



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

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

Members Present: Debra L Franklin Milton Irizarry Jr. Bob Carter
Liza Pratt Caitlin Tobin Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
Adam Raskoskie Bob Carter Gerry Kingsley

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Will Washam

Agenda Item #1 Call to Order

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

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present were Eric Zaverl of Sustain Charlotte, Kate Cavazza with Mecklenburg County Health Department, Laura Thomason, SRTS Coordinator for the County, Dick Winters, and Terry Lansdell of Walk/Bike NC.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

There was no comment from the public.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

The October minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly Reports

- Chair's Report: Adam Raskoskie announced there are three vacancies on the committee, two City Council and one County Commission. Recommendations have been submitted but votes to fill these positions will not take place until January. He is hoping to have three new members joining in 2020. As has traditionally been the case, instead of a meeting in December, there will be a holiday party at a restaurant to celebrate all the good work the BAC has done this past year. Mr. Raskoskie will send out dates to see what date works best for everyone.
- Staff Report: Will Washam gave an update from the NC Bike/Walk Summit. He talked about the range of professionals from different communities across the state and the great educational opportunities. Mr. Washam went on to talk about the bus/bike only lane; he

explained why the project was delayed. More time was needed before everyone felt comfortable moving forward with the project. December 14th is the tentative install date to be ready for use on December 16th. Mr. Washam said he will send out the project link. A survey will be released in early January for booth transit riders and cyclists to evaluate user experience. Staff are also looking at travel time impacts on motorists. A UNC Charlotte student will also be monitoring for her master's thesis. Staff hope to incorporate her findings into the CDOT report. Gerry Kingsley noted one of the platforms are in place. Will Washam explained the difference between the floating bus stops and the bus/bike only lanes. Mr. Washam went on to talk about the Charlotte Town tunnel closure. He had a meeting with the construction manager. The project team did not realize this was part of an active bike route and that is why notice was not given. The worse-case scenario is that the tunnel will be closed until April 2021. A reroute detour will be signed to Elizabeth across Kings. Staff are looking at options to reopen the tunnel sooner if possible, depending on phasing of construction. Debra Franklin asked if the tunnel was going to be permanently closed. Will Washam replied no, it was always planned to reopen after work is complete. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker asked if there is/was no signage to indicate this is part of a bike route. Mr. Washam replied yes, there was, but it is very small. Ms. Tobin asked if there is a requirement for the City to provide alternative bike accommodation in the same way as pedestrians. Will Washam said yes, but typically the detour is the same for cyclists because they are using the street like cars. But because this tunnel is not part of the public ROW it was overlooked. There is general agreement that it needs to be communicated earlier. Gerry Kingsley wanted to know if the tunnel will be locked during sporting events. The project manager says the path will remain open and there will be additional bike parking added to the stadium and Independence Park as a part of this project. Adam Raskoskie shared that he has used that tunnel during past events. Gerry Kingsley talked about the map that shows all the numbered bike routes and is challenging to use on a mobile phone. He would like to know if the city intends to provide a better bike route map that functions better. Will Washam said there are plans to update at a later date.

- City Council Report: Adam noted that the mayor has been very vocal lately about getting people out of cars and onto transit.
- Board of County Commissioners' Report: none.
- Other Legislative Reports: none.

Agenda Item #6 Standing subcommittee reports

- Engineering & Evaluation: Ms. Tobin said they had a joint meeting with the other subcommittee in November to discuss how they can be more effective in advising City Council. Will Washam attended and was helpful. They are thinking about the next phase of funding and projects to keep supporting biking in the city. They would like to explore different ideas from crowd sourcing. They also talked about some more imminent upcoming needs from the shared used path and greenways perspective, the differences between City vs County markings. They feel there is a need to better delineate who has the right-of-way on these facilities. Mr. Carter said he would like to follow up on what

money has been spent on what projects in 2019 with the \$2 mil and what will the other \$2 mil be spent on in 2020. Mr. Carter is trying to better understand the advocacy role and thinks we need to spend less time in the weeds. He is excited about the uptown cycle track connections and what they will do for cycling in Charlotte. Gerry Kingsley said it's hard to find the numbered routes due to missing signs, which would be easy to fix by adding more signs. Will Washam said he would like to give a presentation on the City's bicycle wayfinding standards at a future meeting. Caitlin Tobin suggested sending the wayfinding standards to the BAC ahead of the presentation to be able to review prior to the meeting. Mr. Carter agreed that this needs to be a priority. He went on to talk about the role of the subcommittees to digest the info and share a summary with the larger group. Ms. Franklin said she thinks they are not really doing anything in the subcommittees. Adam Raskoskie clarified that attendance at the subcommittees are not mandatory. Caitlin Tobin stated her subcommittee has met every month since being formed. Bob Carter said they only missed one month. Adam Raskoskie pointed out that hopefully there will be more subcommittee support when the three vacancies are filled. Ms. Franklin would like to have agendas for the subcommittees and stated she thinks we could be doing more.

Agenda Item #7 BAC business

- Parking in bike lanes recommendation letter

Adam Raskoskie introduced why this topic is important, being for the safety of cyclists. He went over the enforcement challenges. Caitlin Tobin went over the key changes from last month's draft and said the feedback from Angela Berry was she feels the language is consistent with the city's Vision Zero plan. Parking or standing in a bike lane should be a \$50 fine. They are hoping to get a resolution of support from the BAC to send to Council for consideration. Ms. Tobin reminded that other cities fine a lot more. Gerry Kingsley wondered if maybe we want to also provide a recommendation that Council advise the public on how to deal with it when someone sees a car parked in a bike lane. Mr. Carter thinks this is not appropriate as a part of this letter. He believes it best to keep the focus on just the fine first. Adam Raskoskie thinks this would be step two. And he confirmed that calling 911 is the appropriate thing to do. Bob Carter reminded of the importance of having a one on one relationship with a Council member to better advocate. He said we need to revisit that with new Council members. Debra Franklin said her concern is that this might not be well received by some of the community. She thinks that education and encouragement should be the first step before enforcement because some people still don't understand what bike lanes are. Bob Carter said he knows that commercial delivery drivers know they are breaking the law but are willing to take the risk. Gerry Kingsley asked if we are recommending anything more than increasing the fines. Caitlin Tobin explained that Park It does not have the legal recourse to collect unpaid fines under \$50. Ms. Swanzy-Parker said she feels like we are only getting a tiny piece of the issue with this and would like to talk more about how the general public can be educated. Bob Carter feels like this letter is the action step that has come out of the past two meetings discussing this issue. Will Washam explained how the request would be handled by the Transportation & Planning Committee were it to go

before them as a recommendation in terms of how to enforce, collaboration with CMPD and CDOT. Bob Carter made a motion to approve the letter, Caitlin seconded. Gerry Kingsley offered to add a paragraph about enforcement, Debra Franklin seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

- NCDOT Complete Streets Policy continued

Will Washam gave a presentation on the NCDOT Complete Streets Policy. The policy update was the result of a lot of advocacy work at the state level. In 2018 there was an evaluation process done by NCDOT to take a closer look. Interviews with stakeholders were held, implementation and funding challenges looked at, and inconsistencies in implementation were examined. A twelve-page memo now replaces the larger document. The State Transportation Secretary adopted the update. Terry Lansdell gave some background on the resolution. NCDOT views Complete Streets as “betterments” or add-ons, as fluff. The new policy flips this so that these facilities are included at the beginning of the design process. Initially they did not have details but are now backfilling the policy for better outcomes. Mr. Lansdell talked about the different communities WBNC has collaborated with. They added the language “necessary and vital” to make it more legally binding. He went over the hierarchy of responsibility within the organization. There are now more filters for projects to go through to make sure these aspects of the project get funded and built. He is trying to get advocates to use the language “necessary and vital.” Mr. Lansdell talked about level of service (LOS) as a measure of the comfort of the driver and gave examples. There is no consideration for the LOS for cyclists or pedestrians. The next advocacy piece for NCDOT is to incorporate this. Gerry Kingsley asked about the legal process to enforce the policy. Terry Lansdell explained it is a division policy for NCDOT, not something that was adopted by the State Legislature. This is a policy shift that inverts the pyramid. Will Washam talked about how facilities identified in an adopted plan will be incorporated into the design of a project. Bridges are a key component of the policy upgrade because even if there is no sidewalk or bike lane leading up to the bridge, the width for these facilities will be provided when the bridge is built. He described the “equal or better” performance facility clause. This provision means that if conditions change it acknowledges the opportunity to build. The policy also references the NACTO guidelines. Mr. Washam went over what projects will apply based on the stage of planning they are in. Adam Raskoskie asked what is the BAC’s role in terms of voicing support. Will Washam said he thinks the BAC can take a look at the CTP and offer any comments for the CRTPO. Mr. Carter shared he thinks the committee should stick with advising City Council. Mr. Lansdell stated he thinks the BAC should focus their comments for the TCC and think about whether to prioritize certain projects or all that have a bike component. Will Washam pointed out the MPO has public comment periods all the time on the TIP and he will ensure the BAC knows about them so they can comment. Mr. Kingsley asked if there is any thought on doing something similar for the CDOT. Will Washam pointed out that the City has already adopted the USDG and the Charlotte Streets Map. Adam Raskoskie said after the Streets Map was adopted the Mayor told him the BAC had a lot to do with it.

- CDOT Bicycle Program Update

Will Washam gave an overview of the importance of understanding the process of how projects are funded and brought to fruition. The 2018 transportation bond allocates “\$4 mil to bicycle travel.” He explained how the \$4 mil is made available all at once. Debra Franklin asked for clarification. Gerry Kingsley asked if it is recurring. Will Washam replied it would have to be passed on the next bond cycle in 2020. He went over the other bonds that were on the ballot and got approved. He showed the website with links about the bonds and how the different programs are funded. The next set of bonds will become available in February of 2021. He went over the different projects and programs that the current bond money has been spent on so far and pointed out how many projects are funded through CIP projects. He noted we are also spending bond money on education and encouragement, which didn’t happen before. This list represents about \$3.5 mil and he showed on map the stages they are in; planning, design, or under construction. Mr. Washam talked about the impacts of these projects. He said the first round of funding came with a mandate from the City Manager to spend it and was a challenge to get projects on the ground this quickly. Staff are working on feasibility studies to develop more projects with detailed cost estimates. Staff is also looking at retrofit projects in coordination with resurfacing. Mr. Washam talked about the Ward Loop, the 6th Street cycle track, the Belk Greenway Connector, and the Mint/Pine Cycle Track. He also talked about how all these E&E campaigns fit with the goals of the bike plan. Thanks to the bike plan we already had a process set up for some of these goals such a bike parking partnership program and Safe Routes to School. Adam Raskoskie asked if the spending is in line with the plan. Mr. Washam replied yes, more or less. Gerry Kingsley asked for clarification on what the voters actually voted on, the whole package vs just bikes, and at what point do we start making recommendations to Council for what will be voted on in the next bond package. January 2020 was the reply from Adam Raskoskie. Will Washam said maybe they don’t need City Finance staff to come back and explain the budget process again this year. Ms. Swanzy-Parker pointed out the committee will have a lot of new people on the BAC though. Bob Carter said the spending seemed more reactionary then well planned and thought out once the money was available, despite the bike plan. Will Washam replied that the plan does not specify specific projects so much as it is an outline of what to strive for. Bob Carter said we need to know what CDOT is already working on instead of pie-in-the-sky stuff to be good advocates to support those projects.

Agenda Item #8 Member topics and updates

Debra Franklin asked which positions are actually empty. Mr. Raskoskie replied that the seats vacated by Nadine Ford, Bryan Ward, and Buzz Morley are all currently vacant. Bob Carter asked about street-sweeping bike lanes. Will Washam suggested this would be a good agenda topic for next year and he can bring staff in to talk about. Caitlin Tobin said you can report to 311. Will Washam said the more people use 311 to request bike lane sweeping the more it makes the case for the need.

Agenda Item #9 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

Adam Raskoskie reminded of the end of year celebration. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held January 28, 2020.

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