



CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 27, 2018
6:00 PM

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

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

Members Absent: Haley Beaupre Robert Boyer

Staff Present: Vivian Coleman Keith Sorensen Will Washam
Brandon Brezeale

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Adam Raskoskie called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

Agenda Item #2 Introductions of members and guests

Also present were Martin Zimmerman of Green Mobility Planning Studio, Jack Miller of Monroe Road Advocates (MoRA), Kristy Giballa Machusko of the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association, Joe Frey of Oakhurst CNA, Dick Winters with the Mecklenburg County Health Department, Jeff Viscount of Weekly Rides, Kate Cavazza of Sustain Charlotte, Neal Boyd of Bike! Charlotte, Ben Hutchins of MoRA, and Jay Wilson of Echo Hills.

Vivian Coleman introduced Will Washam, the new Bicycle Program Coordinator. Mrs. Coleman relayed to the group that Mr. Washam serves on the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) for the CRTPO, where he will continue to represent the interests of cyclists. Mr. Washam comes from the Town of Cornelius where he served as the town's Senior Planner. He is an avid cyclist. Mrs. Coleman said that as Mr. Washam's supervisor, she will be getting him up to speed to really dive into projects. Will Washam said he is very excited to be here and feels privileged to work for the City of Charlotte. Mr. Washam looks forward to learning how the city functions, how to navigate the processes and getting to know the advocates in the community. Mr. Washam said he looks forward to getting to know everyone on the committee.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Bob Carter made a motion to approve the February minutes, Debra Franklin seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Old Business

Budget and City Council updates

Adam Raskoskie shared a thank you note from the mayor for the BAC's bike plan recommendation. Mr. Raskoskie mentioned some important dates coming up. Bob Carter gave a subcommittee update on the recent budget committee workshop he attended. He shared that he got notes out to all the Council members in attendance and got to speak with a couple of the council members. Mr. Raskoskie announced that someone from the City's Budget Office will come to address the BAC next month. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker thanked Mr. Carter for attending the budget meeting.

Adam Raskoskie discussed the importance of talking about the bike plan and why it needs to be funded. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker said she will share the document via Google docs to edit the letter to Council and vote on the final form next month. She asked that comments be made before the May meeting. Adam Raskoskie went over dates for the straw vote and other city budget dates/deadlines. Debra Franklin asked to know if the group is going to break out the different topics for the public hearing. The answer was no because only three minutes is allowed to speak so they must stay very focused. Bob Carter shared he has been distributing the bike plan to area bike shops. Adam Raskoskie asked for thoughts on coordinating a public presence at the council hearing. Bob Carter suggested using Sustain Charlotte to outreach to their membership. Adam Raskoskie suggested reaching out to other community organizations as well to help. Bob Carter suggested coming up with a catchy slogan, or hashtag, and focus on the younger block of council members. Adam Raskoskie suggested Council member Egleston would be good to reach out to. Milton Irizarry asked why the group wants to get the general public there. The reply was for support, to show numbers beyond just the BAC. Mr. Irizarry suggested maybe to have an event/gathering afterward to help encourage more people to come. Debra Franklin said she doesn't want the presentation to Council to be phony or staged feeling, that it should be heartfelt; they should say why bicycling is genuinely important to them. Adam Raskoskie and Bob Carter agreed. Milton Irizarry said after the public hearing the BAC can talk to Council more about the BAC's mission and goals. Bob Carter said he wants to know how many hits the bike plan has gotten online. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker offered to create posters for the four different talking points with images/messages to hold up facing the Council during the public hearing. She suggested they could also have the five Es. The following action item was agreed upon: get the graphic into a printable version, use google docs to edit, and collaborate between now and the next meeting. It was suggested to think about wording to reinforce the ideas, and to keep it very visual and simple.

Agenda Item #6 New Business

Independence Trail South

Adam Raskoskie introduced the Independence Trail South project and gave a little background. Mr. Raskoskie said he is excited to hear from the neighborhood representatives because this is one of the BAC's goals for the year, to hear from the community. Kate Cavazza pulled up a Power Point Presentation and gave an overview of the south Independence area advance planning document on the project webpage, which identified Independence Trail South as a project selected to move forward. Ms. Cavazza described the project as a pedestrian bike path approximately following the CATS silver line, with no bike facility on Monroe Rd. She outlined the main difference between the community's plan/desires and presented by the City in recent public meetings which showed several connections and she said confused residents who came to the meetings. The City removed the Independence Trail name from the project without explanation. Ms. Cavazza unrolled a map and showed the proposed route supported by Sustain Charlotte and neighborhoods, which would use the existing tunnel under Television Drive rather than a crosswalk. Another key would be a safe, grade-separated crossing of Wendover, which would be grade separated rather than crossing 6 lanes of high speed traffic on Wendover in a mid-block crossing that would have to be authorized by NCDOT. Instead, she proposed an underpass benched under the Wendover bridge safely off to the side of Independence Blvd. To get over the on/ramps she proposed bridging over or moving the existing crosswalks further from Independence so that sight distances allowed sufficient time to cross one ramp at a time and stop in the median. She compared this idea to the Belk greenway connector that is currently planned using the exact same idea to pass under roads that bridge over the Belk Freeway on the south side of Uptown. . . Ms. Cavazza talked about the benefit of connecting residents to city owned facilities like Bojangles Coliseum and Ovens Auditorium. She said there is money available from the Southeast Corridor projects being cancelled. She ended by stating this would be good economic investment in this part of the city.

Jack Miller with MoRA spoke next, first talking about what is Monroe Road Advocates' purpose and mission. Mr. Miller said his group is very interested in this project, in creating a unified vision for the Monroe Rd. corridor. He outlined the goals, what they would like to see: connecting neighborhoods and businesses along the corridor. Mr. Miller stated they want to make the corridor more ped and bike friendly. He envisions more of a trail that is linear, more direct, easy to use and comfortable. Mr. Miller said he is very interested in how the proposal could be improved from what they saw at public meetings. He declared this area is an underserved area of the city. Mr. Miller claimed that with the Pierson Dr. Extension on ice, that money could be used for this project instead, and he would love to see the bikeway go all the way out to McAlpine creek greenway to connect those neighborhoods as well. Finally he ended by saying there is lots of low income multifamily households in this corridor that would really benefit.

Jeff Viscount said that what excites him about this plan is that it creates a lot of connection which is the number one problem in Charlotte. We have a lot of incomplete bike lanes that go nowhere, he said. Mr. Viscount said Monroe Rd. does not have room for bike lanes. A road diet or right of way acquisition would be required; this proposal is easier to do than that, he said.

Jay Wilson was the next speaker. Mr. Wilson said he lives in the Echo Hills neighborhood, which is somewhat isolated due to many decades of poor planning at the state level. He said the legacy of this can have influence over our decision making processes today. Mr. Wilson declared that what is needed is confidence to make bold moves. He sees this proposal as a rare opportunity with money left over from cancelled projects. Mr. Wilson said it is dangerous to brave crossing, riding or walking on Monroe Rd. He also stated that nobody is really crazy about the plans being offered by CDOT and that he appreciates the opportunity to address the BAC.

The next speaker was Kristy Giballa representing the Oakhurst neighborhood. She talked about how the Independence Bikeway would really affect this neighborhood, which came out against the Pierson Drive extension, but are excited to use that money for greenways and trails, and other nonvehicle connections. Ms. Giballa said just having a bike routes thru the neighborhood is not enough. People are not biking in the neighborhood today for a reason, she said. Ms. Giballa said this proposal could be transformational. Milton Irizarry asked for clarification on the route. Joe Frey explained that the silver line is still at least 20 years out and that there is a chance to buy some properties now, that CATS will have to buy anyway, and build a trail ahead of the rail project. Mr. Frey suggested that \$20 million that was allocated for two projects that he was told are not moving forward—the Pierson Drive extension and the Independence Frontage Road project—could be used for this instead. He said it would create synergy between this and city money going into redeveloping the coliseum area—the Merchant Mart and Ovens Auditorium.

Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker talked about how to leverage the financial impact. Adam Raskoskie thanked everyone for sharing their thoughts and said he thinks it would be good to hear from staff to see about the money and silver line being better integrated. Brandon Brezeale spoke up to address this. Mr. Brezeale explained about the Pierson Drive project funds also being part of southeast land acquisition, smaller projects that did not have funding, that this money will now go toward. He mentioned that the City had two public meetings and also an online public meeting that closed and now they are collecting the data to synthesize. Joe Frey asked if the neighborhoods have been informed about how these funds would be reallocated. Jeff Viscount asked does it make sense to go back and show the public this new option. Brandon Brezeale agreed and said he will go back and ask the consultant to do that. Debra Franklin asked how the City's plans would handle the crossing at Independence Blvd. Brandon Brezeale said it would improve crossings at Wendover and Monroe and Briar Creek. Bob Carter said he would love to hear about what is the time table for getting a decision about reallocating the funds. Brandon Brezeale replied that in the next couple months they should have a better understanding. He said they are anticipating construction to begin in 2022. Bob Carter said he wants to know how to fast track the project? He said it would help the BAC to be able to endorse the project to the community. Adam Raskoskie asked the group what action the BAC should take. Milton Irizarry suggested maybe simplifying the map or having several versions of the alternate routes not all on one map. Joe Frey mentioned it would be better to not build bikeways on Monroe Rd. because there is not enough room, that it is not going to work. He said beautify Monroe Rd., but no bikeways. Bob Carter proposed as an action item for the next meeting to meet with Brandon Brezeale and other CDOT staff before the May meeting. Adam Raskoskie proposed to take up

this topic after CDOT has finalized the route. He stated there is no need for an official vote at this time, but rather to wait and see what CDOT brings back from the next public meeting.

Bike! Charlotte

Neal Boyd passed out Bike! Charlotte fliers and posters for members to distribute throughout the city to promote the event, and he went over the timeline. Mr. Boyd encouraged members to attend or organize their own events. The Charlotte Observer will run an ad on April 25. Debra Franklin said she would like to do something with equity and enforcement for a ride theme this year. She wants to organize a ride that will get non-cyclists out on a ride, and would especially like to outreach to the black community. Ms. Franklin suggested doing something at the newly created bike playground with police officers to have a positive interaction with the community. Neal Boyd said he needs event info in the next 2 weeks. Mr. Boyd said CATS has still not committed dates for bikes on transit. And he clarified that dockless bikes will not be free during Bike! Charlotte. Adam Raskoskie said Debra Franklin, Bob Carter and Nadine Ford comprise the Bike! Charlotte subcommittee and will come up with ideas before the next meeting. Bob Carter suggested name tags or something to identify BAC members during the mayor's ride. He encouraged all members to participate.

Open Streets

Bob Carter and Debra Franklin did not meet to discuss adopt-a-block as they were both busy that day. Ms. Franklin said she has a ride scheduled for Open Streets. Adam Raskoskie stated that the BAC will not have an official presence.

Agenda Item #7 Updates

Keith Sorensen took a group photo of the BAC members in attendance to update the webpage.

Agenda Item #8 Other Business

Dick Winters announced there is a project to put balance bikes in every elementary school, between Strider, CMS and Public Health.

Adam Raskoskie shared that project selections for the Southpark CNIP will be revealed on April 10 at an open house drop-in from 11am to 7pm at the Morrison Library.

Nadine Ford invited the group to come be a part of Dianna Ward's Open Streets ride. Bob Carter said he wants to know when transportation will be discussed at the next Council budget meeting. There was a brief discussion about getting more BAC members certified to teach safe road cycling skills classes, including LCI of Cycling Savvy. Nadine Ford said the idea behind the ride is to show non-cyclists that not just people with DUIs or in spandex ride bikes.

Agenda Item #9 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 24.