

Questions from WUCC

Hello Jennifer, you have certainly posed some thought-provoking questions. I have to admit that I approach cycling from a somewhat different point of view than the average bike rider since this was never a skill I ever mastered. So, I don't know first-hand the difficulties bike riders face and can only rely on other's experiences. I've always been somewhat jealous of people who ride bikes so effortlessly; are kids really born with them between their legs?

1. You asked about the creation of a Transportation Equity Policy. I believe some good work has gone into the concepts and implementation of many initiatives designed to do just what such a policy would set out. Since the mid-2000's and Whitehorse Moves, the City has moved to improve transit, expand bicycle and foot networks and has recognized that we must reduce dependence on private automobile usage.
2. I must ask a question here. How would your group envision what a contiguous bike network would look like? I could get behind a segregated cycle-transportation infrastructure if, for example it included making main street exclusive to pedestrians and bikes, turning 2nd and 4th into one-way, two-lane streets and turning one of the driving lanes into a segregated bike lane.
3. I am quite familiar with the TDM Plan and was one of the councillors who voted for the adoption. Even though I didn't agree completely with all aspects of it, there were some parts of the plan that were reasonable and doable. One example of an idea that came out of that is the on-line car pooling initiative and it is being set up. It is interesting that this was tried about ten years ago and there was absolutely no uptake.
4. This a no-brainer. Of course, any new modifications and proposed development have to have input from residents and users and City Council has to make sure that the planners take these into account.
5. I would have to find out what updates to the MVA would be before I could really comment on this.
6. So far, I have been in agreement with the City's concerns and position on the Alaska Highway Plan. Any changes to the current highway are going to have tremendous impacts, not only to vehicular traffic but also to the safety and usability of walkers and cyclers. I notice that there has been relatively little talk about overpasses or underpasses.
7. I absolutely agree that educational campaigns are crucial for drivers, riders and walkers. Action 1.4 of the TDM speaks quite thoroughly to those.
8. Do we need more bicycling parking downtown? Keep in mind that I ask this question from a non-cyclist viewpoint.