

# LUMMI MACKENZIE/ GOOSEBERRY POINT re+walk



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Mackenzie/Gooseberry Point is located at the southwestern edge of the Lummi Reservation. Haxton Way and Lummi View Drive are the main through-roads along the coast. Mackenzie Road is also an important local road. The area is primarily residential, with a K-12 school, a housing development, a small convenience store, and a Whatcom County Ferry terminal being destinations in close proximity. Haxton Way connects Slater Road (and the greater Bellingham area) to the Lummi Island Ferry at the southwestern tip of Gooseberry Point.

The re+walk route began at the Lummi CEDAR Project Office and traveled roughly 1.5 miles in a loop down Lummi View Drive and up Mackenzie Road (see map p. 2).

*re+walk [v. ree-wawk; n. ree-wawk]: to walk through a place you have walked before, seeing it in a different light. –Synonyms: reimagine, review, rediscover.*

## Participants:

This re+walk was joined by 18 individuals representing the following groups and stakeholders:

- Feet First
- Lummi Planning Department
- Lummi Fitness Center
- Lummi Safe Streets members
- Local residents

Special thanks to the CEDAR Project for contributing information and support.

## TOP OBSERVATIONS:

- Throughout Mackenzie/Gooseberry Point there are poor or non-existent pedestrian paths, with insufficient or non-existent shoulders for pedestrian or bicycle travel. Additionally, the existing paths are inadequately connected.
- Unmaintained vegetation frequently creates sightline issues and reduces the viable space to walk or cycle.
- Long sightlines, minimal traffic calming tools, and the driving behavior leading to the ferry terminal contribute to high speeds and dangerous conditions for non-motorized users of Haxton Way.
- Finkbonner Road immediately south of Mackenzie Road poses a dangerous stretch of road for pedestrians due to lack of shoulder, overgrown vegetation, and blind spots. This road is important in the pedestrian network, however.
- The beach along Lummi View Drive serves as a seasonal destination yet there is a lack of pedestrian pathways along and around it.
- There is little or no lighting along most roads, especially pedestrian-scale lighting.
- There is a high frequency of dogs in the area. Though they may be friendly it may still be a deterrent to walking.

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## TOP RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Develop a system of interconnected pedestrian paths throughout the Mackenzie/Gooseberry Point area.
2. Remove vegetation on streets (especially the north segment of Finkbonner Road). This would clear sight lines and create a space to walk outside of the roadway.
3. Mitigate speeds along Haxton Way through increased enforcement and engineering changes, which may include a roundabout at Mackenzie, a ‘your speed is’ sign and speed limit sign with flashing lights, other road markings (potentially a bike lane if there is sufficient traffic to the ferry terminal), or other signage such as “watch for pedestrians”.
4. Advise and support property owners to maintain a clear pedestrian path across their driveway in the right of way.
5. Educate community members about animal control issues.
6. Work with the community to create ‘community places’ or destinations to stimulate neighborhood pedestrian use (e.g. bus shelters, a bulletin board/kiosk, a small picnic area, etc.).



**Organizers:** CEDAR Project  
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**Reviewed by:** Shasta Cano-Martin, Mia Akau  
**Photo Credits:** Rebecca Deehr, Seth Schromen-Wawrin. re+walk participants also provided their photos for this report. Thank you for sharing your point of view.





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Re+Walk Field Notes

Item Key









Issues and action items are labeled with four color-coded icons identifying what action is recommended to make improvements. Additionally, as most of the action recommended is in the public domain, each item includes a category of the area that can facilitate coordination with or by the appropriate local, tribal, or state agency.









-  - Citizen or business program could solve this problem
-  - existing partners, programs or services can be tapped to make improvements
-  - policy change or new funding may be required to implement changes
-  - informational item





Issues and Action Items







Item	Location	Description	Category	Photo
	Mackenzie Road	<p>There is minimal space available for pedestrians to walk, and this area is deteriorated. There is often no sidewalk in the Mackenzie/Gooseberry Point, and adequate shoulders are infrequent. Pedestrians are forced into the street.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Develop an interconnected path network with a paved surface or less intensive material. Until then, work to maintain a clean walking path on the shoulder or side of road potentially through cooperation with local property owners.</b></p>	Pedestrian Path	
	Mackenzie Road	<p>Mackenzie road turns at a point lacking a pedestrian path and with thick vegetation. This limits the site distance and creates dangerous walking conditions.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Remove vegetation to open up sightlines and give pedestrians and cyclists appropriate safe space outside of the lane.</b></p>	Sightline	
 	Mackenzie Road	<p>Vehicles use the shoulder along Mackenzie (and other roads) as a parking space. This behavior reduces the space for pedestrians to walk and forces them into the roadway, effectively eliminating the shoulder and putting pedestrians in an unsafe walking condition.</p>	Pedestrian Path	

















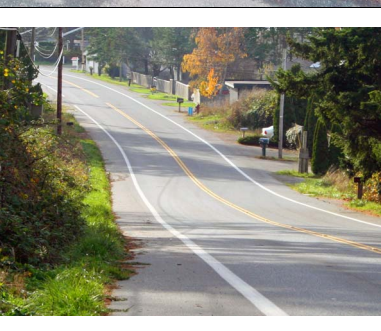
Item	Location	Description	Category	Photo
* 	Mackenzie Road	Larger vehicles parked along shoulder block the sightline of all users of the road. <b>Recommendation: Education of this problem, or regulation against it, could improve the safety of all users.</b>	Sightline	
	Eagle Avenue and Mackenzie	Eagle Avenue has nice sidewalks on both sides and a crosswalk across Eagle at Mackenzie. Unfortunately, none of these paths continue anywhere, and there is not a crosswalk across Mackenzie to connect to the wider shoulder on the south side of Mackenzie. <b>Recommendation: Extend these existing sidewalks onto Mackenzie Road to create a well needed path network.</b>	Sidewalks	
	Finkbonner Road and Mackenzie Road	The hill on Finkbonner has minimal space off the roadway for pedestrians to use. The road channel is cut against the bank of the hill. This road creates an important connection between residential areas and the waterfront. Additionally, runners and athletes often like using the hill – the steepest in the area – to train.	Pedestrian Path	
	Finkbonner Road and Mackenzie Road	The steep hill on Finkbonner up to the intersection with Mackenzie has poor sightlines. This creates blind turns for vehicles, potentially at the risk of pedestrians and cyclists. <b>Recommendation: Install traffic calming elements (e.g. curb bulbs, texturized paving, raised or marked crosswalks, etc.) and pedestrian scale lighting.</b>	Sightline	


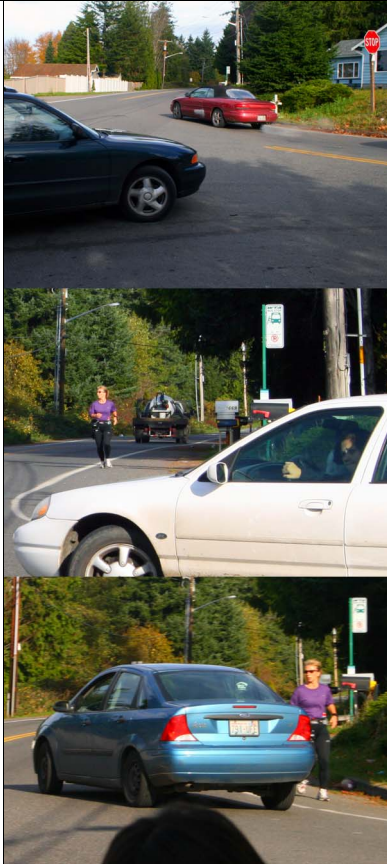
Item	Location	Description	Category	Photo
	Finkbonner Road	<p>Overgrown vegetation encroaches on the space for pedestrians to walk. There are patches of overgrowth throughout the area. The patch of blackberries along Finkbonner adds to the sightline and lack of shoulder problems with the hill.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Remove vegetation and potentially landscape hill to provide space for pedestrian path.</b></p>	Pedestrian Path	
	Finkbonner Road	<p>The area is home to many dogs that are free to wander and explore. Though most of the dogs encountered during the walk were friendly, participants expressed that some dogs are aggressive or frightening. Feeling frightened by a dog can create a barrier to a person's desire to walk.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Work with appropriate agencies (Humane Society, Police, community organizations etc.) to educate dog owners and discourage wandering dogs.</b></p>	Pedestrian Experience	
	Finkbonner Road	<p>Some residents are placing fences in areas that impede on the shoulder. This becomes a barrier to the pedestrian environment.</p>	Right of Way	
	Finkbonner Road	<p>We spoke with the police about enforcement of traffic violations (e.g. speeding, illegal parking, etc.) during the walk. The police informed the group that there is little time or resources to enforce traffic violations. In the past the Lummi Tribe/Bureau of Indian Affairs has requested further funding for traffic enforcement from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: This effort to acquire additional funding for traffic enforcement should continue and could help greatly in creating a better pedestrian environment and encourage people to use the streets.</b></p>	Enforcement	

Item	Location	Description	Category	Photo
⌘	Finkbonner Road	One participant of the walk had a stroller demonstrating many barriers in the pedestrian infrastructure. The lack of adequate paths or paved shoulders meant the stroller was repeatedly pushed in the roadway. Additionally the deteriorated street edge often would push the stroller further into the road.	Pedestrian Path	
⌘	Finkbonner Road	Pedestrians are given a space in a shallow drainage ditch between parked cars and mailboxes to walk at this point on Finkbonner Road. Located between moving vehicles and parked vehicles, with obstacles like mailboxes periodically in the path, deters many pedestrians from even walking on the shoulder. Instead, they chose a straight path in the roadway, though more exposed to traffic. <b>Recommendation: The pedestrian path should be demarcated as a safe and dedicated path (e.g. gravel, stone pavers, lined with plantings, etc.).</b>	Pedestrian Path	
⌘	Lummi View Drive	A convenience store is located near the ferry terminal on Lummi View Drive. This shop functions as a pedestrian generator providing some daily needs for local residents, and a local gathering space to spontaneously meet neighbors. <b>Recommendation: Encourage economic activity to stimulate community activity, enable more local residents to walk to work, and provide healthy food options.</b>	Local Asset	
⌘⌘	Lummi View Drive	The road edge is deteriorating along Lummi View Drive. This creates a difficult transition between the road and the shoulder (when there is a shoulder), and a difficult place to walk or push a stroller. Additionally, the white lines of the road have become faded.	Pedestrian Path	
⌘	Lummi View Drive	Drainage ditches at times are creating barriers to destinations, and reducing the space available for pedestrians. Though there are issues with digging near roadways because of buried artifacts, consideration should be given to less invasive pathways (e.g. pavers, boardwalks, asphalt, etc.) and ditches (e.g. bio swales, retention pools, etc.).	Pedestrian Path	

Item	Location	Description	Category	Photo
	Lummi View Drive	<p>The view and beach along Lummi View Drive is a strong asset and important resource to the Gooseberry Point area and the Lummi Nation. Currently there is no easily accessible or safe way to access the view and the beach, especially as a cyclist or pedestrian. Currently, non-tribal members are not allowed to venture onto the tidelands below the mean high-water mark.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Provide better signage about accessing the beach. The Lummi Nation should develop a path to attract tribal members, neighbors, and visitors to utilize the beach. The path could contain designated public access areas with proper park amenities (e.g. benches, picnic tables, pedestrian scale lighting, etc) to create a more attractive space with opportunities to recreate, be mindful, and relax.</b></p>	Local Assets	
	Lummi View Drive	<p>There appears to be contention about property lines and right of way along Lummi View Drive. Some property owners have placed large rocks in the shoulder, partially to deter vehicles from parking there. This also blocks the pedestrian path.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Government and neighbors should work to reach an understanding about the right of way and appropriate uses. This could be an appropriate place for a pedestrian path (which would also deter vehicles from parking on this side of the road) and be easily integrated into other path networks. However this would put Lummi View and potentially parked cars between pedestrians and the view and beach.</b></p>	Right of Way	
	Lummi View Drive	<p>On the south side of Lummi View Drive, there are large cement barriers that block access to the beach, and disrupt a continuous pedestrian path. Participants informed us that these barriers are to make additional ferry parking, and move with the seasons.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Coordinate better the needs of the ferry with local needs. This side of Lummi View could also be a scenic path. It would be less integrated into the pedestrian network, yet more attractive to users with the road and parked cars behind.</b></p>	Pedestrian Path	

Item	Location	Description	Category	Photo
	Lummi View Drive	<p>Throughout the Mackenzie/Gooseberry Point, overgrown vegetation (primarily invasive Himalayan Blackberry) crowds the pedestrian path, sightlines, and public space.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Perform targeted removal to increase the space for pedestrians and improve sightlines. This could be done through community led removal parties to also build neighborhood connections.</b></p>	Right of Way	
	Lummi View Drive	<p>Climbing the hill on Lummi View Drive, there is inadequate shoulder, partially because of overgrown vegetation. This pushes pedestrians, especially those with strollers, into the street.</p>	Pedestrian Path	
	Lummi View Drive	<p>There is a new sidewalk at Lummi Drive and Mackenzie leading towards the K-12 school. This is an important piece of infrastructure creating a needed connection with the school. It would be beneficial to connect the path to the bus stop across the street, or deeper into the Mackenzie/Gooseberry Point.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Continue to develop pedestrian path and sidewalk segments that connect to the school and connect with each other.</b></p>	Sidewalk	
	Lummi View Drive	<p>Just outside of the Mackenzie/Gooseberry Point area is the local K-12 school. This school attracts people of all different ages from the entire peninsula. Currently there is a new sidewalk that connects the school to the corner of Mackenzie Road and Lummi View Drive, where there are no paths for it to connect to.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Further work with walk to school programs (e.g. Safe Routes to School) to encourage multi-generational use of the pedestrian paths.</b></p>	Local Asset	

Item	Location	Description	Category	Photo
	Lummi View Drive and Mackenzie	<p>The Mackenzie/Gooseberry Point is served by local transit. There are several stops (Haxton and MacKenzie, the ferry terminal on Lummi View Drive, and Lummi View Drive and Mackenzie), however none of these have pedestrian amenities or paths near them.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> <i>There should be paths that connect these bus stops to the community to help encourage bus use and build pedestrian routes. Additionally, amenities such as shelters or benches could make them a more pleasant space for bus riders and people walking by.</i></p>	Bus Stop	
	Mackenzie Road	<p>Driveways, such as this one along Mackenzie Road, sometimes disrupt the shoulder or the available pedestrian path. Pedestrians are forced to meander out into the street. Without developing more permanent or intensive paths (e.g. concrete sidewalks), developments and property owners could work to maintain a clean, dry, and smooth path across their driveway.</p>	Pedestrian Path	
	Mackenzie Road and Finkbonner Road	<p>There is an unmaintained trail that connects residences behind the fire station to Finkbonner Road via the Fire Station parking lot. Residents expressed this as an important and well used path, though it is dark, unmaintained, and connected to the poor intersection of Finkbonner and Mackenzie.</p>	Pedestrian Paths	
	Haxton Way	<p>Haxton Way has a wide and straight clear zone for vehicles. This includes only a paved shoulder for pedestrians and cyclists. Though the speed drops from 50 mph to 35 mph to 25 mph as you enter the Mackenzie/Gooseberry Point, the road's characteristics do not change. There are no indications you are entering a residential area. Participants noted that the ferry at the southern end of Haxton attracts many hurried drivers who wish to quickly move through the area and catch a ferry.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> <i>Change the streetscape to communicate the entrance into a residential area, include traffic calming elements (e.g. street trees, chicanes, bike sharrows, etc), add pedestrian scale lighting, increase enforcement of speeders, and install signage such as 'your speed is' signs.</i></p>	Roadway Design	

Item	Location	Description	Category	Photo
	Haxton Way and Mackenzie Road	<p>The intersection of Haxton Way and Mackenzie Road is a wide and relatively unmarked intersection. There are problems with the road channel and with the additional design elements.</p> <p>Regarding the road channel, the turning radii of Mackenzie Road onto Haxton Way encourages drivers to not slow down or stop if making a right turn onto Haxton. During the walking audit, we witnessed a near pedestrian collision with the driver of the vehicle looking left for oncoming traffic and failing to look right, causing them to fail to yield to a pedestrian.</p> <p>Regarding additional details, there are no stop lines and minimal signage suggesting other users of the road. Pedestrians walking along Haxton Way's shoulder are expected to cross Mackenzie without a cross walk, lighting, or cars even coming to complete stops.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: This is an important intersection for all modes of transportation and needs to become a complete street. To remedy these problems this intersection could be reconstructed with a roundabout, or so that Mackenzie approaches Haxton at a right angle with potentially a three-way stop. This could eliminate driver confusion, encourage better awareness of pedestrians and cyclists, and slow traffic speed overall on Haxton Way. Additionally, the roundabout or intersection should provide adequate crossings for pedestrians and cyclists, stop lines, and other traffic calming efforts (e.g. curb bulbs, intersection painting, raised crosswalk, textured pavement, street trees, etc.).</b></p>	Roadway Design/ Driver Education	

## Next Steps and Priorities

In concluding the audit, there are five priorities in moving forward:

1. Develop sidewalks or level paths to create an interconnected network throughout Mackenzie/Gooseberry Point to improve safety and accessibility.
2. Reduce and maintain vegetation growth that is blocking important sightlines or encroaching on space for pedestrians and cyclists.
3. Improve the signage regarding speeds and non-motorized users.
4. Install adequate lighting (primarily pedestrian-scale; auto-scale at important intersections) in the area.
5. Promote the creation of pedestrian destinations (e.g. commerce, recreational areas, gathering places) in Mackenzie/Gooseberry Point.

In 2009, Lummi Safe Streets will conduct walking audits throughout the Lummi Reservation. The information gathered through these audits will inform the creation of a Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan in 2009. The Plan will help to guide the improvement of the pedestrian and bicycle environment for the Lummi Reservation, including Mackenzie/Gooseberry Point.

In the interim, participants of the walking audit mentioned the following next steps:

- Work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to secure increased funding for traffic enforcement.
- Investigate ways of documenting speeds along Haxton Way (e.g. speed van, speed study, community run radar gun, etc.).
- Investigate ways to remove and maintain the overgrown vegetation (e.g. community removal party, county noxious weed department, etc.).
- Continue to encourage participation in the Safe Street project.
- Begin discussions with neighbors and government about stray and wandering dogs.
- Begin discussions with neighbors about maintaining clear and clean shoulders for pedestrian use.

## Project Information

The Lummi Safe Streets Project is a community partnership where people come together to ensure safety on the reservation. Current partners include: The Lummi CEDAR Project/Kellogg Leadership for Community Change, The Lummi Fitness Center/Washington State Department of Health, The Lummi Planning Department, The Northwest Washington Indian Health Board, Lummi Law & Order, Fire District #8, Lummi Public Health, as well as several individual community members, including people from Lummi and Lummi Island.

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### **For more information about this report or Feet First, please contact:**

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