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AUGUST 2019

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Council Message

Leslie Schneider, Central Ward



Did you know that Gov. Jay Inslee recently signed a bill into law that phases out coal-generated electricity in Washington state by 2025? And requires

100 percent clean energy by 2045? Wow. This then means transportation will become the largest source of our island's carbon footprint. If that wasn't enough to deserve our attention, getting where we need to go has out-sized impact on our quality of life.

There is no one-solution-fits-all to improve transportation in any community, but there have never been so many alternatives to driving alone. I was stunned when two close friends in Seattle recently (and suddenly) gave up their cars. What could the future of transportation look like? And, importantly, could it be more fun?

On Bainbridge Island, we are asking these questions as part of our Sustainable Transportation project that I'm proud to support. You can learn more about this project on page six. I hope you'll be part of the discussion.

City-owned project to create new affordable housing

The City is moving forward with a project to create a 100 percent affordable housing development on Bainbridge Island, located on a City-owned parcel near schools and the Winslow core.

The City owns a roughly 14-acre property at the southeast corner of Sportsman Club Road and New Brooklyn Road, commonly referred to as the Suzuki property. The property is currently undeveloped, except for walking trails and a pond along the south boundary.

"It's part of a healthy community to have housing available for all income levels," said Councilmember Sarah Blossom. "Given our regional challenges with affordability, it's important for the City to do what it can to create new affordable housing."

In February, the City Council authorized City Manager Morgan Smith to work with Housing Resources Bainbridge (HRB) to develop a financial feasibility study of the Suzuki property. The feasibility study is a

review to determine which state and federal affordable housing funding programs might be available for the project. The study will assess scenarios for the project, ranging from 30 to 90 units. The results will be used to inform the Council's final decisions about the number of housing units within the project.



"This is a unique opportunity because the City owns a piece of land – with access to water and sewer – in a location close to schools and transit, where the zoning allows for more units than could be built elsewhere

Continued on page 8

BIPD to host 10th annual National Night Out



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Bainbridge Island Police Department's participation in National Night Out. The family-friendly, free event takes place Tuesday, August 6 from 5-8 p.m. at Waterfront Park. National Night Out is part of a national community-building campaign that gives children and adults

alike the opportunity to engage with police officers in a positive and interactive setting.

"This is our second year at Waterfront Park, which has been a great location because now we get to put the police boat in the water," said Ofc. Carla Sias, who has been working hard to make this year's event special. K9 Whitney – the department's new tracking bloodhound – will join the fun. Free

Continued on page 2

COUNCIL CORNER

Council extends landmark tree ordinance

The City Council approved a six-month extension of the Landmark Tree Ordinance (LTO) during the June 25 business meeting, narrowing the ordinance to apply only to the Winslow Master Plan Study Area, which includes the downtown core and nearby residential areas.



The six-month extension will allow staff and the Council more time to consider and potentially adopt additional changes to tree regulations.

The Council adopted an ordinance last year to protect landmark trees after numerous concerned public comments regarding the loss of landmark trees on Bainbridge Island due to land clearing and development activities. The ordinance designates landmark trees based on size and species, requires a permit to remove any landmark tree, and imposes fines if a landmark tree is removed without a permit. Other rules about tree removal apply across the island.

The LTO extension is effective immediately and will expire December 26, 2019.

Sign Code Update

At the July 16 study session, City Council completed work to identify a proposed set of rules for various types of signs in Winslow and other areas.

A sign is “noncommercial” if the sign relates to more than just the economic interests of the sign’s owner and her/his audience (e.g. Little League sign ups, children’s theatre, etc.). A sign is “commercial” if it relates solely to the economic interests of the sign’s owner and her/his audience (e.g. realtor, garage sale, etc.).

- In Winslow and Neighborhood Centers: sandwich boards in the right of way (both commercial and noncommercial) would be allowed but must be brought in at night. Other, non-durable signs (smaller signs with stakes) would be allowed if noncommercial (nonprofit events, etc.) but would not be allowed if commercial.

- Outside Winslow: sandwich boards in the right of way (both commercial and noncommercial) would be allowed but must be brought in at night. Other, non-durable signs would be allowed for both commercial and noncommercial uses. Commercial non-durable signs would require a City-issued permit to control the number of days, display times, etc.

The next step will be Council review of a draft ordinance (with these new rules) at

the September 24 business meeting, with the opportunity for public comment. The Planning Commission will also review the proposed ordinance before final adoption.

Police-Court Building Financing Options

During the July 9 business meeting, staff and Council continued their discussion on the funding approach for the Police Station and Municipal Court Replacement project. The Council decided to move forward with \$12 million of funding from existing City resources and \$8 million of funding from long-term debt, and to issue Councilmanic bonds, also known as Limited Tax General Obligation bonds (LTGO).



LTGO bonds are repaid using existing City revenues, and so will not increase property taxes. Council approval of the debt issuance is scheduled for this fall. The City’s financial advisor will attend the September 3 study session to provide the Council and the public with information about the specifics of the bond issuance process.

RACE EQUITY TASK FORCE



Members of the Race Equity Task Force, including City Council liaison Joe Deets, walked in the Grand Old 4th Parade to raise awareness of their efforts and engage the community in discussion. The Task Force meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. All are welcome to attend.

National Night Out continued from page 1 ice cream bars, popcorn, and (of course) donuts will be given out, along with the event’s ever-popular hot dogs.

Games (including an inflatable dry slide), giveaways, activities, and exhibits will be spread throughout Waterfront Park. Community members will have a chance to hop on police boats and motorcycles, and even spray water from a fire hose, while getting to know the City’s law enforcement personnel.

“Seeing the community members and the police coming together, with no barriers in between them, makes this a special annual event,” added Sias. “The officers enjoy it and so does the public. It is always a great time for families and we are looking forward to another fun-filled event.”

Car-tab fee increase begins Aug. 1



If you need to renew your car tabs soon, it will cost an additional \$10. City Council voted in January to increase the car-tab fees from \$20 to \$30, with the extra revenue designated to support neighborhood traffic calming measures and transportation projects designed to mitigate climate change impacts. The fee increase, which begins August 1, will add approximately \$200,000 per year to the City's Transportation Benefit Fund for these uses.

It's possible, however, that the City's Transportation Benefit car-tab fees may not remain in place if Initiative 976, which is frequently called the \$30 car-tab initiative, is approved by voters during the No-

ember election. If approved, I-976 would repeal the Transportation Benefit District's authority to impose additional vehicle-registration fees and would significantly change how the State and local transportation systems generate revenue. On Bainbridge Island, current car-tab fees provide \$400,000 per year that is used to support annual pavement repairs to the City's 140-mile road network. That's about 60 percent of the total spending for the City's annual road maintenance program. If I-976 is approved, this funding would be eliminated along with the additional \$200,000 to be generated by the \$10 increase.

Throughout the fall, the City will be providing additional information about I-976, and its significance for Island transportation projects.

Planning Commission reviews Winslow Hotel project proposal

At the time of this writing, the Planning Commission was expected to finalize a recommendation on the Winslow Hotel project proposal to Interim Planning and Community Development Director, Heather Wright, during its July 25 meeting.

The Winslow Hotel project proposal, located at 251 Winslow Way W, includes an 87-room hotel with banquet and meeting rooms, restaurant and bar, and spa. There is a landscaped courtyard, reflecting pond



Aerial view from Northeast

and bandshell, and both under-building and surface parking totaling 136 spaces.

The Design Review Board (DRB) reviewed the Winslow Hotel project proposal during five meetings, with its last review on June 3. Staff prepared a report for the Planning

Commission that included the review by the DRB and analysis of the project.

During the Planning Commission's July 11 study session, the group discussed decision criteria and Comprehensive Plan goals and policies. In previous meetings, members also discussed modifications they would like the applicant to pursue to make the project compatible with the Comprehensive Plan and the surrounding neighborhood. The Planning Commission will continue its review of the project and forward to staff its written findings of facts and conclusions, its determination on the project's consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, and its recommendation, including any conditions.

Once the Planning Commission's review is complete, Wright will review the application materials, the staff report, and recommendation of the Planning Commission. Wright will make a recommendation on the proposal, based on the City Code, the Comprehensive Plan, and input from the DRB and Planning Commission review. The report will be submitted to the Hearing

Council approves rental assistance request

During the June 25 business meeting, the City Council approved a request from Helpline House for \$100,000 in funding to support Islanders who need rental assistance.

Helpline House requested the \$100,000 allocation from the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) to expand an existing Helpline House rental assistance program. The program provides one-time grants to Bainbridge Island residents to pay a portion of rent or mortgage costs for those residents who are experiencing financial hardship due to unforeseen circumstances.

The City's HTF is intended to support a range of housing services. Use of the HTF is approved by a City Council majority vote.

Anyone seeking rental assistance should contact Helpline House Intake Resource Coordinator **Tanya Bierlein** by phone at **206-842-7621**.

Kitten and Cat Adoption Event

Bainbridge Island City Hall
Tuesday, Aug. 27
12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Sponsored by: Kitsap Humane Society

Examiner, who will consider the materials and the director's recommendation at a public hearing. The Hearing Examiner will make a final determination on the project's approval and conditions, if any.

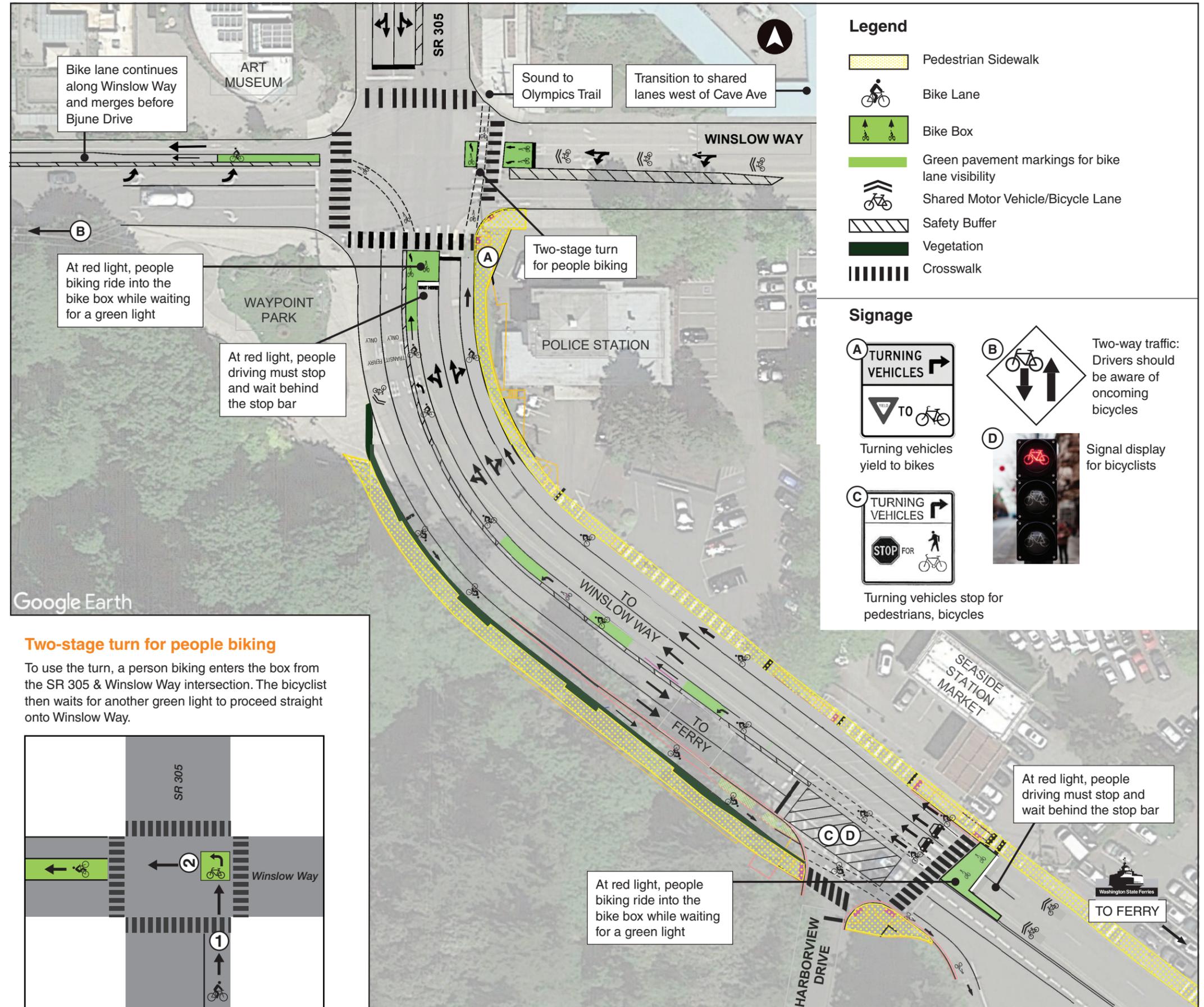
The City Council does not have a role in the review process for this project.

Construction Update: Olympic Drive

When crews complete construction in September, people biking, walking and driving will have their own dedicated paths traveling to and from the ferry to increase safety for all users and efficiency in the loading and unloading of all ferry passengers. There will be new pavement markings along Olympic Drive that may be unfamiliar, so we hope you'll take the time to learn the new features. See the details below and map to the right. Staff are also working on a video project to help people learn to use the new facilities – stay tuned!

- People driving:** You will notice separated bicycle, pedestrian and driving lanes which will improve safety for all modes of transportation. To help you navigate through the new, safer Olympic Drive corridor, you will notice new stop bars (solid white lines) where people driving are required to stop in advance of bike boxes, and additional green pavement markings and bicycle pavement symbols to increase the visibility of people biking.
- People biking:** You will have two dedicated bike lanes exiting the ferry terminal north on Olympic Drive, beginning at Harborview Drive - the northbound right-side bike lane or center bike lane. Bicyclists traveling south to the ferry will have a separated bike lane on the west side, beginning near Waypoint Park.
- Two-stage turn box:** If you travel in the northbound right-side bike lane and would like to turn left on Winslow Way, you will use a two-stage turn box. To use the turn, a person biking enters the box from the SR 305 & Winslow Way intersection. The bicyclist then repositions and waits for another green light to proceed straight onto Winslow Way. See figure to the right with demonstration.
- Bike boxes:** As a person biking, you will also use new bike boxes. A bike box is a dedicated area of pavement that improves safety for people biking by making them more visible to approaching drivers. When the traffic signal is red, people biking ride into the bike box, ahead of people driving, and wait for a green signal. When the traffic signal turns green, people driving must yield to people biking before proceeding or making a turn.
- People walking:** You will use the same walking route to and from the ferry that you used prior to construction. However, you will notice wider sidewalks which will improve safety for people walking, including those with wheelchairs and strollers.

Sign up to receive project updates on Notify Me:
www.bainbridgewa.gov/List.aspx
 select  next to Olympic Drive NM Improvements



Chip seal work on City roads to begin soon

Our annual maintenance of City roads will be in progress during August and September (weather permitting). This year, we will provide a “chip seal” surface treatment for road preservation. Chip sealing is the process of applying a coat of asphalt oil and finely crushed rock over the existing pavement. This restores the street surface to protect the roadway from water and weather damage. Chip sealing is a cost-effective way to extend the life of a road and save significant funds on future road repair costs.

For the days of application and immediately after the project, the speed limit will be reduced to avoid vehicle damage from flying rocks.

Drivers should expect delays, and some driveways could be blocked for up to an hour. Once the project schedule is known, the information will be posted to our Traffic Notifications webpage.

Sign up on the City’s website to receive updates by email or text through Notify Me – select “Annual Roads Program” from the list.



PROJECT ROAD LIST

1. Venice Loop
2. Sunset Loop
3. Penny Place
4. Olympus Beach Rd. and Beach St.
5. Yaquina Ave.
6. North Madison Ave. (SR 305 to Yaquina)
7. Sportsman Club Rd. (Finch to High School)
8. Robinwood Dr.
9. Hawley Way
10. Island Ave.
11. Country Club Rd. (Blakely Ave. to Fort Ward Hill Rd.)
12. Kitsap St. (Fort Ward Hill Rd. to Soundview Dr.)
13. Fort Ward Hill Rd. (Sunny Hill Cir. to South Beach Dr.)
14. Park View Dr. (Fort Ward Hill Rd. to Evergreen Ave.)
15. Evergreen Ave. (Fort Ward Hill Rd. to Park View Dr.)
16. South Beach Dr. (Fort Ward Hill Rd. to 9551 South Beach Dr.)

Please note: The numbers do not indicate the order of the project list.

Sustainable Transportation: Planning our future network

MARK EPSTEIN - ENGINEERING PROJECT MANAGER

Imagine the benefits from being able to walk from your home to a restaurant or park, having your children bike to school, or having a comfortable and convenient commute to the ferry on public transit. Much of the community’s on-island travel is for short trips (less than two miles) to school, to run errands, or visit parks or friends. And although many Islanders are already using alternative modes of transportation, we often still get into our cars to make these brief trips.

Earlier this year, the City Council decided to explore the future of mobility on Bainbridge Island. We’re calling this planning effort “sustainable transportation,” but other terms are active, accessible, or smart transportation. Within all these labels, the goals

are the same: promote better and healthier ways of meeting individual and community mobility needs while reducing social and environmental impacts of current mobility practices.

For Bainbridge Island, the first step in this effort will be to hear from the community, to learn what residents would like the City to do to make transportation on the island more convenient and sustainable. Specific plans for engagement events are still being developed, but the project will provide information and solicit input on these topics:

- How is transportation changing?
- What kinds of transportation contribute to the quality of Island life?
- Which transportation modes do we want to encourage?

- What are your transportation needs and desires?
- Where are there gaps in our existing network of trails, shoulders, and sidewalks?
- How can we better integrate our public transit and other infrastructure?

The success of this planning effort will be dependent on community involvement. All of us use the island’s streets, transit, or trails. Your involvement to help focus on the gaps that we need to address will enable us to become a leading example of community transportation alternatives.

The next Council discussion is scheduled for the August 6 study session. For more information on the project, please visit:

bainbridgewa.gov/sustainabletransportation

STAFF SPOTLIGHT JASON ROGER - SIGNS AND MARKINGS SPECIALIST II

He's known among many as simply "the sign guy." It's a fitting title; for 21 years, Jason Roger (pronounced Ro-jair) has helped maintain signs and street markings for the City of Bainbridge Island. "I've made every sign on this island at least once," he shared proudly. For context, there are currently around 5,000 street signs on the island, including those that indicate street names, speed limits, and directional signs.

Bainbridge isn't the only place Jason knows and loves. His roots are in Houma, Louisiana, about 60 miles southwest of New Orleans. "I still consider myself to have webbed feet, having grown up in the swamps and bayous," he said with a smile. He was drawn to the Pacific Northwest while still in high school when visiting his oldest brother in Bremerton, who was serving in the Navy. Jason knew the area was where he eventually wanted to settle—especially because of the "lack of humidity, lack of mosquitos, and lack of all kinds of biting things."

In 1995, for his birthday, he bought a one-way ticket to Washington. Jason settled in Poulsbo and began working for the City of Poulsbo, where he first gained experience painting street markings and maintaining signs. A few years later, he would be doing the same for the City of Bainbridge Island. Although he "never messed with a stop sign," he recalls how for a brief period as a teen-

ager, he'd done some minor vandalizing of street signs. "Now, I chuckle to myself about how I'm getting payback. Kids today are doing the same things I did as a teenager, and here I am having to go fix it all."

He may laugh at the irony of his position, but he stresses the importance of having clean, visible signs that are in the correct location. The question he gets asked the most is, "Why do you wash street signs?" The answer is that dirt and paint diminish the reflectivity, and therefore visibility, of the signs.

Signs are just one piece of Jason's job. He also paints street markings such as bike symbols, stop bars, turn arrows, parking stalls, curbs, handicap stalls, and crosswalks. Maintaining City rights of way is another key priority—with vegetation being the biggest obstacle. Jason encourages homeowners to keep vegetation planted in the rights of way trimmed, especially if it's by a stop sign. "Help us help you," he says.

Jason is deeply committed to his job and the safety of Island residents. However, he also values the importance of leisure time.

He loves taking getaways with his wife and two daughters, ages 15 and 11. Woodworking is another passion, and on summer weekends he can be found out fishing on the lakes of Kitsap and Mason counties. His fa-



Public Works leadership changes

City Manager Morgan Smith announced changes to leadership roles in the Public Works Department.



Barry Loveless

Barry Loveless is retiring from his position as Public Works Director, but will remain a part-time City employee leading the completion of the City's \$20 million Police Station and Municipal Court Replacement project.

Smith appointed Chris Wierzbicki to fill the role of Public Works Director. Wierzbicki, a Bainbridge Island resident, has more

than 20 years of engineering and planning experience in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. He previously worked at the City of Bainbridge Island for six years as the Deputy Planning Director and City Engineer. He has also served as the Executive Director of Futurewise, an organization that advocates for sustainable and equitable land use and transportation policy throughout Washington State. Wierzbicki started his new role July 31.



Chris Wierzbicki

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- ✓ Potholes
- ✓ Vegetation impeding roadway
- ✓ Damaged or missing street signs...

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- **City Council Study Sessions**

August 6: 6-10 p.m.

August 20: 6-10 p.m.

- **City Council Business Meetings**

August 13: 6-10 p.m.

August 27: 6-10 p.m.

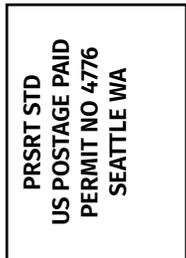
Public Hearing: Subdivision Standards

- **Planning Commission Meetings**

August 8: 7-9 p.m.

August 22: 7-9 p.m.

Meetings, times and agenda topics are subject to change. Please see the calendar on the City's website for the latest information.



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98110

Affordable housing continued from page 1
on the island. It's a great opportunity to show leadership by developing a project that will produce a meaningful number of affordable units," said Blossom.

For several years, the City considered various uses and ideas for the property. Ultimately, the City chose to move forward with affordable housing, and to develop approximately 35 percent of the property's acreage. The remainder of the property will be left undisturbed except for walking paths.

In 2018, the City hired Olympic Property Group (OPG) as lead consultant to take the project through formal site planning and preliminary project approval. The actual development of the project is not part of OPG's contract and will occur as a separate process.

Once the Council determines the number of units for the project, OPG will move

forward to complete site preparations. The next step will then be for the City to identify a development partner, and to finalize decisions about the long-term ownership of the property. The current plan is for the City to donate at least 50 percent of the property's value to the future development partner. To date, the City has committed roughly \$850,000 in spending for OPG's services and the feasibility study, with the expectation that these costs will be recovered through the development process. The City acquired the Suzuki property in 2000 at a cost of \$500,000.

At the time of this writing, the Suzuki project feasibility study was expected to be complete by the end of July. The next City Council discussion is scheduled for the August 6 study session. At that time, staff from HRB and their consultant will discuss the report's results and next steps for the project.

Bainbridge K9 team assists in fatal Port Angeles arson investigation

K⁹ Whitney and her handler, Ofc. Kurt Enget, were recognized for their efforts in a fatal Port Angeles fire investigation.

On July 6, Port Angeles Police responded to the scene of an early morning arson fire that left four people dead and destroyed two mobile homes. Police arrested the suspect in a wooded area about a half-mile from the crime scene but later requested help from Bainbridge Island Police Ofc. Enget and his K9 partner to retrace the suspect's path fleeing the scene.

It was more than 60 hours after the deadly fire was reported when K9 Whitney started her track. She began in an area on the edge of the crime scene then traveled through roads, fields, driveways, backyards, and wooded areas. Whitney's track led to a camp site, which was the same location where the suspect was arrested.

Port Angeles Police Det. Sgt. Tyler Peninger said by email the team's performance "was outstanding." "(Ofc. Enget) and Whitney gave us valuable information on the course our suspect took from the time he left the crime scene until he arrived at the hidden camp where we later

arrested him," wrote Peninger. "The obstacle of time, weather, and environment that had changed since the arson event made me believe this was a very difficult track to follow."

Whitney, currently the only K9 bloodhound in the Kitsap County area, was sworn in as a K9 officer in May to help the department track missing people and fleeing suspects. The Port Angeles investigation, however, was different – there was no one for Whitney to find. She used scent to retrace the suspect's path – step by step.

"I'm glad we were able to provide support during this tragic incident," said Enget. "I'm very proud of Whitney and what she did – it's just the beginning of her career."

