



City of Springfield BPAC

Overview

Established in 2011, the Springfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is a volunteer body of 10-16 voting members that provides input to the Springfield City Council and staff on bicycle and pedestrian issues, policies, programs, education, enforcement and facilities. The BPAC meets every other month as a committee. Subcommittees meet during the remaining months. Accomplishments and future BPAC priorities for City Council to consider are listed below.

Top Accomplishments in 2019

Path Safety Signage

BPAC led an effort to add path safety signage on the Northbank Path in 2018. These signs instruct path users on proper path etiquette, such as using lights and keeping right except to pass. In 2019, BPAC worked with the City of Springfield and Willamalane to expand the application of these signs to Willamalane's paths, I-5 Viaduct Path, I-5 Path at Gateway Loop, and Rosa Parks Path. These signs set expectations for bicyclists coming into the community and indicate that the paths are places for both people rolling and walking. At the October 2019 Wheels by the Willamette event, a twice yearly event to encourage biking and walking in Springfield, the BPAC led a survey and education effort to inform the public of the signs' intent and application.

Bike Friendly Business Programming

Based on Mayor Lundberg's suggestion, BPAC members have reached out to and supported Springfield businesses getting recognized as Bike Friendly Businesses through Travel Oregon since early 2018. This effort supports bike tourism in Springfield. Springfield now has a total of 17 Bike Friendly Businesses.

Future BPAC Priorities for City Council

Support for Northbank Path and West D Street Improvements

The Northbank Path is the primary bicycle connection between Springfield and Eugene, and it is the most utilized piece of bike infrastructure in Springfield. Its current alignment with the street system does not transition bicyclists into Springfield safely. The existing alignment presents limited visibility, narrow entry and exit to the path, and lack of bicycle facilities on a narrow street with high car usage and fast speeds. BPAC has prioritized this vital bike connection, recognizing that it impacts daily bike commuters, casual riders, walkers, runners, park users, and bicycling visitors. BPAC appreciates City Council prioritizing funding for studies, design, and construction of improvements at the path transition and along West D Street.

Support for Open Streets Program

Open streets events promote healthy, active living by temporarily opening the city's streets so people can walk, bike, roll, and discover active transportation in a safe, car-free environment. BPAC volunteers are willing and excited to support an open streets initiative sponsored by Willamalane and City of Springfield if increased staff capacity and funding can be identified to move forward.

Improve Communication for Springfield's Bike and Pedestrian Priorities

The BPAC is an active, productive committee that regularly hears from members of the community both in and out of meetings, as biking and walking grows as a priority. The BPAC would like advice from City Council on how to more effectively communicate between BPAC and City Council. BPAC sees the recent experience with Councilor Moore bringing forward the topic of expanding bike share in Springfield to Council leadership, which led to scheduling a City Council work session, as a success and role model to build upon. BPAC is open to other ways to communicate priorities for walking and biking in Springfield.