

Lincoln County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Agenda March 11, 2025

Meeting time: 5:30 PM

Meeting Location: Lincoln County Public Works Building 880 NE 7th St. Newport Oregon

1. Call to Order
 - a. Introductions
 - b. Approve Minutes of December 3, 2024 meeting
2. Report by County Staff
3. Old Business
 - a. Oregon Coast Bike Route
 - b. Knight Park/Three Rocks Rd. FLAP grant
 - c. Bike Route Brochures
4. New Business
5. Public Comments
6. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

Lincoln County Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 3, 2024
5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M

In Attendance: David Pickering Chair, Dick, Michael Edwards Secretary, Mikel Diwan County Representative, Brian Flynn Vice Chair

Note: Public Meetings typically have a Zoom connection but due to technical difficulties Zoom was not available.

5:30 - During the March meeting, Mikel will talk about condensing the 29 page county bylaws.

5:35 - David and Brian brought up the topic of mowing the highway shoulders. David feels that the mowing is excessive. The concern is that the plants are being eliminated rather than merely being trimmed. In addition to invasive blackberries being cut down, native plants like sword fern and salal are also being eliminated. As the native plants are cleared, there is more room for the fast growing blackberries to take over more of the shoulder.

Debris from the mowing is clogging the shoulders where people walk and bicycle. Brian and David have both been clearing the shoulder areas near their homes. I, Michael, mentioned that debris on the shoulders leads to flat bicycle tires which can pose an annoyance and a safety hazard when the flat occurs at fast speeds.

Mikel responded that due to resource limitations that when the county gets the opportunity to mow a shoulder it mows it vigorously. Mikel doesn't know how long it will be until his crew will be able to return to a mowed section of highway. Funding is steady but some summers Mikel doesn't have enough workers to do all of the necessary road work. This summer, Mikel fully staffed his county road crews, but this has seldom been the case.

If there are multiple calls complaining about debris on the shoulder of a county road, when workers are available, Mikel tries to send out crews to clean the debris. Mikel also stated that courteous residents tend to get more attention than rude residents.

Brian added that the shoulder plants are being hacked when they are the greenest and most visually appealing.

David and Brian reiterated that county roads that have debris on the shoulders present safety hazards. If, for instance, a person is walking on the shoulder of East Devils Lake Road (there are no sidewalks, the shoulder is the only place to walk or cycle) and walks up to a high debris area, on a blind corner, and then to avoid the debris walks out into the street, that normal reaction to a debris pile could result in a fatal accident.

North Bank Road, Old Highway 101, Three Rocks Road and East Devils lake Road were being mowed up until the middle of November.

5:50 - Brian mentioned that when there is a storm and bigger branches and debris falls onto the road that the county crews and or the power company clears the roads but that sometimes there are big branches blocking the shoulders.

Mikel said that the priority after a storm is to clear the road of debris. After the road is cleared of debris then the crews go back and police the shoulders of branches and assorted debris.

Brian reiterated that branches and debris in the shoulders is dangerous because there are no other options for pedestrians and cyclists to go on county roads.

Mikel mentioned that East Devils Lake is being used as a bypass route for people hoping to avoid Lincoln City traffic. High speeds and close proximity to people and cyclists makes this road potentially dangerous.

Michael brought up a study (I'll have to find it) saying that the use of bicycle "*sharrows*" could be dangerous. The study found that novice cyclists see the bike paint on the road and that it gives them a false sense of security. They see the paint and arrows as an indicator of a bike path when that is not what it is. Drivers often ignore the "*sharrows*." Maybe I could follow up and find out more information on bike "*sharrows*."

Brian mentioned that *sharrows* help him determine which road is the preferred bike path, especially when cycling in an unfamiliar city.

The Oregon Coast Bike Path was mentioned. There is a lot of work being done east of the Neetsu Post Office between the Vegas style casino sign and the Baptist Church. Eventually, next summer, this section of road will link to the bike path on West Devils Lake Road.

David said that the sidewalk near Knight Park looks great. It is helping visitors stay on the correct path between the parking area and the the trail towards Cascade Head. The sidewalk brings clarity and safety to hikers, many of whom, have never been to the area.

Mikel spoke about the 2026 Knight Park/Three Rocks Road FLAP Grant. The county road is going to be widened, there will be some barriers built. There is a lot of traffic in this area and the county and the federal government want to make the area safer for visitors. The initial grant was \$4 million but inflation figures to raise the price tag considerably. A bridge was planned to be built over Crowley Creek, but there appears to be another funding source for the bridge, which may help keep the costs down for the FLAP grant. There are debates to come to determine what is going to be done and not done with this project. Money remains an issue. Stay tuned.

6:20 - Bicycle brochures not available yet. Dick mentioned that the bicycle brochures are a hot item and now that COVID is no longer stalking the land that he will be able to pass out a lot of bike brochures when they are completed.

Mikel showed us a couple of the capital safety projects being done by ODOT. One of note is being done on Highway 101 near Lincoln Beach. ADA ramps and Islands are being put in to make crossing the highway to Chesters Market a livable experience.

Dick mentioned the Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RFBs) in Newport and how they make crossing the road safer than before.

Meeting Adjourned 6:30