

MINUTES

January 17, 2012 Meeting

Members Present: Scott Carter, Ninna Gagnon, Lou Goetz, Erik Landfried, Jonathon Leach, Mathew Palmer, Merry Rabb, Toby Berla, Dan Clever, Greg Garneau, Lars Trost, Dwayne Taylor

Members Absent: Jim Dunlop (excused), Teiji Kimball

Liaison Present:

Guests Present: Leta Huntsinger, Adam Haile, Alan Dippy

A. Introductions

B. Approval of Minutes

Erik made and Merry seconded a motion to approve the December 2011 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

The presentation on the NC-54 Corridor Study was to just after announcements.

An update on the bike lanes on TW Alexander near Cornwallis was added to the staff report section.

D. Announcements

- Dale mentioned that a meeting of Triangle area Bicycle and Pedestrian planning organizations is tentatively scheduled for March 3, 2012. He will forward an email announcement as soon as the details are firmed up.

- NCDOT is still accepting public comments on the study of at-grade rail crossings in Durham County. Anyone desiring additional information may contact Sandra Stepney, NCDOT Senior Project Engineer, Rail Division, Engineering and Safety Branch, at: (919) 715-0296 or by email at: sastepney@ncdot.gov.

- The dates and locations of the 2012 “Coffee with Council” meetings are as follows:

- Saturday, February 11 from 10 a.m. to noon – Campus Hill Recreation Center, 2000 S. Alston Ave. (PAC 4)
- Saturday, February 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Holton Career and Resource Center’s Child Care Center, Second Floor, 401 N. Driver St. (PAC 1)
- Thursday, March 8 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – City Hall Committee Room, Second Floor, 101 City Hall Plaza (PAC 5; Spanish translation will be provided)
- Saturday, March 10 from 10 a.m. to noon – Lyon Park Community Family Life and Recreation Center, 1309 Halley St. (PAC 3)

- Monday, March 12 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Durham Public Schools Resource Center, 2107 Hillandale Road (PAC 2)

E. New Business

- Leta Huntsinger of the Durham/Chapel Hill/Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization presented information on Phase II of the NC 54 Corridor Study Draft Report. The report team is currently presenting the draft to the public and seeking comments. Several issues raised in response to the Phase I analysis have been addressed in this draft, including the “superstreet” design for certain intersections, the proposed flyover ramp connecting from I-40 to a structured parking facility, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the study area. The plan will be phased along with the Light Rail plan as it affects the same area. Details on the current NC-54 corridor draft plan are available at <http://www.nc54-i40corridorstudy.com/>. Final plan approval is slated for April 2012, with the public comment period closing in March 2012.

F. Committee Reports

Development Review - Dan Clever

Development Review Committee Report
Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
January 5, 2012

In attendance were: Dan Clever, Jim Dunlop, Dale McKeel, Linda Smith

1) Reviewed 3 development plans:

Z1100003 751 South- reiterating some comments from the first round
Z1100031 Renaissance at 4 Seasons- no comments
Z1100032 Bethpage Village
Z1100030 Live Well North Durham. To better serve the needs of the community, we have asked that sidewalk be provided in front of the existing medical building along the frontage with North Roxboro.

2) Reviewed the latest version of the preliminary plans for the East End Connector. We will request that BPAC write a follow up letter to address some remaining items in the sidewalk network.

3) Reviewed final feedback on Comprehensive Plan update:

We received comments from Transportation and Planning the day before the meeting. We responded to these:

- Objective 4.5.2 Transit-Oriented Parking- New Policy-
- Policy 4.5.2d. Intermodal Connections and Facilities. Transportation and Planning had alternate language. I've asked the Planning Dept. to check for overlap or duplication.
- Objective 8.1.3 Mass Transit- New Policy- Connectivity to Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities. Transportation and Planning had alternate language. I've asked Planning to check for overlap or duplication.
- Objective 8.1.4 Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation- New Policy- Walk Friendly Communities Designation. Transportation still felt this was too much of a staff burden, but we pushed back on this. Suggested that perhaps BPAC could help.
- Policy 8.1.6.m Traffic Calming Standards and Practices. We strongly feel that the phrase "should be consistent with adopted bicycle and pedestrian plans and Complete Streets design standards" should be retained. Planning's suggestion was to use "consider" instead of "should be consistent with". We want to be sure that future traffic calming projects are in accord with all adopted policy.
- Policy 8.1.6.p Bicycle Sharing System. We feel that this section should be retained, with the additional comments added by us in November.

Schools- Hugh Osteen at DPS responded to our suggestions, but could not commit to making bikeability/walkability as a priority factor for siting schools. He was also not comfortable with committing to tracking walking/biking students.

Planning is preparing to send a new draft of the Comp Plan to the Planning Commission for its Feb meeting. Laura Woods at Planning is preparing a written response to our comments.

4) Thoughts for retreat:

We discussed that the committee should host an open house on how to review site and development plans, accompanied with a manual.

5) New location/time:

The group felt that the current time is best, as it falls the day before DRB and provides time to get plans. As for location, we may consider either a new or alternate location in the downtown area. This may be easier for some to attend.

Bike Plan Implementation Committee - Greg Garneau

Bicycle Plan Implementation Committee Report
Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
January 12, 2012

In attendance were: Lou Goetz, Dale McKeel, Scott Carter, Heidi Carter, Dan Clever, Cynthia Van Der Wiele, Debbie West, Colin Barry, Aaron Lubeck, and Greg Garneau (Convener)

Dale McKeel made the following announcement:

Congressman David Price will be hosting a roundtable discussion of pedestrian and bicycle policy, greenways and trails with his friend and colleague Rep. Earl Blumenauer, who is a national leader on livability. This event is free and open to the public.

Details: Thursday, January 19, 11am-noon@ McKinney, American Tobacco Campus, 318 Blackwell, Durham, NC

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO), City of Durham, Durham County, and the Town of Chapel Hill hosted an informal drop-in session on January 12, 2012 to obtain citizen input on the NC 54 Corridor Study Phase II. A complete copy of the Study is available here: <http://www.nc54-i40corridorstudy.com/>

Leta Huntsinger has made it possible to download the report in discrete sections so as to save time and file space. The drop-in session was attended by Scott Carter and Greg Garneau. It appeared that nearly all of BPAC's recommendations have been incorporated into the Study. BPAC's letter with the list of recommendations is attached. Leta Huntsinger will make a presentation about the Corridor Study at our upcoming meeting. There is still time to have further input.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to assembling a list of subjects to be discussed at the BPAC retreat for possible inclusion into our list of goals for calendar 2012. Attendees are invited to forward to Greg Garneau (greg.garneau@gmail.com) any edits or additional topics before the retreat which will take place this coming Saturday, January 21. The list is as follows:

Bike Boulevards in Durham - a definition, their value to the Durham cycling community, and a map of proposed routes (to be presented at an upcoming BPAC meeting by Aaron Lubeck)

Obtaining the budget dollars to make Dale McKeel a full-time employee in the City's Transportation Department

The creation of a bicycle route between Durham and Chapel Hill

Enhancing connectivity between the campuses of Duke University and the city of Durham

Making BPAC more influential in civic planning and budgeting

Moving Durham to "Silver" status in the League of American Cyclists Bicycle Friendly Cities program

Making BPAC and our web site a clearing house for cycling events and information. Adding a calendar of events to the web site

Determining a strategy for increasing the number of regular cyclists in Durham

Deciding on the roles that the City of Durham and Durham Public Schools can play in the Safe Routes to School Program

Strategies for performing actual counts of cyclists (and research into the subject) to determine actual usage and trends in order to best utilize available funds

Identify the critical bicycle transportation corridors in the City and County

Participation by BPAC in the first ever Bike to School Event on May 9, 2012

Create a real time map of current bicycle infrastructure projects

Encourage existing, private businesses to install bicycle parking racks

Update the existing Bicycle Plan map

Respond to the Transportation Committee of North East Central Durham to assist in the creation and enhancement of connectivity from the R. Kelly Bryant Bridge to downtown Durham, south to the American Tobacco Trail, and to North East Central Durham itself

Sponsor bike rides that are low-speed, no-drop events with fun themes: a Christmas lights tour; a pretty dress ride; and others that have been successful elsewhere

Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee - Erik Landfried

Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee Report
Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
January 3, 2012

In attendance: Erik Landfried, Dale McKeel, Carl Sundstrom

Our sole agenda item was to discuss potential BPAC goals for 2012 (to be discussed further at the BPAC retreat on January 21, 2012):

- Increase Ped/Bike Planning resources at City of Durham (additional 1/2 Dale)
- Figure out how to better participate in the Safe Routes to School program
- Help promote Bull City Open Streets as a regular City-sponsored event
- More regular appearances in front of City Council and County Commissioners to push for specific improvements in the ped/bike network
- Move the retreat to the fall to prepare for the budget cycle
- Participate in the Triangle-wide pedestrian safety education and enforcement campaign
- Participate in NCDOT's Access to Transit project
- Develop centralized calendar of ped/bike events in Durham (CommComm?)
- Coordinate thank yous to City Council and County Commissioners on regular basis for their work in promoting walking and cycling in Durham (CommComm?)
- Track progress of DurhamWALKS! Plan (Greg - updated Google maps)

Communications Committee - Merry Rabb

BPAC Communications Committee January 2012 Report

Meeting held : Wednesday January 11 , 2011, 7pm at Beyu Caffè

Attending: Merry Rabb, Ninna Gagnon & Matthew Palmer

1. Based on input from current attendees and potential attendees, we decided to hold future meetings on the **second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm**. Location will remain Beyu Caffè for now.
2. Our only agenda item was to discuss topics for the retreat, including suggested priorities for CommComm, operation of BPAC committees in general and BPAC-wide issues:
 - a. CommComm would like input from the rest of BPAC on what our priorities should be. Most activities in 2011 were related to organization of or participation in events such as Bike Month, Earth Day, Eno Fest, Tour de Fat, Open Streets etc, and to communications media such as the web site/listserv/social media.
 - b. Once we have priorities we could assign specific activities to committee members to do/organize and/or recruit help from others to meet our objectives.
 - c. One suggestion received via the survey Merry sent out is: "We should try to connect items of BPAC business (DevRev reviews, pedestrian and bike amenities planned) with the affected neighborhoods through listservs and neighborhood associations. Durhamhoods.com is a good resource for doing this."
 - d. Matthew suggested a map on the web site, updated perhaps quarterly, that would illustrate/track bike & ped projects in progress.
 - e. We will begin planning Bike Month in February. We need to determine publicity deadlines for the various local publications and web sites so that we can get our events listed. We want to participate in Bike to School Day on May 9.
 - f. We think the BPAC committee meeting announcements and agendas should be posted to the listserv each month as a way of keeping the community apprised of what we are doing and as a way of recruiting additional community members to meetings.
 - g. Similarly, we'd like to get the monthly BPAC meeting agenda out a little earlier than the Friday prior. If the agenda could come out earlier in the week it could be uploaded to the web site sooner and we could send out an earlier announcement to the listserv/web site.
 - h. In an effort to spend less meeting time on Committee reports, we'd like to ask that emailed committee reports go to the group sooner, perhaps by the Saturday before, giving all commissioners the opportunity to look through them prior to the meeting. Then we could ask Committee chairs to limit their in-person report to highlights or topics requiring full BPAC input or discussion.
 - i. It would be helpful for each committee to have a strategic plan to outline what they are taking on. This would help in informing new commissioners and the general public of what the committees are for and help people decide which committee(s) they might want to volunteer

with. There could also be a work plan based on the strategic plan that would consist of specific activities. (Note for those who may not be aware there is a brief general description of each committee here: http://www.bikewalkdurham.org/BPAC_committees.html)

j. There are a number of issues we should discuss at the retreat that involve multiple committees or possibly a new ad-hoc committee or the entire commission, such as making Bull City Open Streets a city event, getting one full time person as staff support for Durham Bike & Ped issues (aka "full time Dale"), and Safe Routes to School.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday February 14, 6:30 pm, Beyu Caffè

Updates from Liaisons

DOST - Toby Berla

- In November, DOST received a presentation from Paul Wiebke about the possible retrofit of the Duke Diet and Fitness Center property as a stormwater catchment area.
- DOST also passed a resolution regarding the proposed route of the Light Rail Line across the New Hope Creek Corridor.
- Mayor Bill Bell attended part of the November DOST meeting, during which he was asked to sign a letter addressed to Erskine Bowles urging positive action on the Duke Beltline property acquisition from Norfolk/Southern Railroad. Mr. Bowles serves on the board of the railroad.

North Carolina Central University - Jonathon Leach

- A recent meeting of NCCU stakeholders discussed plans for bike routes through the campus.
- The update to the campus master plan has been delayed due to budget constraints.

Duke University - no liaison currently

- Dale said that three applications have been received from individuals who want to serve on BPAC in this role. The applications are under review.

G. Old Business

Erik presented information on the NCDOT Access to Transit Project. He and Dale met with consultants from Toole Design to discuss the project, which will study access to transit stops along three corridors: Holloway/Liberty, N. Roxboro, and Fayetteville. BPAC members are invited to take some time to visit a bus stop in the study area and share their experiences from the standpoint of access to or from the stop. Information on the bus stop itself is also needed. Here is the link to a "survey gizmo" where you can log information on your transit trips: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/738990/Durham-Transit-Access-Steering-Committee-Input-Form>

G. New Business

Designing Better Bus Service. Erik described the goals of this project, which include improving efficiency and on-time performance of the existing bus service in Durham, and later adding more service using funding from the ½ cent transit sales tax. More information on the project is here:

<http://www.gotriangle.org/go-local/partners/designingbetterbus>

Dale reported that the Triangle Pedestrian Education and Enforcement Campaign will kick off an advertising campaign in the coming months, followed by a period of stricter enforcement of pedestrian and traffic safety at pre-determined locations. BPAC is encouraged to submit a list of proposed enforcement locations.

Scott provided a reminder that the BPAC Annual Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 2012, from 9 am to 1 pm, in Room 204 of Perkins Library at Duke University. Thanks to Brian Williams of the Duke Parking and Transportation Department for helping to arrange access to the facility for BPAC.

H. Adjournment

Erik made and Dan seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Toby Berla.