



*To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County*

February 24, 2009

Dear Council Members:

In the 2000 census data the City of Ellensburg showed up as one of the top cities in Washington for residents who walk or bike as a primary means of transportation. Our current comprehensive plan includes four major goals that pertain to non motorized transportation. The newly adopted Non Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) has eleven goals that community leaders, policy makers and residents can all work on addressing. There are great benefits to us all in non motorized transportation including: increased mobility, direct health benefits related to chronic disease, positive economic benefits, improved on quality of life for residents, and improved environment while having increased safety for walkers and bikers in our community. I am hoping that the enclosed table will help the council see how we all can have a roll in continuing to address non motorized transportation in Ellensburg.

I am asking the council to continue to move forward by putting together a committee that would work on amending city code to help ensure that goals in the Comprehensive Plan and Non Motorized Transportation Plan are implemented in our community. To help streamline communication between efforts in the community and the City I would also like to see a staff person appointed as the contact person who will be working on these issues.

In the table I have indicated in the third column which items require council action; other items listed are portions of the plan that can be, and are, handled by community groups/agencies. There are several pieces of the plan not mentioned in this table largely because they require substantial monetary investments or are items that are already being addressed by City personnel.

Thank you for your time,

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<b>Chapter 2: Non Motorized Transportation Facilities</b>	Shape Up is currently working on helping to find ways to fund portions of this trail.	
2.2.1.a John Wayne Trail Improvement		
2.2.2 Community Trails	There is a City to Canyon Trail group that is working on a trail from IRRP to the mouth of the Yakima Canyon; they currently have an assistance grant from the National Parks Service.	
2.2.3 Neighborhood Connecting Paths	Amend city code	Council Action Needed
2.3.2 Class II Bikeway	Conduct trial Class II on Chestnut Amend city code	Council Action Needed
2.3.3 Class III Bikeway	Conduct trial Class III on Fifth Ave, Sprague Street & Alder, and survey cyclists after one year implementation.	Council Action Needed
2.3.5b Bicycle Parking	Amend city code	Council Action Needed
2.4.1 Improve Pedestrian Safety	Install sidewalk furniture at strategic locations. Select bench product and seek community donations.	
2.4.3a Maintain a pedestrian friendly level of connectivity	Amend city code, this NMTP goal directly relates to comp plan goal T-3.	Council Action Needed
2.4.4a Safe Routes to Schools	WSU Extension has put in a grant application with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to address issues in 2 City of Ellensburg Schools.	
2.4.4b CWU	Shape Up would be willing to work with CWU on establishing a walk/bike route map	
<b>Chapter 3: Implementation</b>		
3.4.1 Education	Local driver's education programs can include mobility education. Coordinate with local schools to integrate bicycle/pedestrian safety instruction. Coordinate with the Adult Activity Center and Community Schools to offer bicycle/pedestrian safety instruction.	
3.4.2 Distribute Safety Information	The community group "University Interest District Group 1 <sup>st</sup> Railroad Addition" has plans to put on a pedestrian safety campaign in the Fall of 2009. The Kittitas County Community Public Health & Safety Network has their Safe Kids and Traffic Safety Team programs that could assist with this. The Ellensburg Police Department also does helmet fitting.	
3.6.1 Encouragement, market NMT	The City of Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Ellensburg and local youth groups could help spread messages to improve community norms around bike/ped safety.	
3.6.2 Promote Commuting	Cascade Land Conservancy along with other conservation or environmental local groups would be key leaders in this effort.	
3.6.3 Sponsor group rides/walks	The local Ellensburg Wind Walker group has weekly walks and CWU students as well as local residents have planned over ten events in the past three years with the help of Shape Up.	

