



CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August, 28, 2018
6:00 PM

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

Members Present: Debra L Franklin Bryan Hall Adam Raskoskie
 Nadine Ford Bob Carter Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
 Buzz Morley

Members Absent: Haley Beaupre Robby Boyer Milton Irizarry Jr.

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen Matt Magnasco
 Keith Bryant Paul Benton

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Adam Raskoskie called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introductions of members and guests

Also present was Dick Winters with Safe Routes to School, Christine Weber, Kate Cavazza of Sustain Charlotte, Chris Lange with CATS, and a number of representatives from the Plaza Midwood Neighborhood Association (PMNA).

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Renee Bradly of the PMNA thanked CDOT for the design work done so far for on The Plaza and Parkwood Ave. projects and said she looks forward to hearing the update. Ms. Bradley stated she wants to be sure that bike/ped safety is the first priority and she does have some concerns.

Jacob Farr from the PMNA recommended using Seattle's motor vehicle volume threshold for considering a road diet.

Jayne Pennell from the PMNA spoke on behalf of the elderly citizens of her neighborhood. She wanted to point how it feels to be a walker and said she likes having a bike lane as a buffer from automobile traffic. She suggested the group needs to think about bike lanes not only for bikers but for walkers too.

Jim Marx, a father from the neighborhood, talked about wanting to be able to ride safely with his children around the city to be able to explore by bike. He stated he wants connected and protected bikeways.

Joseph Margolis from the Derita neighborhood said he is part of a working group to help connect Derita from neighborhood to neighborhood and to the rest of Charlotte. He stated he believes safe access to public transit is crucial and that there are not enough sidewalks in Derita. Mr. Margolis said people from Derita are walking this very dangerous corridor. He stated Kate Cavazza has tried it herself to see the need.

Nancy Pierce from the Mary Oaks neighborhood spoke about connecting her neighborhood with a trail. She said making a left off the Plaza onto Parkwood is very concerning. Ms. Pierce stated she feels strongly that Parkwood also needs to be connected and protected or people won't use it.

Eric spoke to the matter of adopting this idea all across Charlotte.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Buzz Morley moved to approve the July minutes, Bob Carter seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Old business

Parkwood/The Plaza project updates

Keith Bryant gave the lead-in to the presentation. Mr. Bryant introduced the rest of the team in the room: Matt Magnasco and Paul Benton. He went on to talk about meeting purpose stating the design team has gone back and taken the BAC's feedback along with comments gathered at a public meeting. Mr. Bryant described the road diet for The Plaza: four lanes down to two with separated bike lanes and added pedestrian crossing opportunities. Mr. Bryant said they are adding new lane configurations on Parkwood and have selected a bicycle-specific signal option for the intersection of The Plaza and Central. This approach provides three options for cyclists approaching the intersection. Option 1 is a bike route connection from Hamorton to Thomas St. Option 2 would be a bike-specific signal phase. Cyclists would get their own green phase to cross The Plaza that would hold conflicting automobile phases. Option 3 would allow vehicular cyclists to merge into the through-lane or left-turn lane. Mr. Bryant said there isn't enough room for protected bike lanes on both sides of The Plaza in front of the Harris Teeter and that they could only do a standard bike lane on one side. He showed a map of the bike network context. Matt Magnasco said we have heard how everyone wants a connected and protected bikeway system but the problem is we don't have enough room at the Parkwood/Plaza intersection. He showed what the constraints are and described the solution as being taking advantage of the existing neighborhood street network. Mr. Magnasco showed alternative bike routes through the neighborhood which would be enhanced with signage and wayfinding. He said he agreed that the intersection leaves something to be desired and stated that ideally they would redo the entire intersection but given the project's budget they need to work within the existing curb-lines. Mr. Magnasco said they are going to construct an upgraded path to Lola ave. and widen the sidewalk as well as add a channelizing island to allow for a new crossing of Parkwood and make the travel path more intuitive, plus a cyclist could use the enhanced crossing as well.

Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker asked if there is a tree median currently at the intersection. The answer was no. She asked can the median be removed to help with the traffic flow. Matt Magnasco

explained that it will be modified. Paul Benton explained how it does actually help with safety having this island in place. Keith Bryant expanded on the safety benefits. Debra Franklin questioned the need to have four travel lanes on The Plaza beyond Parkwood to handle the traffic. Keith Bryant attested to the heavy amount of traffic on this corridor and the many left turns off Parkwood onto Hawthorne. Adam Raskoskie asked the team what are your thoughts on signal prioritization in terms of pedestrians not having to wait so long? And he wanted to know what are the team's thoughts about safety on the unprotected portion of Parkwood. Paul Benton distinguished between prioritization and detection, stating the delay is relatively minor when users are detected, and said detection improvements can be looked at. Keith Hines said Parkwood will be getting more green time than The Plaza. Debra Franklin asked does the speed limit have to stay the same or can it be lowered on Parkwood. Keith Hines said lowering the speed limit from 35 to 30 would not make much of a difference in terms of capacity. Adam Raskoskie reiterated his second question and pointed out that one of the BAC's goals is to support Vision Zero. He said that if nothing is done on outbound Parkwood between Hawthorne and The Plaza it won't be any safer for cyclists. Keith Hines said there are opportunities to have more space for cyclists though it would not be protected with a buffer. Bob Carter asked if a better rendering couldn't be prepared instead of the overlays. Ms. Swanzy-Parker said she would find it helpful to know how surrounding land uses may impact the route. She said she is trying to get a better feel for the area and what's there. Matt Magnasco gave some context. Buzz Morley said for someone who is not as familiar with the area it would help to visualize the rendering a little better. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked about modifications needed to the existing median on Parkwood at The Plaza to allow left turns, and she asked about ADA compliance. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked about other projects in the area. Paul Benton described how this one ties in with a scheduled resurfacing of The Plaza and some storm water improvement projects in this area as well. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked about storm water impacts. Paul Benton replied they will be minor along the Plaza. Adam Raskoskie thanked staff for their presentation.

Agenda Item #6 New business

Blue Line Extension Public Art Tour

Chris Lang from CATS was introduced by Adam Raskoskie to talk about a public art bike tour along the Blue Line. Mr. Lang said the tour will help promote the Blue Line as being very accessible in terms of taking your bike on the train for example, and bike parking art. He said they would talk about the artists who designed each station. Mr. Lang showed images of some of the art and identified the artists and some of the inspiration. He said he would be asking the BAC to identify the safest route and help reach out to the wider cycling community. November 10 Saturday afternoon is the proposed date. Adam Raskoskie suggested that if any BAC members are thinking they would like to be on the Education & Encouragement subcommittee, this could be a great opportunity to get started. Will Washam said he is excited about this partnership. Bob Carter asked if there is a budget for this event. Chris Lang said he is having CATS marketing get the word out along with help from Sustain Charlotte. Will Washam said CDOT can also help with promotion and creating the route maps. Bob Carter mentioned that Weekly Rides will likely post the event as well. Ms. Swanzy-Parker pointed out that they event

will take place on Veterans Day weekend. She also said this might be a good idea to partner with the Bechtler Museum to help promote this modern art right here in Charlotte. Bob Carter said he thinks the bike shops also need to be included to promote. Chris Lang said the person who designed the bike parking will help lead the tour. Will Washam offered to help set up online registration. Buzz Morley suggested having a leader for every x # of riders. Debra Franklin said she is surprised by the # of passengers who ask about the artwork, as a CATS bus driver. Bob Carter said this a good story to tell about Charlotte, a great asset to showcase.

Open Streets 704

Adam Raskoskie moved into talking about how the BAC may want to be involved with the next Open Streets event, September 30. He said they had a booth at an earlier one and had planned a tour of the route but it was cancelled due to bad weather. Will Washam said he has been putting together some plans for bike education at Open Streets and would love to have the BAC involved with that if interested. He described the different bike facility types to be demonstrated and how this could help get support and understanding for how these work. Buzz Morley volunteered to help day of. Adam Raskoskie said he likes the idea and can also help. Will Washam mentioned that CDOT staff will also be doing Vision Zero outreach. He talked about long term funding for the event as short term grants run out. Mr. Carter asked if the group could have a budget outline for the \$4 million as a sort of hand out for the public. Mr. Washam said he does have an outline and will look into sharing. Bob Carter suggested encouraging voters to get out and vote for the transportation bond so it gets passed. Will Washam talked about how there will be a lot of overlap with Vision Zero and bike safety so he will not be alone in beating that drum. Bob Carter said he sees Open Streets as a good opportunity to do public outreach about the bike program and the importance of funding.

Agenda Item #7 Other business

Bob Carter said he wanted to follow up on his praise for CDOT allowing Tour de Turns to make some changes this year and has some good lessons learned now based on how the route was laid out. He said the changes made cyclists safer though there was one rear end collision between cars.

Bryan Hall talked about scooters being ridden to and from the stadium during Panthers home games and says he works at the stadium and sees them all over the place being heavily used. He said he will continue to observe and take photos of this behavior. Mr. Hall observed riders using both sidewalk and the stadium plaza for travel and dumping the scooters anywhere, blocking sidewalk. He said there are lots of pedestrians, in the way of the scooter riders and that he thinks there needs to be a designated parking area for them. Will Washam replied that he was also at the game specifically to observe scooter usage. He said he had a feeling there would be lot and saw a lot of what Mr. Hall saw and came to the same conclusions about where to end your ride. Bryan Hall saw people parking their cars on the outskirts and taking a scooter the rest of the way to the stadium to complete their trip instead of walking. Mr. Carter said they can be a great transport option but we need to do something to keep it from getting out of hand. Buzz Morley wonders if maybe the role of the BAC needs to evolve away from just being about bike safety to

including scooters and other forms of vulnerable road users. Bob Carter and Adam Raskoskie agreed, seeing the point. Mr. Carter thinks that battery assisted vehicles will likely continue to proliferate. Mr. Carter asked if a new ped program coordinator has been hired yet. Will Washam replied not yet but we should know in the next couple weeks. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked about the BAC making a comment to City Council about the pilot program. Mr. Washam responded that yes, there should be an opportunity for that after the one year is up. He said staff may be looking to extend the pilot to collect more scooter data but will keep the BAC informed. Mr. Washam said there was supposed to be a presentation at the Monday Council meeting but it got bumped, deferred to a future meeting. Buzz Morley asked Will Washam what his role is with scooters. Mr. Washam explained how he is part of a team of four other CDOT staff administering the Shared Mobility Pilot Program for both e-scooters and dockless bikes. Mr. Carter pointed out how scooters have become part of the BAC's dialogue. Adam Raskoskie said when we do our visioning for 2019 maybe we need to look at incorporating scooter safety as a goal. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if there have been any scooter citations. Mr. Sorensen replied he has not heard of any as of yet.

Debra Franklin announced that October 12 to 14 The LAB will be teaching a league certification class and the Knight Foundation is offering grants.

Agenda Item #8 Confirm next meeting data and adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01PM. The next BAC meeting is scheduled for September 25.