



CHARLOTTE

**BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 22, 2018
6:00 PM**

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

Members Present: Debra L Franklin Bryan Hall Adam Raskoskie
Bob Carter Milton Irizarry Jr. Robby Boyer

Members Absent: Haley Beaupre Buzz Morley Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker

Staff Present: Scott Correll Keith Sorensen Will Washam

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Adam Raskoskie called the meeting to order at 6:06PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introductions of members and guests

Also present was Jeff Viscount of Weekly Rides, Dick Winters with Safe Routes to School, Kate Cavazza of Sustain Charlotte, Martin Zimmerman of Green Mobility Planning Studio, and David Crawford, interested citizen.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Kate Cavazza announced Shifting Gears will be held at CPCC in the Ziest Building. Martin Zimmerman thanked everybody for helping secure \$4 million for the bike program budget. Dick Winters asked about Mr. Boyer's research study article that was published recently; he would like to have a copy.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Mr. Sorensen explained what changes were made to the March minutes after they were approved by the BAC at the April meeting. The edits reflect corrections made by one of the presenters. Debra Franklin made a motion to approve the March minutes as corrected, the motion received a second by Bob Carter and was passed unanimously. Mr. Carter made a motion to pass the April minutes which was seconded by Mr. Irizarry and approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 New business

Uptown cycle track

Mr. Correll gave a presentation explaining the background for the idea came from the Uptown Connects Study which identified ways to connect people to uptown of all ages and abilities. Mr. Correll showed a map of all the cycling facilities illustrating a gap through uptown. Sustain Charlotte hosted Biketober Fest as part of the kickoff and the cycle track was kept up for one week to be able to collect data. Mr. Correll went over the logistics of setup and supplies used; plants, hay bales, artwork, etc. There were 600 cyclists on the opening Sunday. CDOT looked at travel time to measure congestion, looked at bike counts and crashes (none related to the pilot), and parking revenue lost. The group was shown travel time comparisons of September averages with and without the cycle track. Mr. Correll described the impact of the thunderstorm on Monday. And he showed the change on Wednesday after signal timing adjustments at Cedar. Mr. Correll stated he feels really good about the data and proceeded to show the traffic counts. Traffic counts did not drop at all during the pilot, which shows the importance of maintaining automobile traffic flow. Cyclists loved it, motorists generally did not, pedestrians were generally indifferent except they felt safer. Mr. Viscount asked why 46% of motorists felt less safe. Mr. Correll replied he is not sure; there are lots of individual comments. The merge at 5th and 6th streets and cars trying to exit parking decks were some of the reasons mentioned. Mr. Winters asked about losing the green paint due to rain. Mr. Correll replied they repainted just the main intersections. Staff checked on the installation every day and fixed as needed. The key findings are that these streets can process traffic with little increase to traffic times/delay. 5th and 6th remain important traffic routes. The perception of safety greatly improved for cyclists with no adverse impacts to drivers. But there is a need to work on improving exit times from parking decks. Mr. Carter asked if you can also correlate bike counts with taking car trips off the street. Will Washam explained that next steps will be working with a technical oversight team and consultant on data collection, surveys and moving into June and July working with key stakeholders, with an alternative analysis to the public in August and have fully designed by July of 2019. Mr. Carter asked what happens after full design. Mr. Correll pointed out that construction is not funded as of right now but they are looking for money. He said the stakeholders are Childress Klien, the Fourth Ward Neighborhood Association, Cousins Properties, and CCP. Mr. Viscount said he thinks the project is moving very slowly. Mr. Correll replied CDOT has to coordinate with other projects; such as a large office tower under construction and a major sewer project. Mr. Carter asked if it would be appropriate for the BAC to advocate these stakeholders. Mr. Raskoskie said that it's better to do that on your own time because of the BAC bylaws and being an advisory body, not an advocacy organization. He proposed it could be done as public outreach. Mr. Raskoskie asked if there were any more comments. Ms. Franklin asked about Tryon and Stonewall having a makeshift sidewalk during construction of a new building. Mr. Correll said the sidewalk will be replaced with a 20 ft. sidewalk and plaza. Ms. Franklin said the area needs better signage about where to walk/bike and pretty it up. Mr. Carter wanted to know what the regulations are for temporary sidewalk. Mr. Raskoskie suggested to devote the topic to a future agenda.

New Active Transportation Coordinator

Mr. Raskoskie introduced Scott Curry as the new Active Transportation Coordinator and explained how he will be involved with the BAC. Mr. Curry explained how Vivian Coleman's promotion left a vacancy and her previous position became this new position. CDOT saw the opportunity to recast this position to oversee both the bike and ped programs and find ways to coordinate between the two along with urban place-making and pilot projects. Mr. Curry explained how this new program allows citizens to re-envision the use of the public right-of-way. Mr. Curry went on to talk a little bit about himself and his passion for what he does. He said he is excited to have Will Washam to work with and is looking forward to a new Pedestrian Program Coordinator being hired. And he is excited to continue to work with the BAC. Ms. Franklin asked about transitions. Bob Carter asked what is "place-making?" Mr. Curry used Park(ing) Day as an example, along with the parklet that was installed at Church St. behind the Latta Arcade across from Romare Bearden Park. He said the idea is to do something quick and cheap to instigate longer term improvements, to get buy-in, public support. Mr. Curry discussed some of the recent installations in NYC as examples. Mr. Curry said CDOT and Planning are reaching out to neighborhoods, but could use the BAC's help to get the word out to neighborhood advocates. Mr. Hall asked if there is any outreach or communication with other towns in the county outside of Charlotte. Mr. Curry replied that they do try to coordinate through the MPO. Mr. Raskoskie asked how about coordination between the ped and bike programs. Mr. Curry talked about using ped projects to try and get bike improvements, like a protected intersection that helps both modes. Mr. Carter said that some greenway sections don't accommodate pedestrians and bikes very well together. He would like to see a better job of that here in Charlotte—separate the two modes—especially if commuting so a cyclist can get to work on time. Mr. Raskoskie suggested this is a good way to work more with County staff. Mr. Curry stated that his former position will be posted in the next month.

City Manager's recommended budget

Mr. Raskoskie said the budget will be a done deal next time the BAC meets. He stated it is good to know that City Manager recommends the full \$4 million. Mr. Raskoskie feels that the BAC was heard, but need to keep in mind that it is a recommendation only and not yet final; the group still needs to keep in touch with Council and encourage people to speak up. He noted there was a motion by one Council member to cut the bike budget. There is one more adjustment session on May 30 and the new budget is to be adopted on June 11. Mr. Raskoskie reminded the group there are a lot of competing items so they need to keep up with outreach. Mr. Viscount suggested focusing on the three Council members who voted to cut the bike budget, and show them that there is a real need for this money for Charlotte to catch up after not having a funded bike program for so long. Mr. Raskoskie suggested also thanking those who voted in favor. He asked if the BAC wants to reach out to the three Council members mentioned. Ms. Franklin suggested it best to let sleeping dogs lie. Mr. Raskoskie said he thinks the will to cut has ended with that motion failing. Mr. Carter said he has reached out to Councilman Driggs already. Mr. Viscount said that the other two are not going to push for the vote again because they don't have the support. Mr. Boyer suggested it would be good to send thank you emails for those who do

support the funding to keep the focus positive. Mr. Carter suggested Mr. Raskoskie as Chair reach out and send a letter reflecting the BAC consensus, representing the committee as a whole. Mr. Carter made a motion for this proposal, Milton Irizarry seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Mr. Raskoskie asked Will Washam how the money should be spent. Mr. Carter replied that the bike program budget is laid out in the bike plan. Mr. Washam explained that the money still needs to be passed with the November bonds and would be available Jan 1 of 2019. He is tasked with how and where to encumber this money to get started on specific projects. Mr. Washam stated there are already many good things happening and there are opportunities to support these existing projects to add bike elements that might not otherwise be funded. Mr. Raskoskie said the BAC would love to provide advisement on how the money is to be spent. Mr. Washam replied that as soon as he has a better grasp of the process he will come back and share. Mr. Carter talked about the \$3 mil allocation in the bike plan for facility construction and asked can that be spent on the cycle track? Will Washam replied that we first need to confirm real costs for the project, and assess if CDOT wants to spend the lion's share of the money on one infrastructure project in the first year out of the gate. Or will CDOT use this money to supplement existing projects to get the buffered bike lane that we want but would not get otherwise. Bob Carter suggested using the money on the uptown cycle track to expedite construction. Milton Irizarry asked are we repaving or just repainting 5th St. Will Washam replied we are not moving the curb line. Mr. Washam talked about doing some other quick win projects to keep momentum, and promised to keep the BAC updated. Adam Raskoskie said if the budget is approved it's very exciting because we have been talking so much about this budget and now we can talk about how to spend it. He suggested the group begin to think about what subcommittees to work on, and what the second half of the year is going to look like. Mr. Raskoskie also suggested the BAC could do outreach to convince voters to vote for the bonds. Martin Zimmerman said that education was taken out of the operating budget rather than bond budget and so maybe available separate from bond money?

Agenda Item #6 Old business

There was no old business to discuss.

Agenda Item #7 Other business

Adam Raskoskie said he will try to include more action items on the agenda that are things the BAC can vote on. Ms. Franklin wanted to know about the scooters that have recently shown up around Charlotte. Will Washam explained how the City has worked with the operators desiring to deploy scooters in the public ROW to create a permit and have received two applications so far: Byrd and Spin, and anticipating Razor. Ms. Franklin asked what was the City's initial response? Will Washam explained that the City Attorney issued a cease and desist order to LimeBike for deploying their scooters without permission. Mr. Washam said the scooters are additional to the bikes so operators do not have to reduce the number of bikes: 100 scooters for companies with bikes and 300 if no bikes. Mr. Hall asked what is the difference between the scooters being on the sidewalk or in the street? Will Washam replied they are allowed to be in the street but not on the sidewalk although they would be allowed outside of uptown similar to bikes. Debra Franklin noted she sees users riding on the wrong side of the street. Jeff Viscount

said he doesn't think that allowing fewer scooters because you already have bikes is a good idea because data from other cities shows that more scooters supports further bike share trips. Robby Boyer said he thinks because it is a shared app that works for both modes it should actually be complimentary. Mr. Viscount said he thinks that limiting the numbers will skew the data. Bryan Hall wanted to know how safety is handled. Will Washam replied that not a lot of data is available because they have just showed up recently in other cities too. He also noted that we rely on state law for helmet requirements, which are required for riders under 16. Mr. Washam mentioned there is a live survey on the bike share page to collect data, and he noted that we can only get reported crash data. Bob Carter said he sees scooters impacting pedestrians. Adam Raskoskie said he thinks there needs to be safety education even more than for bikes. Jeff Viscount said they are a lot of fun and not as dangerous as you may think. Mr. Viscount said crash report data from the police needs to become more specific if we are to do a better job of tracking, in terms of whether the rider was on a bike share bike and whether the crash was truly a pedestrian or a cyclist. Debra Franklin said she thinks it's unfair to limit operators with bikes to 100 scooters.

Robby Boyer announced the upcoming Sustainability Summit June 7 to 9. He said the agenda is posted and please come if you can. There will be workshops and panels on all sorts of issues: transportation, greenways, food, housing, climate, environment, etc. And there will be a state of local sustainability address. The summit will take place on the UNCC Center City campus. There will be short films on Thursday evening about climate change.

Agenda Item #8 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54PM. The next meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2018.