

Technical Review Committee (TRC)

– Bellingham Housing Authority

Friday, June 17, 2022 - 3:00-4:00pm by MS Teams Online

Participants:

Brien Thane, Executive Director, Bellingham Housing Authority

Chris Comeau, Transportation Planner, City of Bellingham Public Works

Introduction: The Housing Authority of the City of Bellingham is a local government agency that serves thousands of residents in Whatcom County. The [Bellingham Housing Authority \(BHA\)](#) & The Whatcom County Housing Authority work together (BWCHA) to provide needed housing in our community. BWCHA serves Low-Income Families, Elderly People, those with Disabilities, & Working Families in need of affordable housing in Bellingham and Whatcom County. Currently, BHA manages 1,193 housing units within the Bellingham city limits and Urban Growth Area.

Guiding Questions

Your experience of biking and walking in Bellingham and around BHA Sites:

- How does your work intersect with biking and walking, as well as affect the ability for you and your colleagues to accomplish goals at your organization?

Brien does not ride his bike as much as he used to, but prefers off-street trails, such as the South Bay Trail, instead of riding on the street with moving traffic. Brien has also heard his staff reflect similar preferences, as well as discontent with on-street bike lanes that end before they reach their destination. BHA staff has also expressed discomfort in unprotected on-street marked bike lanes.

Barriers to walking and biking around BHA Sites:

- What barriers do BHA residents face for walking/biking?

Overall, BHA sites have pretty good pedestrian and bicycle connections, but Brien has on occasion heard from some residents desiring improvements, such as a flashing crosswalk at 12th/McKenzie between the Chuckanut Square senior housing high-rise and the Fairhaven Haggen grocery store. **Note:** City staff has applied for a grant to fund this and other transportation improvements on the 12th Street-Finnegan Way corridor listed as project #19 in the [2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#).

Other locations where pedestrian and bicycle improvements would be helpful and appreciated near low-income and senior housing include:

- Future traffic signals at N. Samish/Abbott and N. Samish/Consolidation as the Samish Urban Village continues to build out (Identified in Samish Urban Village Plan);

- Relocation of the marked crosswalk across Orleans Street at the driveway to the Safeway grocery store and enhancement to a flashing crosswalk;
- Flashing crosswalks across Cordata Parkway near Meadowbrook and Tremont;
- A sidewalk is needed on the south side of Yew Street between Iowa and Zephyr;
- Residents have asked for a few flashing crosswalks on Cornwall Avenue;
- Sidewalks on Fraser Street and York Street in York Neighborhood;
- Sidewalks or a wider walking path on Electric Avenue;
- Bicycle access ramps are needed at the Cordata/Westerly roundabout;
- Continuous sidewalks along G Street;
- Better bicycle lanes on East Bakerview Road;
- Continuous sidewalk along Prince Avenue;
- Completion of east half and sidewalk on Deemer Road south of Kellogg Road;
- Enhance W Holly/W Champion intersection with curb extensions and flashing crosswalk;
- Sidewalk along west side of Aldrich Road north of Mahogany;
- A flashing crosswalk at Old Fairhaven Parkway and 24th Street;
- Sidewalks and bike lanes along Donovan Avenue; and
- Sidewalks and bike lanes along McAlpine Road.

Your vision for a walkable and bikeable Bellingham around BHA Sites:

- What infrastructure and policies would allow you walk/bike more?

The construction of more sidewalks and protected bike lanes would help BHA residents reach destinations within their own neighborhoods.

- What type of trips do residents make from BHA sites most frequently?

Residents primarily walk to grocery store, restaurants, and retail shops in commercial centers.

Ongoing Communication and Engagement

- How best can the City engage BHA even after the plans are updated?

BHA has appreciated the City's efforts in the past, especially along N. Samish Way, and for reaching out to be involved in this effort to update the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans. BHA will continue to work with the City to collaborate on opportunities to improve walking and biking conditions around BHA sites in the future.