

MINUTES

April 17, 2012 Meeting

Members Present: Randy Best, Scott Carter, Dan Clever, Ninna Gagnon, Greg Garneau, Lou Goetz, Erik Landfried, Jonathon Leach, Mathew Palmer, Merry Rabb, Dwayne Taylor, Cynthia Van Der Wiele

Members Absent: Toby Berla (excused), Jim Dunlop (excused), Lars Trost (excused)

Staff Present: Dale McKeel

Liaison Present: None

Guests Present: Jessica Blaustein, Branson Kimball, Jack Warman

A. Announcements

- ◆ Scott Carter welcomed Cynthia Van Der Wiele as a new member of the Commission.

B. Approval of Minutes

- ◆ *Erik moved and Mathew seconded to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2012 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.*

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

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

D. Announcements

- ◆ None.

E. Public Comment

- ◆ Jessica Blaustein introduced herself and expressed her interest in neighborhood schools in her neighborhood, which would help make feasible Safe Routes to Schools, Walking School Buses, Bicycle Trains, and similar program. She is also interested in taking photos of infrastructure in need of repair (such as sidewalks) and reporting to the city.

F. Committee Reports

Development Review Committee

Note: New time of week- we are now meeting the first Wednesday of the month, instead of first Thursday.

Development Plans

1. Carolina Crossing II- Near corner of Farrington Road and NC54- We believe the project would better serve the needs of the community if pedestrian connections were included to

adjacent Crescent Drive, and that any roadwork along Farrington road include width for future bike lanes

2.NCCU- The university is seeking to rezone to UC (University/College). We will discuss this further at our May meeting.

Durham County Strategic Plan Goal 2 (Health and Well-being) Dale mentioned that one of the initiatives of this goal is to 'explore feasibility of requiring Health Impact Analysis as part of UDO'. We should invite Gayle Harris to a future meeting to discuss how BPAC could assist here.

Pending updates to UDO

1. One update is a new use type: Research and Development, under Light Industrial. The proposed bicycle parking calculation: 1 per 5000 sf office, 1 per 20000 sf non-office (i.e. greenhouse), min. 2 spaces.

2. The other update is applying more detailed requirements for external access to all sites, not just to subdivisions.

Site Plan Checklist

We also discussed an updated draft of the checklist, which we would like to share with BPAC and the list in the next month or so.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Implementation and Evaluation Committee

Combining the DOST (Durham Open Space and Trails Commission) top projects with our high priority sidewalk segments and bicycle lanes to create the possibility of a bundled transportation referendum. More specifically:

- Which projects have STPDA/CMAQ/SRTS attached to them - might additional city funds be needed to match?
- Which sidewalk projects are still programmed to get funding from remaining sidewalk bond funds?
- Of the remaining high priority projects, how much might it cost to implement them? Which of the bike projects could be done via annual resurfacing?

Dan clever has created a spreadsheet to answer most of these questions and will share it with us at the BPAC meeting.

Prioritization of the following goals for 2012 listed at the annual retreat:

High Priority Goals for this Committee:

- Bike Boulevards in Durham - *a definition and a revised nomenclature*, their value to the Durham cycling community, and a map of proposed routes

- Obtain the budget dollars to make Dale McKeel a full-time employee in the City's Transportation Department - this goal has evolved because *the Transportation Dept. has an updated staffing plan to supplement Dale's ongoing position*
- Identify [strategies] locations for performing actual counts of cyclists and pedestrians (with research into the subject) to determine actual usage and trends in order to best utilize available funds - *in progress with a list of tentative locations attached -- See also this map*
<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=202775107648255093273.0004bdd18633722bcf9c&msa=0&ll=36.028625,-78.892393&spn=0.052615,0.106859>
- Identify the critical bicycle transportation corridors in the City and County
- Update the existing Bicycle Plan map - *in progress*
- Update the Durham Bike and Hike Map (the printed publication) - *in progress*
- Participate in the Triangle-wide pedestrian safety education and enforcement campaign - *in progress*
- Participate in NCDOT's Access to Transit project - *will coordinate with Erik Landfried*
- Track progress of DurhamWALKS! Plan (Greg - updated Google maps) - *in progress*

Standing Goals for this Committee (similar to Phase E of the ATT that are high priority and carried over from year-to-year):

- Advocate for the bicycle route between Durham and Chapel Hill - *project costs have risen creating issues in Orange County/Chapel Hill*
- Use an existing study to analyze connectivity between the campuses of Duke University and the city of Durham - *obtain study from Dale McKeel*
- Encourage existing, private businesses to install bicycle parking racks

Goal Judged to Be Not Feasible

- Create a real time map of current bicycle infrastructure projects

Transfers to Other Committees:

- Make BPAC more influential in civic planning and budgeting
- Move Durham to "Silver" status in the League of American Cyclists Bicycle Friendly Cities program
- Make BPAC and our web site a clearing house for pedestrian and cycling events and information. Add a calendar of events to the web site
- Determine a strategy for increasing the number of regular cyclists in Durham
- Decide on the roles that the City of Durham and Durham Public Schools can play in the Safe Routes to School Program
- Participation by BPAC in the first ever Bike to School Event on May 9, 2012
- 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
- Participate in 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

Phase E of ATT progress

Dan Clever kindly provided this update in the form of a Q & A with Byron Brady:

1) [Dan] City Council awarded the contract April 2. How long does it take to get the contracts signed?

[Byron] We still have to get NCDOT's concurrence with our award of this contract and we expect that sometime late next week. Once that has occurred, the Contractor will execute the contract, then the City will execute the contract. All of this could take 3 weeks [as of last week - April 6].

2)) [Dan] Is there a more definite construction start date?

[Byron] We are still looking at a June construction start date. We don't have an exact date yet and will not have one until the Pre-Construction Conference is held. The date for the conference is not settled yet.

3) [Dan] I see the first open house is scheduled for the 16th at Hills at Southpoint. Is this meeting strictly for residents of that neighborhood. If yes, do you know the dates of other meetings?

[Byron] The Neighborhood Meetings are just for neighborhoods such as the Hills at Southpoint.

[Byron] Three public meetings have been scheduled for the general public and are as follows:

1. Monday, May 14th - 6-7 PM - St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, 8306 NC 751, Durham.
2. Tuesday, May 15th - 6-7 PM - Church Gymnasium, Triangle Presbyterian Church, 5001 Tudor Place, Durham.
3. Thursday, May 17th - 6-7 PM - 2nd Floor Committee Room, City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham

New Business

Greg attended the Traffic Separation Study meeting held earlier the same afternoon. The meeting was focused on the intersection recommendations from the Chapel Hill St. crossing to the Roxboro St. crossing along the Norfolk & Southern railway corridor through downtown Durham. Greatly increased rail traffic is forecast over the next two decades through the corridor. A major theme emerging from the meeting is the acceptance of this increase and to incorporate it into the planning. Norfolk & Southern attended the meeting. Slides of the proposed changes are available to the committee and BPAC.

Education + Encouragement Committee

We went over the Bike Month calendar and made notes of what remains to be done and who is taking care of it:

- Stephanie Loyka and Dale are taking care of miscellaneous coordination for the May 2 kickoff event.
- Merry will check in with Alan on the status of a flier, and is collecting logos from our sponsors/participants for a “thanks to our sponsors” poster.
- Merry will double-check with REI that they can be at Sunset Grille and will take care of any other arrangements related to Sunset Grille or Mad Hatter’s.
- We came up with a couple of questions for Lisa to ask regarding the event at Bull McCabe’s (will their patio be done by then, is there space for bike racks)
- Mathew and Ninna will continue to explore a possible educational pre-bike-month event on April 28. It was confirmed after our meeting that Stephanie does indeed still have funding for LCI events.
- Lisa reported via email that the meeting for the Durham Bicycle Coalition is set for May 6th at 2pm at the Trotter Bldg on W Geer St. Also Seven Stars has nailed down Wednesday movie nights at the Pinhook. They will sponsor these movie nights every Wednesday in May (except May 16) starting at 8pm, and are current making the movie selections.
- Merry will follow up on some of our other publicity ideas, post a list of events on the web site and also post to the Facebook group. Anyone who is in the Facebook group please share the posting of the event list when it happens and then perhaps others of your friends will join the group.

The list of events is here but as of this writing has not been linked to the web site yet:
http://www.bikewalkdurham.org/BPAC_Docs/Durham_Events_All2012.pdf

Other items:

Merry requested additional volunteer of Earth Day on Sunday April 22 noon to 5

Tour de Fat is Saturday June 23 and many volunteers will be needed for the bike valet (at least 15 volunteers last years and we’ll need at least that many this year too).

Motion to approve using \$500 in BPAC funds for Bike Month events was made by Merry, and seconded by .Greg, and approved by a unanimous vote.

Community Engagement Committee

Held a meeting with Aaron Luebeck regarding Bicycle Boulevard Plan. Led to a good discussion regarding how BPAC can partner with community organizations and neighborhoods.

Participating in a Trinity Park panel regarding the future of Transportation Planning within the neighborhood. Panel includes Mark Ahrendsen of Durham and Rachel Raney of Trinity Park.

Working on the development of the Durham BPAC Community Engagement Plan Framework and Final Plan for short-term and long-term neighborhood and community organization participation in City and County projects.

G. Updates from Liaisons

Duke: Randy reported that Duke has received Silver Award as Bicycle Friendly University from League of American Bicyclists. BPAC discussed writing a letter of congratulations.

NCCU: Jonathon reported that NCCU held a Health Fair on April 13 and Dale attended. There will be a bike training / lunch and learn on May 30.

DOST: Dan Clever reported that DOST is discussing with the Parks and Rec Department the width of the portion of the West Ellerbee Creek Trail adjacent to Broad Street. Current plans show a 5-foot sidewalk while trails are generally at least 8 feet in width. DOST has invited Parks and Rec to their next meeting to discuss the issue.

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. Presentation by Branson Kimball: Bicycle Route 1.

Branson provided an overview of Route 1, which is a North South Route from Maine to Florida. In North Carolina, the route goes through 9 counties, only four urban areas. The route used to pass near RDU airport, but for a number of years has been disconnected due to changes in the road system near the airport. Branson proposes to change the route to come through Durham and encourages BPAC to work on this. This is an opportunity to engage with NCDOT and look at aligning the route with the East Coast Greenway and ATT. After additional discussion, it was agreed that the next steps are as follows:

- 1) Identify re-route possibilities in Durham (assigned to Branson and Greg), including consideration of southern and northern connectivity
- 2) Draft letter to NCDOT Bike/Ped Director and invite her to a BPAC meeting (assigned to Dale and Scott)

J. Presentation by Jack Warman: Bicycle Boulevards

Following up on Aaron Luebeck's presentation, Jack Warman has "dug in more" to critically evaluate Bicycle Boulevards

Overall concerns: 1) Goal to slow traffic, 2) Incomplete Streets, 3) Cul de sac the grid, 4) Emergency Services, 5) Implementation Issues

Policy concerns: Bicycle boulevards should be added as a supplement to the adopted bicycle plan

Design considerations: Support and encourage bikes on nearby arterials and use of "bikes may use full lane" signs.

Dan Clever said a near-term goal of BPAC needs to be the update of the bikeplan. He said we need to be careful that the use of bicycle boulevards does not create a mindset that bicycle needs to only use the

- K. Bike Rack / Public Art Concept.** Scott will pursue with the Durham Arts Council.
- L. Announcement.** Ninna reported that Clean Energy Durham has graduated a new class of bicycle transportation trainer. Event upcoming on May 29th.
- M. Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.