to our quality of life (third highest priority) despite the fact that most people kayak just a few times a year.
- Some concern about caveats lessening impact and restating information which is already evident in #s. Agreed that Health dept. will put their caveats as they feel are appropriate(at end of document?). NKTA can restate in our writing or reduce overall document to illustrate our primary issues and make key points.
- Cris: survey changes will be ready by 7/12 meeting.

#### **Discussion of other feedback from Presentations:**

- Contention around dog and horse poop on trails is both a significant source of discord among different users and a surprisingly real environmental issue in proximity to water. We don't expect issue to go away.
- Dogs and leashes is also contentious. Many people value a place to walk with dogs off leash. Small dog parks like Poulsbo's are inadequate. Marymoor is loved but overcrowded on weekends. Would like some large off leash area to walk dogs on trails.
- Mountain bikers and horse riders are significant source of volunteers and major users we need to accommodate but Horses and mountain bikes are harder on trails. Some areas limit bikes on trails to between April and October.
- We are committed to shared use but need to respond to concerns of environmental impact to sensitive areas and trail wear and tear. Not all trails may be appropriate for all users and in all seasons. Education/consideration will need to be stressed.

- Questions on stats re: horse use. JW: Huge economic impacts. (source of statistics would be interesting to find and include) Linda: PFD poll through TPL showed less community support for "equestrian" trails than for "walking" trails. (Not sure why).
- Kitsap is perceived to be rural but Kitsap is one of densest Counties in WA. (get statistics) Wilderness manners don't work with urban usage.

### **Written Survey Comments**

- Organizing comments by topic is extremely helpful. Verbatim comments need to be included in document. Seeing all negative comments together makes it easier to address concerns and same for community comments. Huge #s of positive comments gives voice to the survey #s.
- Sticker vote is fine as is.
- Workshop Sticky comments are already organized by community and are fine as is.
- Tally of survey comments is a little too abstract, need people's words to grasp impact.

### **Schedule for Trail Plan work**

- Need to review Carolina and Lynn's proposed changes to contents; writing committee to meet next Monday in Poulsbo Engineering Room.
- Pullout section at beginning will be key, don't want to bury the important issues-state them at the front. We want content and priorities over volume and details.
- Committees will be reorganized; currently we're all writing... we need to organize work by sections w/ small group taking lead for different portions. We will worry about consistency of styles later (or not).
- We know attendance will be sporadic through summer. We will continue on and will pass the baton to each other as we come and go. We'll be working in DRAFT through summer. Everyone will have a chance to review this in fall before anything is finalized.
- Sue: We are ready to write; SET PRIORITIES AFTER ROUTES ARE WRITTEN DOWN. Need to see it all on paper and then start whittling down.
- Bikes: need to complete inventory of shoulders with WSCC and then evaluate priorities.

### **Other discussion**

- Linda, Lynn and Carolina should meet with Andrew to learn more about Google writing-we may not be understanding tracking options.
- Work group wants to plan volunteer project at NKHP. How fast could we get boardwalk project approved? Do we have funds? If not ready at NKHP, perhaps Greenway is ready.

### **Next meetings:**

**Writing:** (all invited) Monday 6/21 at 6:30 Poulsbo Engineering (no dinner), more meetings TBD  
**Trail Plan Committee:** 7/12 5: 30 Location TBD, 8/23, 9/13. (August and September meetings to be confirmed)