



CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 23, 2019
6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM with seven members present.

Members Present: Debra L Franklin Nadine Ford Adam Raskoskie
 Liza Pratt Milton Irizarry Jr. Gerry Kingsley
 Caitlin Tobin

Members Absent: Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker Bryan Hall Bob Carter

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen Jason Lawrence

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Adam Raskoskie at 6:05PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present were Dick Winters, Charlotte Cadieux of TFKC, Anna Goodwin of TFKC, Laura Thomason SRTS Coordinator for Mecklenburg County, and Martin Zimmerman.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Dick Winters gave an update on strider bikes.

Charlotte Cadieux stated the cycle track could use signage on cross streets because there are no traffic lights when riding counter flow to traffic, and signage at driveways too for drivers pulling out. Will Washam noted that not all signage is up yet and that he will be giving more presentations as phase 2 continues into design. He also replied that cyclists will use the ped phase. Dick Winters said kudos to the city for the quick install.

Laura Thomason said bike to school day is coming up May 8th and several schools are participating. She encouraged the group to help out.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Caitlin Tobin moved to approve the minutes from the March meeting, Gerry Kingsley seconded the motion and the March minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly Reports

- Chair's Report: Adam Raskoskie announced there is a vacancy on the committee with Buzz Morely gone and encouraged others to apply if interested in serving on the BAC.
- Staff Report: Will Washam talked about the NCAMPO conference and CDOT's role, that it is for all NC MPOs to attend and it is really important work. He announced there are a couple of bike tours, described different projects highlighted and went over the routes. Mr. Washam talked about Shifting Gears co-hosted with Sustain Charlotte. He also talked about operations of the cycle track and having a guided ride to demo. Mr. Washam shared an online video describing the project and said he also has brochures to educate both cyclists and the motoring public on how this new piece of infrastructure works. Debra Franklin asked if it will still be called a pilot. Will Washam replied it will be branded as the Sixth Street Cycle Track. He talked about the demo project from two years ago and the overall vision for uptown bike connectivity. Liza Pratt asked if there will be a formal report on results. Will Washam replied that is likely and that CDOT is collecting before and after bike counts to evaluate usage. Adam Raskoskie said he is wondering what is the strategy for disseminating the PSA video. Will Washam described Charlotte Communications & Marketing methods and said brochures will go out at community meetings. Debra Franklin asked how do we find out the steps to what happens to the cycle track long-term. Will Washam explained that the next phase will lay the concrete barrier to replace the flex posts, after the RNC. He shared the timeline with the group. In 2020 construction will begin on the entire project. Gerry Kingsley asked if we know what the concrete barrier will look like. Will Washam said we are working through that right now, planters are what the community wants but there are maintenance concerns. He stated we are going to try some as part of pilot to see. Mr. Washam then passed out notebooks as thank you gifts from City Council.
- City Council Report: Adam Raskoskie said there is not much to report.
- Board of County Commissioners: Mr. Raskoskie said May 9th is the budget meeting if someone can make it to deliver a statement from the BAC please let him know. He will confirm the date.
- Other Legislative reports: NA

Agenda Item #6 Subcommittee Reports

- Engineering and Evaluation: Caitlin Tobin passed around copies of the monthly report. She stated the subcommittee did not meet in April. Ms. Tobin encouraged everyone to ride the new cycle track. She is looking for the new greenways contact while Gwen Cook is out of the office after being injured by a car crash while walking. Gerry Kingsley asked about the Parkwood project. Jason Lawrence gave some explanation. Will Washam brought up the map on the screen for clarification.
- Education & Encouragement: Milton Irizarry shared the updated report. He asked if Strider will be part of TFK. Dick Winters replied it's a partnership. Mr. Irizarry introduced the guests he invited to present on this topic. Charlotte Cadieux suggested adding Biking Dads and Charlotte Mountain Biking Camp to the list of local bike clubs.

Agenda Item #7 New business

- LYNX System Update: Jason Lawrence talked about the long-range transit plan for CATS and the vision of connecting the urban centers throughout the Charlotte region. He said a half-cent sales tax has funded all advancements to date with a federal match. Mr. Lawrence described how the original plan was heavy on BRT in 1998. He showed graphs and maps of population growth over the past 20 years. He said the Charlotte area hit the one million population mark in 2014, which had been projected to happen by 2025. There is lots of competition for road space. The 2030 Vision Plan has been updated. Mr. Lawrence talked about the importance of public support. He went over the recommendations and outlined the toolbox to address congestion, mobility. He then discussed the advantages of BRT and its flexibility. Mr. Lawrence went over the differences between the street car and LRT. He noted that most transit users take the bus. He went over the Blue Line plans. City Lynx Gold Line will have more modern street cars in 2020 when complete. Construction will be delayed by the RNC. The line will be four miles long when complete. CATS has built a lot but still has a lot more to build. CATS needs to determine costs and how to fund. They are trying to stay true to the 2030 goal. Mr. Lawrence went over the history of Independence Blvd and all the changes over time, to limited access and how that has transformed the land uses. He said at the time transportation engineers only thought about moving cars and not land use implications. Mr. Lawrence went on to describe the Silver Line route, how it will access uptown, and said there has been lots of public outreach. He also stated there is a lot of interest in Gaston County to bring it there. Mr. Lawrence shared the guiding principles and discussed the value of preserving community character and affordable housing on the front end. He talked about working through the design logistics of how to best access communities on the route. Mr. Lawrence stated they need to provide more than just peak service to meet the demands of communities who want light rail, not commuter rail. He talked about Pineville now wanting LRT to Carolina Place Mall. And Ballantyne also wants light rail. Mr. Lawrence went over the Silver Line West Corridor and the need to replace the Wilkenson Blvd bridge over the Catawba River. They now have funding to begin design. The TOD planning grant awarded will allow CATS to look at station areas for good land use planning. CATS is looking into ideas of how to incorporate a continues rail trail. Mr. Lawrence talked about tying into e-scooter share. He outlined the 4th street bike lane revamp, showed a rendering of shared bus/bike space. They are evaluating ideas of revamping all the major bus stops uptown to accommodate bike and scooter parking along with passenger waiting zones. Mr. Lawrence talked about Gateway Station, the new hub with Amtrak, city buses and LRT. He talked about reimagining Brookshire Freeway, how to soften it and reduce that barrier. And he pondered how to build more thoughtful, inclusive infrastructure. Mr. Lawrence closed his presentation on how to advance the plan.

Debra Franklin asked if the street car would still go to the health department and how fast will it travel. Mr. Lawrence replied it will go with traffic. Gerry Kingsley asked what the headways will be. Fifteen minutes after the new phase is complete, was the reply. Adam Raskoskie asked will street cars have signal priority. Mr. Lawrence replied that timing cannot interfere too much

with traffic flow because it would wreak havoc. Caitlin Tobin asked about the bus/bike stop/parking and who takes ownership over that. Mr. Lawrence replied that CATS would maintain the stop. He briefly discussed the battle for curb-space. Gerri Kingsley asked if CATS is taking bike transport into account because buses park in the bike lane on W. 4th Street forcing cyclists to go out into traffic. Mr. Lawrence replied that is what we are trying to address, the conflicts between the these two uses, and moving toward protected spaces for cyclists to better accommodate. Will Washam talked about the meeting in March between CATS and CDOT, said it was a good meeting, forward-thinking mindsets, lots of good ideas and possible solutions, including floating bus stops to allow bikes to continue through while passengers cross over the bike lane. Charlotte Cadieux said that she feels safer to ride on the left side of the lane because in NC bikes are allowed to use the whole lane and are more visible to bus riders that way. Debra Franklin replied that bus drivers do not like bikers to pass on the left because then they have to pass them again and it becomes a game of leap frog. Bus drivers are trying to give the space and keep a buffer but sometimes have to pull over for a stop. Adam Raskoskie wrapped up to move on to TFK presentation.

Anna Goodwin gave an overview of what TFK does in our community and plans for expansion. The organization's mission is to empower youth through the bicycle. Shop sales help fund the ride program and Earn-A-Bike (EAB), but they are looking to expand that model. It's a lot about youth development, team building, self-esteem. Ms. Goodwin talked about EAB program and what it used to be and what it is now, the changes that have taken place. They realized they were teaching kids mechanics but they didn't even know how to ride a bike. So now there is more focus on riding safety. They are testing out different outreach models to do onsite classes, which allows for less stress on parents to transport their children. This also helps the instructors to be better able to teach skills relevant to the kids' neighborhood based on what infrastructure is available there. And it opens up much more of the population. With ten kids per class, they are already booked out to September. They could be doing even more if there were more resources. They would also like to do more to empower families. They would like to offer a family EAB where the entire family could earn a bike. Going to the kids gives teachers an opportunity to tell and show kids about the resources in the neighborhood like greenways and bike routes. Ms. Goodwin said they would love to see a stronger connection between TFK and the schools, beyond just the Strider partnership. She stated that when she talks to teachers some are not comfortable implementing these ideas in their schools. The teachers are looking for support because they are not equipped. They need more than just the physical resources, TFK would like to have a person who can go into the schools and run the program ongoing. Ms. Cadieux mentioned a national initiative called Cycle Kids, a national nonprofit that has a successful model on how to educate kids going into the schools to teach them about safe bike riding.

- Bike to Breakfast: Mr. Washam announced the Mayor will be there to speak. He encouraged the BAC to attend. Three Council members have also committed to attend, two of whom will be riding this year as well. This will be the first time doing a new route in at least the past 15 years. Mr. Washam put in a plug for Jeff Viscount's "Mayor of Biketown" ride and encouraged the group to check Weekly Rides for updates. He showed a map of the route from Independence Park which will showcase the 7th Street

cycle track and have a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the cycle track, followed by a catered breakfast on Gov Porch at CMGC with remarks from the Mayor and Council members. Mr. Irizarry and Mr. Kingsley will help pass out t-shirts. The rain plan is breakfast in the lobby and skip the ribbon cutting, but the ride itself is rain or shine. Debra Franklin asked about the Rock My Ride campaign.

Agenda Item #8 Member topics and updates

Adam Raskoskie announced that he was nominated for a Neighborhood Leadership award because of his BAC work. He did not win but people are paying attention to the good work the BAC is doing and the whole committee he has to thank for that.

Agenda Item #9 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51PM. The next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2019.