



**CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 26, 2019
6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05PM with eight members present.

Members Present: Debra L Franklin Nadine Ford Adam Raskoskie
 Bob Carter Milton Irizarry Jr. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
 Caitlin Tobin Bryan Hall

Members Absent: Gerry Kingsley Liza Pratt

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen

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 Neil Boyd of Start To Finish, Dick Winters, retiree, Laura Thomason, SRTS coordinator for Mecklenburg County, Bethanie Johnson of Bicycle Friday, and Charlotte Cadieux of Charlotte Bike Camp.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Dick Winters announced that that signage has been installed for bike playground at Arbor Glen. Will Washam showed a video tour that explains what it is for.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Bryan Hall noted that he was not marked absent in the February minutes. Bob Carter made a motion to approve the March minutes with that correction and they were then approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly Reports

- Chair's Report: Adam Raskoskie encouraged the BAC to attend a gathering on April 1.
- Staff Report: Will Washam said CDOT will be sharing operational support for the upcoming Open Streets. He also stated CDOT has provided money to bring instructors for the Cycling Savvy course. Mr. Washam thanked Dick Winters and the County for signs, and said Bike Charlotte is underway.

- City Council Report: Mr. Washam stated the Mayor has reshuffled City Council committee structure. He said he will reach out to the transportation committee to work together. The Mayor proclaimed Charlotte a Vision Zero city on Monday. Debra Franklin said it was an effort by CDOT staff and the police and now we will be able to be a part of the network officially. She hopes to attend the Vision Zero conference in NYC. Charlotte made a list of dangerous cities by design in 2016. Ms. Franklin said they are the same kind of deaths that are more often related to rural areas. She also said people are walking right into crosswalks when they have the walk signal despite approaching traffic and emphasized the need to take personal responsibility for their own safety. Ms. Franklin believes people respond differently to women and children and will stop. She would like to know the stats on who is getting hit—white males vs others?
- Board of County Commissioners: Adam Raskoskie said Heidi Pruett shared information on the County budget in terms of what they are doing for bikes. Mr. Raskoskie showed the Parks Resolution outlining funding priorities. He proposed collaborating more with the County Commission and would like to have a motion to send a letter to endorse these recommendations. Mr. Raskoskie suggested having Deborah and Bryan reach out as a follow up. Bob Carter agreed and made a motion to do so, Kaitlin Tobin seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Adam Raskoskie will get with reps to discuss next steps.
- Other Legislative reports: The House Bill that would require bicycle's to be registered is currently stalled but need to keep eyes on it.

Agenda Item #6 Subcommittee Reports

- Engineering and Evaluation: Kaitlin Tobin went over the tracking table to do a better job of keeping up with how projects are moving along. She is asking folks to help keep an eye on big projects and updates. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker asked to add county projects as well. Kaitlin Tobin agreed. The idea is to have more proactive Council support, not to be for shaming. The subcommittee is going to try to engage more with CDOT's public engagement process to understand how it works, timing, etc. Greenway closure announcements are another need to be added.
- Education & Encouragement: Bob Carter gave the update. He will try to introduce a couple new projects that fit under E&E, including Charlotte bike camp. Milton Irizarry showed a chart outlining different things being worked on by different groups, TFK and others. Bob Carter said he would like to track these projects in terms of funding to see what's left and what's needed so maybe the bike budget can help with funding. Milton Irizarry went over some of the initiatives that Charlotte Cadieux and Bethanie Johnson were to talk about tonight. He talked about involvement with Open Streets but wanted to know how the BAC would like to participate. Neil Boyd suggested managing the trike racing. Bob Carter offered to coordinate with Mr. Boyd. Kaitlin Tobin suggested just being a volunteer would be helpful and having BAC name tags for recognition. She said the BAC can also help recruit volunteers. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker suggested distributing bike maps and the family cycling guide at Open Streets. Bob said the bike plan too.

Agenda Item #7 New business

- Earn-a-Bike and CLT Bike Camp: Bethanie Johnson introduced Heather Rolfe and a YouTube video was shared showing what Bicycle Friday is all about. The ladies described how the program got started years ago at Park Road Montessori. And now JT Williams Montessori Middle School is doing rides on Tuesdays, as a bicycle school bus. Both rides start at Freedom Park. JTW riders came up through PRM rides so they can mentor new riders on safety. Bob Carter asked about news exposure and ride logistics. The presenters talked about the average number of kids who ride and stated there have been a lot of rainy days but they still rode. They try not to cancel because there have been so many rainy days this winter they would never ride. They choose leaders to let older kids lead rides. They get to school on time and ride back to Freedom Park after school. The goal this year is to become a nonprofit to apply for grants and have that legitimacy. Bob Carter wants to see BAC members get involved. Debra Franklin thinks they should look at having this as a class as alternative learning for credit as part of the CMS curriculum. She would like to get more schools involved. Bob Carter thinks this program is a good way to show use and need for greenways as safe transportation for school children commuting to school. He suggested using it to make the case for prioritizing specific segments of greenways and bike facilities near schools.

Charlotte Cadieux talked about Bike Camp. She said the idea behind this program is to show kids how to use bikes as a form of transit, how to get around the city by bike, all the places they can access. The program welcomes kids of all ages. They work with others throughout the city to show kids different things: community gardens, storm water, CDOT, mechanics at the ReCyclery. The program allows kids to practice safe riding in a safe environment before taking them out on the streets. It is very focused on the kids voices, their world, not just what adults think it should be. They establish rules together and the much of the program is actually lead by the kids. One of the goals is getting kids' ideas about what can be done to make the city better for bikes, a safer place to ride. The idea is to get them involved young so they grow up to be active citizens. There is a sliding scale fee to keep the program accessible for kids from all income level households. Another goal is to make connections to health, diet, exercise, and introduce them to fresh fruits and vegetables. Ms. Cadieux went on to describe the Grier Heights Bike Camp where they rode with a mom who wanted to lose weight. They had lots of support from onlookers as kids rode by. They see an incredible growth in self-confidence as kids learn to make complex turning movements and traffic maneuvers on their bikes. They are teaching the next generation on how to ride properly. Nadine Ford shared her niece's experience participating in this camp and how she has been inspired to start a bike program at her college now. The number of kids doubles every year and now there is a wait list this year, with little advertising, mostly word of mouth. Kaitlin Tobin asked if there is anyway this program interfaces with our city leaders? Heather Rolfe said through City Council they spoke in favor of the bike plan adoption. Kaitlin Tobin talked about how there really is a great biking culture in Charlotte, we just need to connect them under one umbrella. Adam Raskoskie said that could be part of the BAC's annual report and to include photos. He said there are other ways we can bring things to City Council's attention. Mr. Raskoskie also suggested getting on the TAP's

agenda to let them know what is going on in their community. Bob Carter said bring the kids for the Mayor's Ride.

- Bike! Charlotte 2019: Neil Boyd handed over to Will Washam to unveil that the uptown cycle track will have its ribbon-cutting to kick off the event. This year's theme is "Put your spin on it!" Will showed a presentation and went over dates for the Mayor's Ride, Shifting Gears, and CATS bikes on transit for free fare. He reiterated this will be the grand opening of phase one for the uptown cycle track and media will be there. The Mayor's Ride will start at Independence Park this year. CMPD will provide traffic control. Mr. Washam shared the route map. Jeff Viscount will be leading a group ride from Park Road Shopping Center. Debra Franklin suggested to put out stick in the ground signs so the general public knows to take an alternative route to give driving commuters a heads up and for promotion. She said it is best to have awareness before day of. Mr. Boyd mentioned however that it is for such a short period of time there will very little disruption. Mr. Washam mentioned OS704 being no longer funded by BCBS so now the City is the main funder through the bike program budget, but we are looking for a new title sponsor. Shifting Gears is really going to focus on education of how to properly use the new cycle track including guided rides in small groups to demo. Neil Boyd passed out posters and said we need cyclists to come out and ride; he encouraged the BAC to help spread the word and show up for events. Mr. Boyd went over the calendar of events/rides. Some things are put on every year, some are ongoing throughout the year. If you want to lead a ride please sign up, fill out info at on webpage. He also asked to like the webpage to help promote. Debra Franklin asked if Mr. Boyd has talked to CATS about doing the whole two weeks. Neil Boyd replied they have not be okay with this request in past years. He wants to use CATS bus bike rack video to show how to bring your bike on a city bus as a part of Bike! Charlotte. He also encouraged everyone to share the event on FaceBook. Lastly Mr. Boyd announced he is working with Well Run media to push out.
- Uptown Cycle Track update: Will Washam ran through some slides to give a quick overview of the project. The goal is to connect Little Sugar Creek Greenway to Irwin Creek Greenway through uptown, and to help Charlotte reach its vision of becoming a true city of bikes. Mr. Washam stated this will not be the only cycle track uptown however. There are no dedicated east-west bike facilities at this time. When complete, this project will create that for all ages and abilities. He went on to talk about Uptown Connects from 2016 as a big planning process to select a first corridor and figure out how to safely bring cyclists into uptown from all four directions. Mr. Washam went over the timeline and why CDOT chose the north side of the street. He said there is broad support for the project and it is really focused on increasing cyclists' comfort. CDOT worked with stakeholders to address concerns. Someone asked what about e-scooters using this facility? Where do they ride? Mr. Washam explained the alignment was evaluated in terms of balancing cyclists comfort with other road users, property owners, on-street parking, conflicts like parking deck ingress and egress. This alignment alleviates crossing over from the left to the right side of the street when it joins 5th street on the west

side of uptown, and aligns better with future development. He then went over the dimensions and said CDOT is working with vendors to test out some pilot materials for temporary installation of buffers. There will be pavement markings at conflict points, intersections, new to Charlotte, never been used before here. Mr. Washam showed a 3D video rendering. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker asked if there has been coordination with Carolina Theatre because of heavy equipment in the street. The answer was yes. She offered to connect to some other potential stakeholder along the corridor because she works in a building on this street. Adam Raskoskie asked why it looks like a sidewalk in one portion. Will Washam explained there are conflicts with loading/unloading, limited street width, and potential to redesign the streetscape because of the main library remodel. Will Washam thinks a raised cycle track is the best option and is working through the best design to delineate bike space from ped space to keep walkers out of the cycle track. CDOT staff worked with Discovery Place to relocate unloading space for school groups. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker asked about hotels. Will Washam replied staff coordinated with all the hotel managers along the route as well. Mr. Washam went over the implementation phases. Ph 1 is April 2019. Ph 2 will be in 2021. Bob Carter asked if the timeline could be accelerated. Will Washam replied this is the most accelerated timeline possible; the RNC slows down the process because no construction is allowed during this event. Mr. Washam showed a map of center city's emerging bike network; bike/ped "superhighways." He showed photos of work in progress. Debra Franklin asked if the general public knows about these lane closures. Will Washam said this notification has gone out the same way all other notifications go out, including signs in the street and on parking meters for the past couple weeks. Milton Irizarry asked to know how are we going to let the public know how to navigate this new infrastructure for all road users, both cyclists in people in cars. Mr. Washam replied Shifting Gears will be a start. Mr. Irizarry said what about getting this is added to the DMV test. Adam Raskoskie asked what about signs in the parking garages as drivers are pulling out to look for cyclists. It was mentioned that people also need to know what does the green paint mean. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker suggested to work with property owners to send out communication to all employees in these buildings. She said the biggest concern is parking decks. Ms. Swanzy-Parker suggest to use the media to help get out PSAs on this.

Agenda Item #8 Member topics

Milton Irizarry announced that next month there will be a presentation on the Trips for Kids Earn-A-Bike program.

Agenda Item #9 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The next BAC meeting is scheduled for April 23. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.