



**CHARLOTTE**  
**BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 28, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**

This meeting was conducted in remote session as a virtual meeting online due to COVID-19.

Members Present: Adam Raskoskie Milton Irizarry Jr. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker  
Liza Pratt Eoin Sheil Debra Franklin  
Caitlin Tobin Veda Evans AngelaStoyanovich

Members Absent: Jamie Emmanuelli

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen Angela Berry William Wigg  
Scott Curry

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Adam Raskoskie at 6:00PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present were Dick Winters, Eric Zaverl of Sustain Charlotte, and Martin Zimmerman.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Caitlin Tobin moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting, seconded by Milton Irizarry and approved by unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly Reports

- *Chairs report:* Adam Raskoskie let everyone know that he and Elizabeth are here for everyone and he wants to know how everybody is doing during this pandemic. He noted that we still have the ability to be outdoors and recreate on our bikes.
- *Staff report:* Will Washam announced that the CLT Cycling Guide bike map will be updated. He explained what the cycling guide is. The Education and Encouragement subcommittee will provide comments on the update. He talked about possible improvements that could be made, including the online digital version and interactive map. Veda Evans said it's important to have both versions available because not everyone does digital. She wants to know how does the average Charlotte citizen know

about this, have access? Will Washam replied we have a new consultant running Bike CLT this year and doing a lot to promote thru social media, having really upped the game in terms of content put out. Ms. Swanzy-Parker said it would be good to have City webpages that are designed not only for a computer but also to be viewed on a smart phone. Mr. Washam agreed and asked for more specific feedback about how we can make it more mobile-friendly. Liza Pratt asked about what info is on the cycling guide. Mr. Washam described signed bike routes vs suggested bike routes, giving options that are more comfortable by bike. Ms. Jones asked about the timeline for working with the subcommittee on updating this document. Staff will review in August and put on the September agenda.

- *City Council report:* N/A
- *Board of County Commissioners report:* None.
- *Other legislative reports:* None.

#### Agenda Item #6 Standing Subcommittee Reports

- *Engineering & Evaluation:* Caitlin Tobin suggested the group listen to the recording on the City website of a recent Council meeting. The subcommittee is working on providing comments to Council on a 25mph speed limit reduction uptown. She said they can now better craft a letter of support thanks to tonight's presentation. And how can we expand this goal beyond uptown, to residential neighborhoods as well, she asked. They are focusing on what peer cities are doing to better inform their recommendation. She suggested we pay attention to the CLT Task Force and Strategic Mobility Study. Ms. Tobin expects to have a draft letter for the BAC to review next month.
- *Education & Encouragement:* Veda Evans talked about how the group can do a better job of educating all the new cyclists who are out there riding because of the pandemic? She suggested we produce new materials, but raised the question of how to reach them? She emphasized that safer streets is one of the priorities. She stated crash statistics are not just numbers and need to be taken seriously. She suggested they advise Council on bike culture. She recommended they build on work already done by past BAC members. She has dug into it and found a lot of good programming out there, such as the cycling guide, but you have to dig around to find these things. Ms. Evans asked how they can make them more accessible, readily available. If the average citizen does not know they exist they cannot utilize these resources.

#### Agenda Item #7 New business

*Uptown Speed Limit Reduction and Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy*

Angela Berry gave a presentation on the topic. Caitlin Tobin asked how appropriate speed limits would be evaluated. Ms. Berry explained the process and went over the High Injury Network Map. She stated the CDOT is planning to lower all streets uptown to 25mph except for Graham St and McDowell, but she is working with NCDOT to lower the speed limit on those streets as well. They would like to reduce the number of speed limit signs in designated neighborhoods to reduce sign clutter, and only have sign entrance points into the CBD. Ms. Tobin asked is there a predictive index to know how many fatalities we may save from the reduced speed limit? Ms. Berry said she will research this question. Will Wigg said the City has a new traffic calming policy adopted in 2018 that reduces all neighborhood streets to 25mph. This is twenty percent of the City's local street network, about 200 streets. If not posted, the default is 35mph per general statute. Speed cushions and tables are new devices being implemented. CDOT works closely with the Fire Dept to not hinder response times. After studies show they are very effective. Sources for the traffic calming policy were revamped by City staff to incorporate state of the practice techniques. Angela Berry talked about not installing on streets with an ADT over 10,000. Caitlin Tobin clarified what is considered a local street? Angela Berry replied it is a functional classification. Ms. Stoyanovich asked how you can request traffic calming on your street? Will Wigg said calling 311 is the easiest way. Adam Raskoskie asked what can the BAC do to support this work? Angela Berry will look into and advise. Debra Franklin really appreciates the 25mph speed limit. Veda Evans asked if we will be tracking fatalities/crashes to see what the results are? Angela Berry replied yes, it will be a year to year tracking. Martin Zimmerman asked about share the road signs. Angela Berry said they have not decided to remove those. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked about where different signage is. Angela Berry will share with leadership to look at how old signs are and if they need to be replaced. Ms. Swanzy-Parker suggested geo-tracking for sign inventory, to keep better track of what, when and where signs are installed. Angie Stoyanovich made a comment about the relationship with speed and traffic fatalities statistics.

#### *Charlotte MOVES Task Force and Strategic Mobility Plan*

Scott Curry introduced himself and thanked the committee for the opportunity to share. Mr. Curry gave a brief overview and described the work of task force. He talked about the five plans that inform the City's transportation goals, integrate land use and transportation, identify projects, and prioritize safety. The idea is to put it all under one cover with the Strategic Mobility Plan (SMP) and create one comprehensive document. The SMP endeavors to deal with a lot of new challenges and new forms of mobility that the old plans don't deal with. Residents are walking and biking more. Mr. Curry is eager to understand how this impacts the future of mobility in Charlotte when we emerge into a post-pandemic reality. It's also important how we are dealing with equity, how Charlotte residents travel. This will be a focus of the SMP. Advocates have asked for this in the past and the BAC has also weighed in on this topic. We've seen best practices from other cities get into these exercises. We need to provide a map that would communicate where these shared streets are. The SMP is envisioned in two phases, phase 1 is wrapping up the end of this year. Phase 2 begins next year. This plan will take Charlotte one step further, to develop and embrace a clearer vision for equitable transportation in our city. The thinking is still very fresh and staff are relying on the core team to provide data inputs and

deliverables. They are also providing support to the Mayor's task force. CATS and the 2040 Comprehensive Plan are very important to coordinate with. We will have a rail trail study and make sure the vision is all incorporating. The task force is still in the process of developing the vision. Mr. Curry encouraged everyone to take the survey. Transportation equity will be a big focus so staff is trying to do a good job of getting input for typically underrepresented populations. Debra Franklin talked about hearing from the voiceless and is really happy to hear this. She wants to know who is on the task force? Mr. Curry showed on screen the names and organizations affiliated with the task force. Eric Zaverl offered to be available if anyone wants to reach out to him for more information since he is on the task force. Ms. Swanzy-Parker talked about affordable bikes not being available right now due to a bike sales surge from pandemic demand. She talked about the ReCyclery doing their part but wants to take it to another level. Adam Raskoskie thinks this is a bigger discussion topic than can be covered tonight but worth looking into. Caitlin Tobin said she is super excited and glad to be informed. She asked what are the near-term items to be aware of? Ms. Tobin asked if public engagement opportunities are the best way to provide feedback, or is there a better avenue. Mr. Curry said he definitely wants to hear the BAC's input specifically, not just from the public survey. He assured the group he will make sure the BAC is fully up to speed. A work session would be great said Caitlin Tobin.

#### *Bike CLT/Open Streets Update*

Will Washam stated staff is relying on Public Health to provide guidance on when it's safe to hold these events. They are shooting for November for both events. He is working with the consultant to hold virtual bike events you can do by yourself or with family. We cannot do the bigger events but may be able to still have some of the smaller community events. Mr. Washam prefers to make the decision as we move closer to the proposed date but still have some of these smaller gatherings throughout the year. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked to know is there is any guidance for participants to wear a mask, etc.? Mr. Washam replied yes, he is working closely with Public Health and any recommendations from them would be passed along. He emphasized that safety is the #1 priority. He mentioned they can put a cap on the event sign-up to keep numbers low enough to be safe. He said we probably won't be able to have the bike to breakfast but other smaller events can still be held.

#### Agenda Item #8 Member topics and updates

Debra Franklin said earlier Martin Zimmerman had a question about something and she would like to hear what he has to say. Veda Evan said she would like to have a more centralized place for education and encouragement materials on our government websites. She believes we could get better feedback if there was better dissemination of information. Adam Raskoskie suggested a bike info hub, but who would design and create it? He said the BAC can advocate for it. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker said as a follow up she would like to know who is the CLT website designer, to pose this question to have a hub? Will Washam replied yes, he can work on this, and suggested the best way to pose this would be to continue to develop this idea in the subcommittee and bring back better formed. He suggested the subcommittee decide what exactly would go into it. Martin Zimmerman wanted to know if new share the road signs are still going up? Will Washam said the State DOT does still use them. They are part of the MUTCD and there

are options for using them in conjunction with the bike warning sign, diamond shape. He pointed out that streets with sharrows do not have share the road signs, but we might still want to use them in some places where there might be conflicts. Debra Franklin thinks that cyclists think share the road means they can ride side by side. And cyclists don't always share the road with buses even when they have the right of way.

Agenda Item #9 Adjourn and confirm next meeting date

Adam Raskoskie adjourned the meeting at 8:01PM. The next BAC meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2020.

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