

## MINUTES

March 20, 2012 Meeting

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**Members Present:** Toby Berla, Randy Best, Scott Carter, Jim Dunlop, Ninna Gagnon, Greg Garneau, Lou Goetz, Erik Landfried, Jonathan Leach, Merry Rabb, Dwayne Taylor, Lars Trost

**Members Absent:** Dan Clever(excused), Mathew Palmer (excused)

**Staff Present:** Dale McKeel

**Liaison Present:**

**Guests Present:** Brian Williams, Aaron Lubeck, Jack Warman

- **Introductions**

- B. **Approval of Minutes**

- ◆ *Greg moved and Merry seconded to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2012 regular meeting. Motion passed unanimously.*

- C. **Adjustments to the Agenda**

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

- D. **Announcements**

- ◆ Randy Best has been appointed to the Commission as the representative from Duke.
- ◆ Teiji Kimball has stepped down as liaison from the Planning Commission.

- E. **Public Comment**

- ◆ No comments.

- F. **Committee Reports**

- 1. **Development Review Committee Report (Dan Clever)**

- First Thursday, 6:30 pm, Sunset Grill*

- ◆ Meeting held Thursday March 8th, 6:30 PM at Sunset Grille Attending: Dan Clever, Jim Dunlop, Lars Trost, Linda Smith and Dale McKeel
  - ◆ Site Plan Review Checklist
    - We reviewed a draft started by Dan, which itemizes the most important bicycle and pedestrian related items to look out for in a site plan. Once the checklist is finalized, we will share with BPAC and hold sessions on how to review plans. Dan said he'd look for good examples of site plans for use in training.
  - ◆ Review of Development Plans

- Live Well North Durham- (at N. Roxboro and Frasier)- accepted our previous comment and included as notation on plan, but we'll ask that it be put in text commitments so that it will appear in future site plans
- Southpoint Trails- (on NC751 near Massey Chapel Road)- they are committing to a 50' wide trail easement (where the Eagle Spur goes through property), but will not commit to installing curb and gutter along NC751. This was a misunderstanding of our request, which was to provide enough pavement for eventual 4' wide bike lanes. We'll clarify our request.
- Meadows at Southpoint (at NC54 and Barbee Chapel)- We will ask for enough pavement width for future bicycle lanes along NC54 and Barbee Chapel Road.
- ◆ Comprehensive Plan update
 

The Planning Commission approved the updates at its February meeting. The updates will go to the governing bodies on the following dates:  
 Durham City Council: April 16th  
 Board of Commissioners: April 23rd  
 The final draft will be posted on the webpage at  
[http://durhamnc.gov/ich/cb/ccpd/Pages/Durham-Comprehensive-Plan-\(Fall...](http://durhamnc.gov/ich/cb/ccpd/Pages/Durham-Comprehensive-Plan-(Fall...)
- ◆ Committee Membership
 

Jim mentioned that the terms of the BPAC members of the DevRev committee all expire later this year, and new membership from BPAC is needed for the committee to continue to function.

## 2. Community Engagement Committee Report (Mathew Palmer)

*First Tuesday of month, 6:30 pm, Geer Street Garden*

- ◆ Meeting held March 6th at Geer Street Garden. Attendees: Mathew Palmer, Erik Landfried, Ninna Gagnon, Scott Carter, Dale McKeel, Melissa Norton, Frank White, Cynthia Van Der Wiele, Mike Shiflett
- ◆ The first Community Engagement Committee meeting brought together a collection of diverse folks from across Durham - Community Development organizations, the Inter Neighborhood Council, Partners Against Crime, Downtown Durham Merchants, Clean Energy Durham, all along with four BPAC Commissioners. Our first meeting was intended to orient these various groups into the broader "why we're here" conversation and get their thoughts on the vision, goals and plan for this committee.
- ◆ Agenda Overview:
  - BPAC Introduction for newcomers
  - Community Engagement + Transportation definition and discussion
  - Identification of Community Stakeholders
  - Open Discussion on Committee Vision, Goals, and Methods
- ◆ As we scope in on the committee's vision, goals, target stakeholders, a resource toolkit and methods for engagement, developing a Community Engagement Plan is a logical step to bring these items together in a document for both BPAC and the broader Durham community.
 

To that end, Seattle's Transportation Advisory Committee has developed a Community Engagement Plan in a similar vein to what our conversation circled on. Our own Community Engagement Plan may take on a Durham-specific look and focus, but it's a nice starting point for what we hope to develop over the next month or so. We should be able to cobble together

a loose draft over the month of April, with the goal of finalizing our Plan over the next few meetings (May).

### **3. Bike and Pedestrian Plan Implementation and Evaluation Committee Report (Greg Garneau)**

*Second Thursday 6:30 pm, Sunset Grille (starting in April)*

- ◆ Meeting held March 8, 2012. Attendees: Randall Best, Scott Carter, Aaron Lubeck, Debbie Weist, Dale McKeel, Lou Goetz, Greg Garneau (Convener)
- ◆ The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2012. (This committee meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month.) NOTE: The time remains the same (6:30 PM) but the meeting place will be the Sunset Grille at 5850 Fayetteville Road, Durham just off the American Tobacco Trail in the Sutton Station Shopping Center. The public is invited.
- ◆ Bicycle Boulevards  
Aaron Lubeck provided a persuasive visual presentation for this design concept. A separate design proposal for the first such boulevard is Watts Avenue, which was circulated last month. Aaron met with Mark Ahrendsen, City Transportation Director and has added proposed boulevards in other Durham neighborhoods to enable a cross-town network. He is working in collaboration with Rachel Raney and the nascent Durham Bicycle Coalition. They are scheduled to make a presentation with Mathew Palmer and Erik Landfried of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission on April 18th at 7 PM at the Trinity Presbyterian Church to discuss the Watts Avenue concept with the neighborhood association. Our (possibly limited to Greg Garneau only) caution concerns the adopted Bicycle Plan and whether bicycle boulevards will be created in lieu of rather than in addition to the existing Plan.
- ◆ Prioritization of this Committee's goals for 2012  
This agenda item was tabled due to the hour. Scott Carter has tentatively prepared a list for this and other BPAC committees based upon BPAC's reorganized committee structure.
- ◆ Phase E of The American Tobacco Trail  
Dan Clever kindly submitted the following update by email:
  1. The contract award to Blythe [Construction] will be on the City Council's Apr. 2 evening session. I assume they will also discuss and hear presentations on it at the previous March 22 afternoon work session. I [Dan Clever] hope to attend it.
  2. NCDOT waived the need for bid certification prior to contract award, as the bid was so far under project total and all Blythe's subcontractors were already approved.
  3. NCDOT will concur with the contract award, which sounds like a mere formality [for NCDOT].
  4. Byron [Brady] said that the 'horse trail bid alternative', which is a granite screenings side path up to Scott King Road (similar to what is done in Chatham), will be in the contract scope.
  5. I asked when construction could start, and the answer is 'June' [2012].
  6. After contracts between city and Blythe are signed, they will hold one or two public meetings about the impending trail and bridge construction. At least one meeting will be held somewhere near the trail in south Durham. The tentative date for the meetings is early May.

- ◆ On a related note, TRTC is ordering 6 'Pass with Care' signs. They hope to install them this month on the Phase A, B & C sections of the trail (i.e. between Morehead and Dunhill Drive).
- ◆ Road Striping Projects  
Briggs Avenue is the next street scheduled for striping.  
On a related note and subsequent to the meeting, it was disclosed that a decision had been made to start the replacement of the water main(s) and postpone the replacement of the Campus Drive Bridge on Main Street. Currently the plan is to proceed with repaving Main Street in the near future and to include the road diet and bicycle lanes.
- ◆ Sidewalk Repair and Construction  
A contract to repair existing sidewalks will be let within the next two months. The contract will include sidewalks in a variety of locations all over the city.
- ◆ Locations for Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts  
Dale McKeel will present information about the study, the methods and technology that will be used to implement the study, the study's funding sources, and the frequency of the counts -- time allowing in the future.  
There exists a draft list of suggested locations for this study that this or another committee can edit and submit to Dale when it is needed. Another draft list exists for the enforcement and education effort when Carl Sundstrom and his research group finish the safety study.
- ◆ New Business  
Scott Carter made a presentation on BPAC's behalf at the 2012 Triangle Bicycle and Pedestrian Workshop held on March 2. A presentation about a design competition for bicycle racks was made at the same workshop. Scott proposed that BPAC should sponsor a similar contest here in Durham given the wealth of talent we have in the area and the fact that bike racks are emblematic (and inspirational) of our progress toward a more livable city. Scott described a combined effort of BPAC with "the [city's] Public Art Committee to come up with some Durham-themed bike racks that would also double as public art. This would be similar to the Raleigh Racks initiative that was reported by the Raleigh BPAC last week [at the Workshop]. [Scott's] vision for this is that we commission a contest for Durham artists to design functional bike-rack sculptures with the Durham bull theme, and we would choose some of these to be built and installed in downtown." Scott will follow up with the city.
- ◆ Greg Garneau proposed inviting Matt Tommasula of CityFabric to a future meeting to discuss the possibility of having a Walk Durham event similar to the recent event designed by Matt in Raleigh. There is not overwhelming enthusiasm for this idea but it might be worthwhile to hear a proposal from Matt at an upcoming meeting that could include walking and biking and be timed to coincide with an event already on the civic calendar. BPAC will not be sponsoring the event in any case.

#### **4. Education and Encouragement Committee Report (Merry Rabb)**

*Second Tuesday, 7 pm, Beyu Caffè*

- ◆ BPAC Education and Encouragement Committee Meeting
- ◆ Meeting held Tuesday March 13, 2012 6:30 PM at Beyu Caffè. Attending: Merry Rabb, Ninna Gagnon, Lisa Miller, Matthew Palmer and Dale McKeel

- ◆ The majority of the meetings was spent finalizing Bike Month plans – consolidating what information we already had confirmed, and coming up with a list of things that we thought we could reasonably confirm by the March 15 deadline for getting information into the Triangle Transit calendar. At the end of these minutes is a list of the confirmed Bike Month events, including special events sponsored by BPAC, RTP events, and some regular monthly/weekly events.
- ◆ We had discussed having a Progressive Dinner by Bike, but decided that was too big of a task to coordinate this year. Lisa has done some research on the idea and perhaps we can do it next May or possibly in the fall.
- ◆ Ninna says there will probably be some neighborhood events during Bike Month related to the work Clean Energy Durham has been doing, but they have not been scheduled yet. We can add them to our on line calendar when they are set.
- ◆ We had previously discussed having an educational event as part of preparing for or kicking off Bike Month. At Mathew's suggestion we are considering having this on the Saturday prior to Bike Month (April 28), possibly to include a bike rodeo or bike safety skills class held some place like Northgate Park. Mathew is pursuing the feasibility of this.
- ◆ In non-Bike-Month news, we discussed the “Watch for us NC” pedestrian safety educational and enforcement campaign planned for later this year, probably August through October. There is a kickoff meeting for the project planned on April 12. A colleague of Mathew’s gave us an overview of the plans. The educational component will be mostly at the beginning of the timeframe and will include ads on buses, radio spots, possibly bill boards and an effort to get the news media to cover with articles etc.
- ◆ See attached for Durham Bike Month events. The BPAC sponsored events are May 2, 8, 14 and 17.

**G. Updates from Liaisons**

**1. NCCU – Jonathan Leach**

- ◆ Health-Wellness Fair April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ First Lady Walkathon on April 14<sup>th</sup>

**2. Duke University – Randy Best**

- ◆ Updated pavement markings for bicycles and storm drains.
- ◆ Brian Williams has identified ten pedestrian improvement projects on campus.

**3. DOST – Toby Berla**

- ◆ Ellerbee Creek Trail: A representative from Parks and Rec will attend the DOST meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> to report on the details of the trail as it goes along Broad Street, and the reason for it being reduced to five foot wide.
- ◆ DOST wants to publicize the portion of the Mountains to Sea trail that will be completed soon, and how to tie Durham’s trails to the longer system.
- ◆ Nothing new on the Duke Beltline trail.

**H. Old Business**

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

- ◆ Consultant has conducted traffic counts along three corridors. They plan on coming to Durham to interview transit patrons.

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

- ◆ Name selected is *Watch For Me NC*.
- ◆ Meeting last week with Durham Police, who are in support of the campaign. Another meeting will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> with Police and other departments.
- ◆ Enforcement will not start until September, but locations will be identified earlier to get before/after data.
- ◆ Education primarily through radio ads, newspaper articles, yard signs and transit ads.

## I. New Business

### 1. Review of 2011 Annual Report (Scott Carter, Dale McKeel)

- ◆ Copies of the draft plan were distributed.
- ◆ *Lars moved and Lou seconded to approve the 2011 annual report. Vote was unanimous in favor of approval.*
- ◆ Report will be distributed to the City Council and County Commissioners.

### 2. Bicycle Boulevards (Aaron Lubeck)

- ◆ Aaron Lubeck made a presentation on Bicycle Boulevards. Aaron recently presented this to the Transportation staff and Bike/Ped Committee.
- ◆ Bicycle Boulevards are mostly a west coast concept. A Boulevard is a local street modified to function as a through-street for bicycles while maintaining local access for automobiles. They tend to be minor streets parallel to thoroughfares, such as Watts St. instead of Buchanan Boulevard, in Trinity Park.
- ◆ Traffic control devices limit conflicts between motorists and bicyclists and give priority to through-bicycle movement. This may include traffic circles or medians that may restrict automobile through movements but allow bicycles to continue.
- ◆ Traditional streets can be converted to bicycle boulevards with minimal cost.
- ◆ Aaron illustrated eleven potential bicycle boulevards in Durham totaling about 14 miles.
- ◆ After discussion, *Lou moved and Greg seconded that BPAC express its support for the Bicycle Boulevard concept for the Watts Street corridor, with the provision that the Trinity Park community endorse the plan, and pursue the concept with City staff and Council.* After discussion of the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

## J. Staff Report / Questions / Announcements

- ◆ Scott attended Coffee with Council to voice support to elevate Dale's position to full-time. The Transportation budget right now includes funding for one additional staff person (in addition to the current ½ time position shared with the MPO.) If approved, responsibilities would be divided between the two people.
- ◆ Dale presented the 2011 City Community Survey transportation summary. In general, the respondents indicated that they felt that Durham was moving in the right direction. Dale will send a copy of the presentation to the Commission.
- ◆ Dale wanted feedback on the regional Bike/Ped workshop. One common comment was that the location needed to be more accessible by bicycle and pedestrians, perhaps held in

different communities. Another idea is to have the workshop on a Saturday instead of a weekday. Also identified was a need for more networking and personal interaction. A better location may also help with this.

- ◆ Dale updated the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road project status. The cost of the project has increased from \$4.1 million in the feasibility study to almost \$14 million. Much of the increase is in construction, right-of-way and utility relocation. The funding is from the MPO but requires a local match. Durham's share, about \$1.5 million, may be available; however Chapel Hill may not have their share available, about \$937,000.
- ◆ The first meeting of the bike map update committee was held last week. If there are any comments on the existing map, please send those to Dale. Scott solicited photo submittals on the ListServ, and has received about 40 photos. Maps are also being updated on the website.
- ◆ Dale mentioned the Traffic Separation study in Durham, looking at improvements at rail at-grade crossings. A first stage will be looking at the downtown area. A stakeholder meeting will be held in April, and 1 or 2 members from BPAC are invited to attend.

#### **K. Adjournment**

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

## **2012 Durham Bike Month Events**

Wednesday, May 2: Bike Month Kickoff, 5:30 pm to 7 pm, American Tobacco Campus (Blackwell Street). Family-friendly ride. Free bike checks provided by Durham Cycles mechanics. After-ride social at Tyler's Taproom. Sponsored by Durham BPAC

Fridays: Bike Commute Coffee Club, meets every Friday at 7:45 at Loaf Bakery, 111 W. Parrish Street.

Tuesday, May 8: Cyclist's Social, 5 to 7 pm, Sunset Grille (5850 Fayetteville Rd # 101 or milepost 5.75 on the American Tobacco Trail). Cyclists enjoy free food and giveaways. Free bike checks provided by REI mechanics. Sponsored by Durham BPAC.

Wednesday May 9: National Bike to School Day. Watch this space for more info: [walkbiketoschool.org](http://walkbiketoschool.org)

Thursday May 10: Cycling Safety Lunch & Learn, RTP Headquarters (12 Davis Drive) 11:30am to 1:00pm  
Led by League of American Bicyclist Certified Instructor. Bicycle commuters and those who wish to begin traveling to work by bicycle are encouraged to attend this event. Sponsored by SmartCommute@rtp

Sunday May 13: Seven Stars Cycles Bloody Bike & Brunch, 10AM, an approximately 20 mile self-supported, no-drop, group ride with Seven Stars Cycles ([www.sevenstarscycles.com](http://www.sevenstarscycles.com)) followed by Motorco Bloody Brunch. Starts and ends at Seven Stars Cycles in Downtown Durham.

Monday, May 14: Cyclist's Social, 5 to 7 pm, Bull McCabe's, 427 W. Main Street, in the Five Points area of historic downtown Durham Cyclists enjoy free food and giveaways. Free bike checks provided by Seven Stars mechanics. Sponsored by Durham BPAC.

Tuesday May 15, 2012: Bike Month After-Hours Social, 5 to 7pm Serena, 5311 South Miami Blvd. Suite A.  
Cyclists enjoy free appetizers, drinks, and giveaways. Sponsored by SmartCommute@rtp

Wednesday, May 16: Annual Ride of Silence. (Sponsored by M.S. Fits) This 5 mile police escorted ride will start and finish at the RTP Headquarters parking lot at 12 Davis Drive. Riders will gather beginning at 6pm and the ride leaves promptly at 7. Helmets required, lights encouraged. <http://www.msfits.org/ride-of-silence.html>

Thursday, May 17: Mad Biker's Breakfast, 7 to 9 am, Mad Hatter's Café (corner of Main and Broad Streets). Food and drink courtesy of Mad Hatter's. Free bike checks provided by Tip Top Cycles mechanics. Sponsored by Durham BPAC.

Friday May 18, 2012 Bike Month Breakfast and Social, 7 to 9 am, RTP Headquarters (12 Davis Dr.) Cyclists enjoy a free continental breakfast and giveaways. Sponsored by SmartCommute@rtp

Sunday May 20: Bull City Tipping Point Ride. Low mileage social ride held monthly. For details see <http://www.facebook.com/bullcitytippingpoint>

Sunday May 27: Fourth Sunday ride sponsored by Seven Stars Cycles, ride leaves at 10AM, an approximately 35 mile self-supported, group ride with Seven Stars Cycles ([www.sevenstarscycles.com](http://www.sevenstarscycles.com)). This is not a no-drop ride, but will be moderately paced (18 mph average). Starts and ends at Seven Stars Cycles in Downtown Durham.

Saturday June 2 – East Coast Greenway Community Tour (May 12 – July 7) will be in Durham on June 2  
<http://www.cabotcommunitytour.com/>