

COBI CONNECTS



COUNCIL MESSAGE



Michael Pollock, South Ward

Disparities in City funding between social services and police services were recently noted in the news. Police get 38% of the City budget, while social services get 2.6%. Until recently, this has gone unquestioned by Councilmembers, myself included. Further, the Council is considering building one of the priciest police stations ever built on a square foot basis, which would cost taxpayers \$23 million to build a 17,739 sf station. Given our Island's exceptionally low crime rate, I now question if devoting so many dollars for a new police station, along with a force of 32 FTEs, 31 motor vehicles, 2 patrol boats, and a suite of high-powered armaments, is the best use of public funds. Ongoing domestic violence, rape, drug abuse and lack of eldercare are far more common problems that impact public safety. No simple solutions, but it's time to have a broad-based public conversation on public safety funding.

The views expressed in the Council Messages are those of the councilmember who wrote the Message.

CITY COUNCIL

Rasham Nassar, Mayor

Kirsten Hytopoulos, Deputy Mayor

Christy Carr, Councilmember

Joe Deets, Councilmember

Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, Councilmember

Michael Pollock, Councilmember

Leslie Schneider, Councilmember

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COMMITTEE COMPLETES DRAFT ISLAND CENTER SUBAREA PLAN

A place for neighbors to gather for coffee. A park to gather and host small events. A paved pathway to safely walk from home to businesses. This is the vision for a future Island Center that the City's Island Center Subarea Planning Process Steering Committee (Steering Committee) compiled in a draft subarea planning document that includes recommendations for future land use, traffic safety improvements, trail connections and more.

The Island Center area is located at the intersection of Miller and New Brooklyn Roads; it stretches north along Miller Road to Bainbridge Gardens and the Grand Forest and south along Fletcher Bay Road to just south of High School Road. The area includes a mix of commercial, agricultural, recreational and residential uses with a rural character defined in large part by natural features consisting of forests, habitat and connections to the water.

The draft subarea plan, completed in early May 2021, follows three years of extensive discussion, public outreach, walking tours and analysis by the Steering Committee, which consists of eight community members who live or own businesses or property in the Island Center area and one at-large community member.

The Comprehensive Plan designates Island Center as a Neighborhood Center, which allows for commercial and residential land uses, and directs the City to complete a subarea plan for the Neighborhood Center. The City Council formed the Steering Committee (as required by BIMC 2.16.210 Subarea Planning Process) to guide the subarea planning effort with support from City staff and a consultant team.



Island Center Plan Proposals

Land Use and Zoning

Change development standards and permitted/conditional uses to differentiate the Island Center Neighborhood Center area from Lynwood and Rolling Bay Neighborhood Centers.

Add three areas currently zoned residential to the Island Center Neighborhood Center Zone to support commercial development and to allow for more affordable housing.

Transportation Safety

Add dedicated facilities for people walking and biking and safer crossings.

Create a trail network with off-road pedestrian connections.

Add traffic-calming features.

New public spaces

Improve a four-acre City-owned property on Miller Road to create a new outdoor flexible public space to support parking, a trailhead, public art, playground and events.

Enhance public access to the waterfront in Island Center.

Three committee members who voted against the subarea plan submitted an article of dissent to be integrated into the draft plan as an appendix. As a next step, City staff provided an overview of the Island Center subarea planning process June 10 to the Planning Commission, which will soon begin review of the draft recommendation. The City Council will have final review and consider adoption of the plan. There will be opportunities for public comment on the draft recommendation throughout the process.

LEARN MORE: bainbridgewa.gov/950

TRAFFIC CALMING

The City is seeking ideas through **July 16** for how to slow traffic and improve conditions for people walking, biking or rolling in neighborhoods. These safety enhancements, known as "traffic calming" projects, may include crosswalks, delineators or radar speed signs on existing roads to reduce vehicle speeds. Submit your ideas through our Engage Bainbridge site at bainbridgewa.gov/1309.

Suggestions will be evaluated and prioritized using data and other metrics related to speed, safety and other factors. Any solutions to traffic calming problems will be developed in accordance with a "handbook" of traffic calming measures that the City is developing. The proposals will be presented to the City Council in the fall.

As part of the traffic calming effort, the City Council authorized staff to begin preliminary analysis of four specific areas on the island for traffic calming and safety improvements. Those areas are:

Grow Avenue (between Winslow Way and High School Road): This area was selected due to a long history of traffic calming and speeding concerns. The staff and Council agreed to continue working toward solutions on Grow Avenue as part of the 2021-2022 budget.

Schel Chelb pedestrian crossing (Point White Drive): This location has a long history of community and City Council concerns regarding safety and increasing pedestrian traffic in the area.

Grand Forest pedestrian crossing (Miller Road): This area was selected by staff for attention, as it will address pedestrian safety and speeding concerns in the corridor. Staff plans to coordinate with Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District staff on the potential expansion of the adjacent parking lot.

Finch corridor intersections (between Wyatt Way and High School Road): This area was selected due to a high number of concerns and feedback from residents.



Intersection of Finch Road and Sportsman Club Road.

ANNUAL ROAD MAINTENANCE FOR 2021

1 Euclid Ave
Between Meigs St and Washington Ave

2 Henderson Rd
Between Ralston Rd and Seabold Rd

3 Olympic Terrace Ave
Between Monte Vista Dr and Maple St

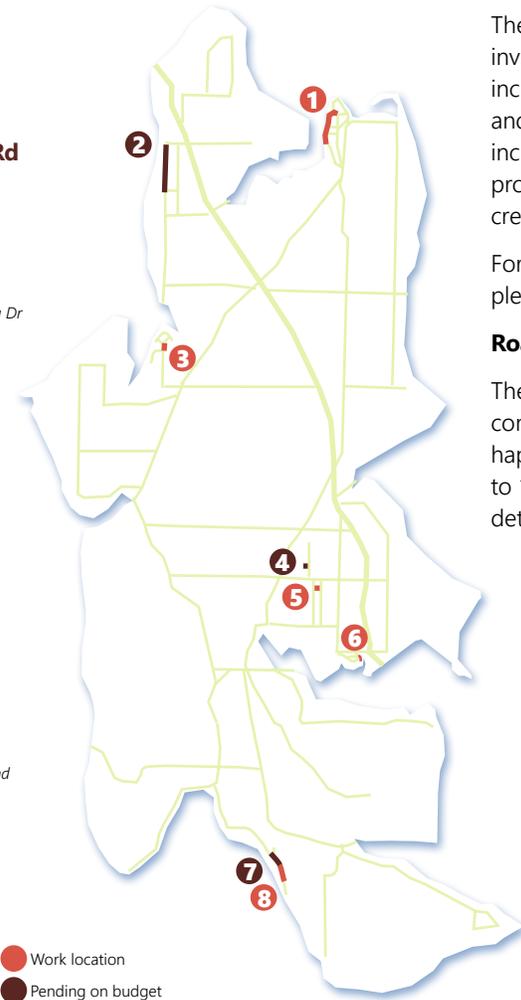
4 Elizabeth Pl
Between W end and Commodore Ln

5 Ihland Way
Between Lovell Ave and Grow Ave

6 Shannon Dr
Between SE end and Bjune Dr

7 Pleasant Beach Dr
Between Wharf St and Campbell St

8 Pleasant Beach Dr
Between Fort St and Wharf St



The City of Bainbridge Island maintains a 140-mile road network. Each year, the City invests an average of \$650,000 to preserve and protect island roads. The budget includes \$400,000 from Transportation Benefit Fund (TBF or car-tab fees) revenues, and the remainder is supported by the City's Street Fund. The 2021 road work will include grinding and patching (see list of locations on the map). This technique provides a long-term fix for uneven pavement or other defects in the road and creates a smoother surface for driving.

For updates on the 2021 project timeline and when the work will be performed, please visit bainbridgewa.gov/270.

Road Assessment

The City uses a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) and traffic volumes to rate the conditions of the road network and to determine where road maintenance will happen. The PCI ranks the overall health of a pavement segment on a scale of 0 to 100 (0 represents a failed street; 100 represents a new street). The PCI rating is determined by a visual inspection of pavement condition, age and distress.

The City wants to maintain an average PCI score of 70, which is a condition in line with best management practices. As of May 2020, our average score was 62. The current score reflects the fact that many of our high-volume roads are in good shape but many smaller low-traffic roads are in need of repairs. The City strives to keep the higher-volume roads from deteriorating while addressing smaller roads—and the associated neighborhood concerns—over the long-term.

The 2021-2022 biennial budget for annual roads addresses both high- and low-volume roads, using the overall PCI score of the roads as the primary driver for prioritization. The 2021 program will focus on more widely used roads with a pavement score of less than 40, and the 2022 program will focus on smaller roads with a pavement score of less than 25. The City's last pavement condition report recommended spending a minimum of \$1 million annually on pavement preservation.



Jon Bingham started his career with the Bainbridge Island Police Department (BIPD) in 2005 as a part-time volunteer reserve police officer. He spent weekends as a lifeguard supervisor with the Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District. Bingham left BIPD in 2011 to begin a full-time law enforcement career with the Suquamish Police Department, but he returned to BIPD in 2014. While his primary responsibility is patrolling the island, he serves as the lead officer in the Marine Services Unit. Bingham grew up on Bainbridge Island and is a 1997 graduate of Bainbridge High School.

JOB DUTIES

(Marine Services Unit)

- » Responds to marine-related calls.
- » Ensures BIPD officers in marine unit receive and maintain all required training.
- » Maintains department vessels.

INTERESTING FACTS



He began sailing at 7 years old. Starting when he was 12, he taught sailing for Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District for 15 years.



He is a lifelong water polo player and was voted the state MVP as a junior in high school.



He earned a life-saving award for assisting a woman suffering a heart attack while on a sailboat near Kingston.

If you spend any time on the water during the summer months, chances are you've seen Bainbridge Island Police Department officers out patrolling our shorelines aboard Marine 8, the primary vessel of the department's Marine Services Unit. The BIPD created the marine unit in 2004 to assist with search and rescue, recreational boating enforcement and environmental response (e.g., oil spills, derelict vessels). All marine unit boat operators are required to participate in a 40-hour training course that covers vessel safety and operations, safety equipment, water survival, law enforcement and more. Marine 8 is a 33-foot SAFE (Secure All-around Flotation Equipped) boat that can carry up to 18 passengers. The vessel, which operates year-round, primarily covers the 53 miles of Bainbridge shoreline, but occasionally leaves the immediate area when emergency assistance is requested by other agencies. The marine unit trains to assist Washington State Ferries on the Seattle-Bainbridge ferry route, which is traditionally WSF's busiest route. We recently chatted with Lead Marine Officer Jon Bingham to learn more about the unit and its responsibilities.

What types of calls does the Marine Services Unit respond to?

We respond to calls ranging from water/beach rescues to vessel assistance. A lot of people on the island like walking the beach, and at least a few times each year we get someone injured on a beach that is too far from shore access to be able to be taken out by ambulance. We also respond to medical emergencies on the water, ranging from heart attacks to cold water immersion. The marine unit conducts vessel inspections to make sure boaters have all the required equipment on their vessels and that the vessels are in good working order. We do this to reduce the risk of danger if a vessel does become distressed. We also enforce speed and other civil regulations in the jurisdiction of Bainbridge Island (the "no wake" restrictions in our harbors are 5 knots or less).

What type of equipment is on board Marine 8?

The boat is equipped with high-definition imaging sonar, a chart plotter, radar, an Automatic Identification System (AIS), a micro-ROV (remotely operated vehicle), two VHF radios, Ham Radio, collision and depth alarms and an on-board computer with thermal imaging capability. The boat also features equipment for marine fire response (e.g. pump with multiple nozzles) to allow officers to assist with marina and boat fires. The marine unit often responds to calls with the Bainbridge Island Fire Department and regularly trains with BIFD crews on firefighting, boat handling and rescue procedures aboard Marine 8.



How fast does Marine 8 go? (This is the top question asked of marine officers.)

The answer is 52.5 knots, which equates to 60 miles per hour; a typical speed boat has a top speed of approximately 40 knots. The speed capability might seem extreme, but when you need help, you want the boat there as fast as possible. (Another top question? People often ask if anyone has water skied behind Marine 8, and that's a NO.)

Any tips for boaters to ensure safety at sea?

Be prepared: Always wear your life jacket, look at the weather, understand tides and currents, understand how to use buoys (which are well marked), review charts and know where you are to avoid hitting the bottom. A lot of people are somewhat unfamiliar with the sea and don't understand how dangerous it can be if you don't prepare (even just a tiny bit). I don't know how many people I've talked to who call 911 while out on the water and they say their phone is almost dead. You've got to understand that's your lifeline.

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MOBILE APP FOR ON-DEMAND BUS SERVICE COMING SOON

Getting around Bainbridge Island without getting behind the wheel is about to get a lot more convenient—thanks to a new tech-powered partnership between **Kitsap Transit** (KT) and **The Routing Company**.

Starting this summer, travelers who download the **Ride Pingo mobile app** will be able to book, track and pay for a trip on BI Ride. The benefits include shorter wait times, real-time arrival information and more people being able to access the service. BI Ride already responds within 15 minutes to most trip requests.

The app, developed by The Routing Company, is available for free download in the App Store (iPhone) and Google Play (Android). BI Ride travelers will still be able to book a trip in advance by phone.

Kitsap Transit is the first transit agency in the nation to partner with The Routing Company, a startup spun out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology whose shared-rides technology powers the app and holds the promise of enhancing individuals' mobility, reducing congestion and increasing public transit's efficiency.

BI Ride carried more than 36,700 riders in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic decreased use of public transit; achieving Climate Action Plan goals will be hard if more people get used to driving alone. The City encourages walking, bicycling and shared rides as part of its sustainable transportation efforts.

In 2019, the City Council approved a \$10 car-tab fee increase and adopted Resolution No. 2019-06 to specify that \$100,000 of the additional revenue would be used for marketing BI Ride to engage the community and communicate the service's benefits.

Kitsap Transit will pilot Ride Pingo for a year. BI Ride's only timepoint will be the Bainbridge ferry terminal; riders can reach the rest of the island by using the Pingo app or calling BI Ride.

Kitsap Transit will provide FREE rides on BI Ride during the month of July so riders can sample the service using the Ride Pingo app. The public is invited to a **kickoff event Wednesday, July 7**. Stay up to date by visiting kitsaptransit.com/pingo.

FIREWORKS BAN

This is a friendly reminder that consumer fireworks are not allowed on Bainbridge Island. The City Council in 2019 approved a ban on the sale, possession and use of consumer fireworks following concerns related to wildfire risk, noise, safety and environmental impacts.

What's allowed?

- » Display fireworks & special effects shows (both require a permit)
- » Trick or novelty devices (these are small firework devices not classified as a consumer or display firework. Examples include: toy caps, toy smoke devices, party poppers, snappers, snakes, glow worms)

What's not allowed?

- » Sparklers (these pose a danger similar to other consumer fireworks, as they burn at a high temperature and can cause injuries and fires)
- » Roman candles
- » Mine and shell devices
- » Aerial shell kits
- » Cone fountains
- » Firecrackers



We appreciate your cooperation to keep everyone in our community safe.

What is BI Ride?

An on-demand bus service for getting



anywhere on Bainbridge Island that operates on weekdays (9:15AM-3:50PM) and Saturdays (9:15AM-6PM). Soon you'll be able to book, track and pay for a trip in real time using the Ride Pingo app. You'll still be able to book a trip by calling 1.844.4BI.RIDE or hopping on at the ferry terminal. Regular fare is \$2. ORCA accepted.

Take the survey!

Kitsap Transit invites island residents and businesses to take a survey on their transportation needs and transit usage. Take the survey and be entered to win a prize! For details, visit: kitsaptransit.com/pingo