

MINUTES

February 21, 2012 Meeting

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

Members Absent: Ninna Gagnon (excused), Teiji Kimball

Staff Present: Dale McKeel

Liaison Present:

Guests Present: Rachel Raney, Adam Hale, Cynthia VanderWeil

A. Introductions

B. Approval of Minutes

- ◆ *Dan moved and Mathew seconded to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2012 regular meeting. Motion passed unanimously.*
- ◆ *Dan moved and Lou seconded to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2012 retreat. Motion passed unanimously.*

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

- ◆ Agenda items involving guests were moved up in the agenda.

D. Announcements

- ◆ Sunday (2/26) is the 9th Street Derby.

E. Public Comment

- ◆ No comments.

F. Committee Reports

1. Development Review Committee Report (Dan Clever)

First Thursday, 6:30 pm, Sunset Grill

- ◆ Meeting was held on February 2, 2012. Attending were: Linda Smith, Dale McKeel, Dan Clever (Chair)
- ◆ Update on Comprehensive Plan: We discussed the draft of the updates (link below) that were sent to the Planning Commission. Not all of BPAC's recommendations were incorporated, but overall we were pleased with the draft. After approval by the PC, it is not clear which governing body will review first.

[http://durhamnc.gov/ich/cb/ccpd/Pages/Durham-Comprehensive-Plan-\(Fall...](http://durhamnc.gov/ich/cb/ccpd/Pages/Durham-Comprehensive-Plan-(Fall...)

- ◆ NC54-I40 corridor study: We reviewed the latest version of the report, and made some recommendations with regard to Section 5 (the Pedestrian and Bicycle Chapter). Dan presented a draft letter with these recommendations, and after discussion and some modifications, the Committee moved to send the memo representing the position of the commission. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- ◆ Development Review checklist: We talked about what should be in the checklist, and felt it best to start out with the site plan review process. Dale provided a checklist used in Skagit County (Washington). Dan will provide rough cut of checklist for next month's meeting.

2. **Bike Plan Implementation Committee Report (Greg Garneau)**

Second Thursday 6:30 pm, Geer Street Garden

- ◆ Meeting was held on February 9, 2012. Attending were: Scott Carter, Heidi Carter, Dan Clever, Carl Sundstrom, Mathew Palmer, and Greg Garneau (Convener)
- ◆ **Proposed changes to the committee structure of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission:** Under the proposed plan this committee (the Bicycle Plan Implementation Committee) will be combined with the Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee to form an "Adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans Implementation and Evaluation Committee". The new committee (pending BPAC approval) would be convened by Greg Garneau until further notice.
Scott Carter outlined the rest of the proposed new structure as follows:
Development Review will remain unchanged.
Communications would be split into two groups -- Outreach (meaning the web site, calendar of community events, news blog, and social media) and Events (meaning volunteer engagement in events) to be chaired by Eric Landfried and Merry Rabb respectively.
- ◆ **Locations for bicycle and pedestrian counts:** This discussion was tabled until the Committee can report on the purpose of the study, the methods and technology that will be used to gather the data, the funding sources for the study, and the frequency of the counts. Our own purpose is to ensure that upcoming projects are linked to areas where the need is the greatest. Greg Garneau created a draft list to be used as a jumping off point for a future discussion.
- ◆ **Update on signal detection for bicycles (information item):** City staff has been able to adjust some traffic signals to better detect bicycles. The write-up by Bergen was circulated previously.
- ◆ **Formation of a Durham Bicycle Coalition:** Fortuitously, following up on BPAC's discussion at our retreat, Rachel Raney contacted our group. Rachel will attend the upcoming meeting of BPAC on February 21 to provide us with an introduction and to answer any questions the group might have.
- ◆ **Front-In Diagonal Motor Vehicular Parking:** The City recently approved the Diamondview III Building on Blackwell Street with "front-in" diagonal parking. The Bicycle Plan Implementation Committee recommends that the approval be amended to require "back-in" diagonal parking. The success of the redevelopment effort has meant that Blackwell Street enjoys greatly increased usage by pedestrians and cyclists -- especially during events. The safety advantages of back-in parking are manifest. Front-in parking will create a safety hazard when vehicles back out into the traffic flow. A letter (addressed to Mark Ahrendsen) to this effect was circulated to the full BPAC. After some discussion about the back-in

parking, Toby moved and Lars seconded to send the memo representing the position of the commission. *Motion passed unanimously.*

- ◆ **Safe Routes to School - Club Boulevard Elementary:** A report authored by students at UNC was circulated. The subject dovetailed with a discussion of the as yet unreconciled [Federal] Transportation Bill which was passed by the U.S. House [H.R. 7] this month. The U.S. Senate version might retain the public policy positions of the former act. U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood (a former GOP Congressman) described the House bill "as the worst transportation bill" he has seen in 35 years of public service. Apart from the proposed changes to rail and public transit funding, the League of American Bicyclists summary, though not a 20 second read, is the best brief summary for bicycle and pedestrian advocates. It is attached below. Also attached is a PDF of the bipartisan Cardin-Cochran amendment to the Senate bill [MAP-21] scheduled to come up on February 27th. Cardin-Cochran is gathering support to restore dedicated bicycle and pedestrian funding and preserve local control over this small portion of federal transportation funding. If Federal funding for SRTS is to be eliminated -- can it be provided locally? Are there successful SRTS case studies within North Carolina that we might refer to? Our consensus is that local policy orientation should aim at efficiency of service (i.e. SRTS might allow a redesign of school bus routes). We want to get ideas from Durham Public Schools, identify our stakeholders, and develop a youth mobility plan. We might be well advised to engage with a new charter school such as Lakewood Montessori. Another possibility is NECD's Transportation Committee and Eastway Elementary School.
- ◆ **Watts Street Bicycle Boulevard:** A report authored by students at UNC was circulated. This committee favors such a plan. The committee will need to review some of the recommendations on the engineering side of the proposal. We want to know the City's position regarding funding of this project. It appears to be very low cost. Adam Hale mentioned that the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association has been informed that Watts Street would be converted back to a two-way street as a commitment by the developers of the McPherson Hospital property.
- ◆ **Progress on road striping projects:** There were no new projects reported.
- ◆ **Selection of sites for traffic enforcement:** Carl reported that UNC-HSRC is in the process of geo-coding the crash data for the past two years. It is therefore premature to select sites at this time.
- ◆ **Phase E (the ATT Bridge over I-40 and the bridge approaches from both segments of the Trail):** The project was re-bid and it appears that there might be as many as three competing contractors. On this round only two are required. Bids will be opened on February 22nd.

3. Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee Report (Erik Landfried)

First Tuesday of month, 6:30 pm, location TBD

- ◆ Meeting was held on February 7, 2012 In attendance: Erik Landfried, Mathew Palmer, Carl Sundstrom.
- ◆ Discussion of a possible reorganization of the BPAC committee structure: Mathew and Erik explained the proposal for a new subcommittee structure to Carl. Carl thought the plan sounded good and is curious to find out how it will work out.
- ◆ Develop a recommendation of 20 potential Bike & Ped Count locations in Durham: Dale requested that the committee make recommendations for 20 ped/bike count locations in

Durham. Our main question was: what will the City/MPO do with these counts? Instead of making specific recommendations, the committee made suggestions regarding what factors should be considered when prioritizing the locations. Mathew suggested prioritizing access to public facilities like YMCAs, schools, parks, etc. Carl suggested prioritizing high ped crash areas, high bus boarding locations, trail crossings, and high density/mixed-use areas. Erik suggested a wide geographic spread and prioritizing locations where there is planned/funded bike/ped infrastructure (Old Chapel Hill Rd could be an example) to see whether these infrastructure improvements encourage increased pedestrian usage. Carl took this idea one step further and suggested creating two tiers of counts:

Tier 1: High ped areas.

Tier 2: Locations where improvement will lend to before/after measurements.

It was recommended that KoSok Chae attend an upcoming BPAC meeting to describe the status of this project and the methodology he will use to do the counts. We also recommend that BPAC review the 20 locations that the City/MPO end up choosing and the criteria they use to determine the priorities. Dan Clever sent the following note in an e-mail: If possible, I'd like to see more bike/ped counts along Main Street, esp. at the intersections with 9th, Broad or Morgan, and West Chapel Hill St at Kent and at Swift.

- ◆ Review of the pedestrian elements of the NC-54/I-40 Corridor Study: Carl raised two main concerns with the pedestrian elements of the plan: the crosswalks on NC-54 at both the 15-501 and I-40 intersections may create a dangerous crossing at the on-ramp entrance w/out significant geometry changes.

Erik also received the following e-mail from a member of the Durham Ped/Bike listserv (Erik is checking with Mr. Neebe to find out where sidewalks from Barbee Chapel to I-40 are recommended in the draft report):

Thanks for offering to listen to input regarding the 54W Corridor. I live very close to that area. I would suggest that multi-use off road paths be put on the priority list from Barbee Chapel to I-40 along 54. It is a waste of money to put in sidewalks where a nearby multi-use off road path could be used instead of the sidewalk. If you've ever walked on a sidewalk along a busy road such as 54 where cars are going 50-60mph, you really feel like your life is at high risk and wouldn't want to do that very often. OK thanks for listening. Feel free to contact me if you need more input. Thanks Paul Neebe 919-929-9394

- ◆ Discussion of possible crosswalk locations where enforcement might improve safety and compliance by motorists and pedestrians in Durham. We tabled the crosswalk enforcement location recommendations pending further information.

4. Communications Committee Report (Merry Rabb)

Second Wednesday, 7 pm, Beyu Caffè

- ◆ Meeting held on Monday February 13, 2012 due to conflicts with regular schedule.
Attending: Merry Rabb, Ninna Gagnon, Matthew Palmer, Adrian Fletcher, Lisa Miller, Stephanie Loyka, Branson Kimball
- ◆ The majority of the meetings was spent discussing Bike Month plans. After the meeting Merry created a Google Document with the notes below, and Lisa created a Google Calendar for Bike Month 2012. We agreed to update the document as plans develop and to meet again in two weeks (i.e. Monday the 27th). As with last year we need to have an event calendar ready by the beginning of March in order to have our events included in Triangle Transit's calendar.

- ◆ Tentative Bike Month plans:
 - Bike Month kick-off – first week of May. Similar to last year, with fewer speeches, and a focus on how much progress we’ve made in the last year. Group ride and social at Tyler’s again. Can the ride be different but still possibly involving the ATT as well as some city streets? Last year we ended up wanting to avoid Fayetteville St. – maybe there is some other route we can look at?
 - Sunset Grill social – second week of May. Merry will check with them and with REI to see if they are willing to participate again.
 - May 9 – Bike to School Day. We didn’t discuss this in much detail except that it’s a great opportunity and happens during Bike Month!
 - BTWW Monday_social at Motorco with Food Trucks. Adrian will talk to Motorco. Adrian is working with them already on having Bike-to-the-Movies evening events at Motorco all four Mondays in May. The social could be in conjunction with/before a movie event.
 - BTWW Wednesday_– we’re not having a Wednesday social because it would conflict with Ride of Silence.
 - BTWW Friday – breakfast at Mad Hatter again if they are willing and Main Street construction wouldn’t make it difficult. Alternate idea is in a plaza downtown with food donations from local bakeries.
- ◆ Publicity & fundraising:
 - Branson volunteered to reach out to local publications/radio etc. to ask about free publicity for events, what they would need from us and when.
 - Matthew suggested a laminated “spoke card” with a listing of the major events that we could hand out. Does anyone have the means to design this and or print/laminate? If there’s a cost we’d need to account for that in our budget.
 - Stephanie can use her list of employers as a source of corporate fundraising if we want to send out a fundraising letter.
 - Stephanie suggested sending information to employers who can post such information on web sites and scrolling electronic event calendars etc.
 - We can publicize events at the March 2 Bike Summit if we get something out by then, also at Earth Day.
- ◆ Other possibilities
 - Discussed doing education-oriented events like Bike Rodeo for kids, bike commuting skills seminars etc. Stephanie has funds for LCI-led educational events.
 - Progressive dinner – if we can brainstorm about potential restaurants (3 restaurants for 3 courses, not too close to each other to make it worth riding but not too far either!) then Lisa is willing to approach the restaurants to discuss.
 - Have at least one weekend event because some people can’t come after work.
 - The more group rides the better! Organize a ride Memorial Day weekend, for example?
 - Engage the Bike-Coop in an event?
 - 3rd Fork Creek Trail opening? If this is going to happen in the spring would it be during Bike Month?
- ◆ Things to put on the calendar (i.e. things other groups are/may be already doing):
 - Neighborhood events in the south Durham neighborhoods (people trained via Clean Energy Durham are putting on their own events)
 - Bloody Bike & Brunch – Sunday 5/13

- Bike Coalition initial community meeting may be in May or June.
- Bike movie events at Motorco
- Tipping Point rides

G. Updates from Liaisons

1. NCCU – Jonathan Leach

- ◆ Two employee health fairs are planned; however they are likely to be combined into one, in April.
- ◆ NCCU Bike Club has started up again.

2. Duke University

- ◆ No report.

3. DOST – Toby Berla

- ◆ DOST discussed engaging the Northeast Area Transportation Committee to work on possible improvements around the R Kelly Bryant Bridge.
- ◆ A plan by Parks and Recreation Department to construct the Ellerby Creek Greenway Trail included a short section along Broad Street that would only be a five-foot sidewalk. That does not meet the intent of the Greenways Plan. DOST has invited Parks and Rec to their next meeting to discuss the issue.
- ◆ Discussion on the Duke Beltline centered on the possibility of losing the grant earmark if no progress is made.

H. Old Business

1. NCDOT Access to Transit Project (Dale McKeel, Erik Landfried)

- ◆ Project is looking at four corridors and the public’s access to transit. The City has provided the consultant data on the subject.

2. Triangle Pedestrian Education and Enforcement Campaign (Dale McKeel)

- ◆ Campaign is being worked on, to likely be called Watch For Me. Meetings will be held in the next few months to identify locations, engaging the Police Department. Enforcement would be in October and November. The HSRC is updating crash locations to help identify locations as well. Publicity for both pedestrians and motorists is being worked on.

I. New Business

1. Durham Bicycle Coalition (Rachel Raney, Adam Hale)

- ◆ Rachel introduced the subject. She got the idea of organizing a coalition group from San Francisco, where she used to live. While she appreciates the work BPAC does, she feels there’s still room for a grass-roots group advocating for bicyclists, especially with the increase in bicycle riders and commuters.
- ◆ The group has a small steering committee at this time, and working towards a meeting in the spring to start the coalition organizational process.
- ◆ Discussion among the members and guests various covered issues that could be raised by a private group that the commission could not, due to its responsibility to the elected officials of the city and county.

2. Review BPAC 2012 Goals (Scott Carter)

- ◆ The primary goals for 2012 are:

- Making the Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator a full-time employee in the City's Transportation Department,
- Move the retreat to the fall to prepare for the budget cycle, and
- Durham Summit planning.
- ◆ Further discussion was tabled, although since the budget process has started, Scott would discuss the first goal with the City Council and staff. Preliminary Transportation staff proposal for the next year would include expansion to provide more bicycle/pedestrian staffing.

3. BPAC Committee Structure (Dale McKeel, Scott Carter)

- ◆ The BPAC Executive Committee met to discuss reorganizing the committee structure. Scott outlined the changes and the reasons behind the proposal. In summary, the Development Review Committee will remain unchanged (Dan is chair.) The Bicycle Plan Implementation and the Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committees to form an Adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans Implementation and Evaluation Committee (Greg would chair.) The Communications Committee would be renamed Education and Encouragement (Merry is chair.) A fourth committee, Community Engagement would be created. Discussion on the changes followed. **Scott moved and Jim seconded that the committee structure be changed as described. Motion passed unanimously. Scott also moved and Dan seconded to name Mathew as chairman of the Community Engagement Committee. Motion passed unanimously.**

J. Staff Report / Questions / Announcements

- ◆ Dale needed the committee chairs to send revised meeting schedules in order to meet with the open meetings law.
- ◆ Committee chairs need to provide 2011 accomplishments to Dale for inclusion in the annual report.
- ◆ Bike Map contract for revisions has been approved.
- ◆ Meeting with Chapel Hill Road residents is scheduled to discuss the four-way stop implementation at Chapel Hill and Bivens. Some discussion has been held regarding bike lanes on Chapel Hill Road in the general area. There are some issues with on-street parking, and perhaps an edge line may be striped instead.
- ◆ East Coast Greenway asked the City for support in designating the Downtown Loop as part of the trail, and the City sent a letter of support for this.
- ◆ Some planning studies are being started.
- ◆ Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road designs are being finalized. The estimated cost has increased by about \$1.5 million, primarily for moving utilities.
- ◆ Merry is going to share moderation of the listserv with Dale.

K. Adjournment

- ◆ **Dan moved and Lars to extend the meeting by 10 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**
- ◆ **Lars moved and Erik seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.**