



**CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 28, 2019
6:00 PM**

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

Members Present: Debra L Franklin Nadine Ford Adam Raskoskie
Liza Pratt Milton Irizarry Jr. Gerry Kingsley
Caitlin Tobin Bryan Hall Bob Carter (via telephone)

Members Absent: Gerry Kingsley

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen Kathy Dennis

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 Kate Cavazza, Built Environment & Injury Prevention Coordinator for Mecklenburg County Health Dept. Kayla Franklin, granddaughter of Debra Franklin, and Martin Zimmerman.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Martin Zimmerman asked if the new streetcars would have bicycle accommodation.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the Minutes

The minutes from the April 23rd BAC meeting were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly Reports

- Chair's Report: Adam Raskoskie was recruited to serve as the BAC rep for the Charlotte Streets Map Stakeholders committee.
- Staff Report: Will Washam explained the Streets Map will be adopted with the UDO to show cross sections for major thoroughfares. This is a big effort. Transit Oriented Development (TOD) is being pulled out separately. In October Council will vote on a big rezoning package. This will include all elements of the cross sections for all road users, similar to what was done for the bike plan. Mr. Washam shared an example of the draft. Ms. Tobin asked if the street cross sections are the desired cross sections. Mr. Washam replied that yes, it's aspirational. Ms. Pratt asked if this will become part of the UDO. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked how will consistency be tracked across a corridor. Mr.

Washam replied that it will be fully vetted, that the bike plan is essentially informing the Streets Map.

- Charlotte Streets Map: Mr. Washam stated the goal is to bring a draft of the bike network map to the June BAC meeting. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if the Streets Map will be accessible on a mobile device. Mr. Washam replied that it will be available in a digital format but will not be an interactive map. Mr. Irizarry said he would like to talk about intersection treatments because he feels that is the most important since that's where crashes happen most often.
- 6th Street Cycle Track: Mr. Washam gave an update on the uptown cycle track. He said construction will resume after the RNC. Mr. Raskoskie asked about small tweaks. Mr. Washam replied planters are being tested for maintenance and signage can be tweaked during the pilot. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if other barriers can be used besides planters. Mr. Washam replied the permanent installation will have a concrete barrier with planters on top. Mr. Irizarry asked if staff are gathering feedback from cyclists. Mr. Washam replied that tube counters have been placed across the cycle track to monitor usage. Mr. Irizarry suggested asking Charlotte bike commuters why they use it or don't.
- Shifting Gears: Mr. Washam stated the event was a good educational opportunity; there were six different stations with approximately forty riders. CDOT Design staff went out with groups of six to demonstrate how to use the cycle track. Mr. Washam showed photos of the ride tour. Adam Raskoskie asked how many riders showed up for the Mayor's Ride. Mr. Washam said he counted 150 cyclists in the photos. Ms. Franklin had a question about the ped signal; she said someone did not know what the term ped means. Mr. Washam stated the sign is MUTCD approved. Mr. Raskoskie suggested rephrasing to "Use the walk signal" instead of "ped." Ms. Swanzy-Parker would like to have bigger signs so that drivers can read the bicycle wayfinding signs from their cars as they are driving by. Ms. Tobin thinks this is unnecessary since the signs are intended to aid cyclists in finding their way and route selection. The font size is based on a 10mph bike speed. Kathy Dennis has heard that people really like the green painted bike lanes and that people would like to see more pavement markings in the cycle track. She used the 4th St. bike lane as an example—how do you know it's a bike lane after College St?
- Board of County Commissioners: Adam Raskoskie stated he saw some progress in the County's budget in terms of parks and greenways, but that it basically gets back to pre-recession numbers. He said it's a little disappointing. Mr. Raskoskie said the final vote on the budget is next month and he encouraged BAC members to contact their County Commissioners.

Agenda Item #6 Standing Subcommittee Reports

- Engineering & Evaluation: Caitlin Tobin said she will ID who the County contact is in Gwen Cook's absence. Adam Raskoskie said Katie Loyd is Gwen's contact while she is out.
- Education & Encouragement: No updates. Debra Franklin said she has been using the cycle track and getting comments from people. People thought it would be more car-free, so we need more greenways to increase cycling because people are still afraid to

ride in the streets, even in a cycle track. It may feel safer for someone who already rides but not fearless. Ms. Pratt said she thinks phase 2 will be closer to people's expectations.

Agenda Item #7 New Business

- **Parking in Bike Lanes:** Mr. Washam introduced the topic and said cars parking in bike lanes is nothing new, it's been going on for years. The city has no policy explicitly prohibiting parking in bike lanes. The city has the ability to sign no parking. Staff have been observing the behavior and have come up with solutions. Mr. Washam said he wanted to bring these ideas to the BAC to weigh in on because the issue has gotten some press coverage recently. CMPD had a press release recently to educate drivers. They have also admitted being part of the problem. CATS also stages their express buses in the 4th St. bike lane. Kathy Dennis talked about Park It and the services they offer, parking enforcement in uptown, Southend, Elizabeth, NoDa, and parts of Plaza Midwood. She said our challenges are not just bike lanes but also travel lanes, fire hydrants, sidewalks, etc. A \$25 citation is not enough to discourage some individuals from parking illegally; they are willing to take the risk because it's not enough of a deterrent. And high-profile members of the community think it should not apply to them. Ms. Dennis talked about how parking violations not only impede the flow of traffic but endanger other road users. Park It has a conservative approach to towing because there are not enough staff to enforce the follow-thru. The more money at stake the higher the compliance rate. Charlotte is far lower than most other U.S. cities. We are geared toward being nice. We need to strike a balance. Ms. Dennis suggested the BAC needs to consider what they recommend and be careful not to go to high, but thinks it needs to be at least \$50. Parking in front of a fire hydrant is a \$100 fine. Mr. Irizarry asked if the city could contract out to part-time workers to issue citations. Ms. Dennis said illegal parking is CMPD's last priority. You can report to 311 but nothing happens. Mr. Raskoskie recommended putting a BAC subcommittee to work on this issue. He said if you can ticket for improper parking then you should be able to ticket for parking in a bike lane. Ms. Dennis said she is happy to provide more info and will share it with Mr. Washam to disseminate. She said they will beef up enforcement during the RNC. Ms. Dennis said at \$10 an hour pay they cannot hold on to Park It employees; there is a lot of turnover.
- **Rail Trail bridge:** Will Washam the city has been working on connecting the rail trail over I-277 since it was first built. Currently walkers and cyclists have to cut over to Tryon or South Boulevard to get over I-277 and continue along the rail trail. Staff is working with the Charlotte Convention Center to make this connection when the building is remodeled. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if this would happen before or after the RNC. Mr. Washam replied that in all likelihood this would happen after the RNC. He showed other connecting pathways on Google Maps that can be used in the meantime. Detailed planning and design are just now beginning. The project has a budget of \$11.2 million. City Council gave a letter of consent so the City Manager can spend up to that amount.

Mr. Washam went over the project timeline and said the Charlotte Convention & Visitors Bureau intends to break ground early in 2022.

- City Budget: Adam Raskoskie talked about the BAC letter to City Council written to encourage Council to look for ways to fund the XCLT. He said the City Manager has announced \$52 million has been found to help fund completing the trail. Mr. Washam talked about how helpful BAC recommendations are and that there will be a straw vote on the CM's proposed budget this week. Mr. Washam stated the CM worked very hard with his finance team across all departments to find money for the XCLT. He went on to talk about the difference in funding estimates based on the master plan versus detailed engineering plans for each segment. Mr. Washam went over which segments will be built with this money and that segments 10 and 11 will have planning funded with this money. He also reminded the group that this is just a proposal at this time and Council needs to vote on it. Adam Raskoskie recommended sending a letter to Council urging them to support this funding for the trail. There was some discussion about where the money is coming from and whether or not it would take money away from other worthy projects. Mr. Washam explained that the money is left over from other completed projects that were never closed out. Debra Franklin made a motion to write the letter of support. Caitlin Tobin seconded the motion and all members voted in favor except for Bryan Hall who had to leave early.

Agenda Item #8 Member Topics

Adam Raskoskie announced that Bryan Hall is moving to Texas so there will be two vacancies on the committee.

Agenda Item #9 Confirm next meeting and adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM. The next BAC meeting is scheduled for June 25.