

To: Mayor Grimm, Council and Staff, City of Sandpoint
From: Sandpoint Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee
Request for Further Direction

Summary of Current and Past Projects

The Committee would like to thank the Mayor, staff and Council for the direction we have received thus far on issues/projects to spend our time. These are:

- Events: hold/participate in at least one event/year. We have met that minimum with our participation, with LPOSD and Pend Oreille Pedalers, in Bike to School and Work Day, on Wednesday, May 6. Our Events subcommittee is taking a brief break after this successful project.
- Multimodal Transportation Master Plan: Jason Welker articulated to us that we need to be involved in the redevelopment of the MTMP. SPBAC formed a subcommittee to pursue this in more depth than the full committee could at its monthly meetings. To date, the subcommittee has focused on downtown changes and produced recommendations adopted by the full committee on May 8, 2025.
- Private Development: Mayor Grimm has been clear that the committee has a role in evaluating and making recommendations on the pedestrian and bicycle elements of proposed projects. To implement this direction, a subcommittee has been formed to check the city's website for proposals monthly, evaluate them in detail, and submit suggestions for comments to SPBAC. The first set of suggestions have been approved by SPBAC as recommendations at their May 8 meeting. This subcommittee will continue to function.
- Public Projects: The committee formed an ad hoc subcommittee to visit the Cedar Street project, and encouraged a public meeting at the library. The committee is currently looking at the South Fourth Street sidewalk project.

Proposed Projects: Should we look into these?

Committee members have a few other areas of interest and concern and would appreciate direction on whether to pursue. It needs to be recognized that committee members are volunteers with full lives already. We may not be able to examine all areas of interest to the city or committee members but seek direction on these:

- Intersections: The safety of intersections for cyclists and pedestrians has been a committee interest from the first meeting. The diagonal nature of Highway 2 creates substantial problems. Signalized intersections make driving safer, but not always for those on foot or cycling. Every regular intersection is a potential conflict point. What the priorities are in design and implementation will determine who is safe and whether parents are comfortable allowing children to walk/bike to school, parks, and other destinations. Sandpoint's older population and its community members with disabilities would also potentially benefit from a "vision zero" approach to intersections. Does SPBAC have support in examining intersection design?
- Ordinances: should the committee examine ordinances proposed for updates for pedestrian/bicyclist impact? Should the committee examine other ordinances for possible pedestrian/bicyclist impact?

- In Lieu projects: The committee is charged with increasing public involvement. One promising aspect would seem to be to involve the public in deciding where sidewalk improvement projects should be done. Ideally, this would include public gatherings in the areas of the city where funding originates and is to be spent. Does SPBAC have support for this activity?

SPBAC would appreciate feedback on these areas its members have identified as important to walking and cycling safely in Sandpoint. Does the city support them? Are there others? What is their relative importance?

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