



CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 23, 2018
6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:09PM with seven members present.

Members Present: Debra L Franklin Bryan Hall Robby Boyer
Bob Carter Milton Irizarry Jr. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
Caitlin Tobin

Members Absent: Adam Raskoskie Buzz Morley Nadine Ford
Haley Beaupre

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen Scott Curry

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Ms. Swanzy-Parker called the meeting to order at 6:09PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introductions of members and guests

Also present were Jeff Viscount of Weekly Rides, Kate Cavazza of Sustain Charlotte, and Martin Zimmerman of Green Mobility.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Kate Cavazza thanked the BAC for once again partnering with Sustain Charlotte to pull off another successful Biketoberfest. Martin Zimmerman talked about his attendance at the Bike/Walk NC Summit saying he would like to see a better turnout from Charlotte but that it was a good conference. He is not sure where the summit will be held next year, maybe Greensboro.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Robby Boyer pointed out that he is listed twice absent. Ms. Swanzy-Parker moved to approve the minutes with that correction, Mr. Boyer seconded the motion and the September minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 New Business

E-scooter discussion

Scott Curry opened a presentation to show the group. Mr. Curry went over next steps on the Shared Mobility Pilot, transferring from temporary to a more permanent phase. He said we are waiting for the State Legislature to legally define e-scooters before codifying a local ordinance to regulate them. A couple new vendors have expressed interest in deploying scooters in Charlotte, the same caps and regulations would apply as the current operators. An e-scooter safety campaign has been advised by Council. Caitlin Tobin stated an ad hoc subcommittee has been formed to take a closer look at shared mobility and advise CDOT staff on how to treat it. Dan Gallagher gave an update to the TAC about the status of the program. Ms. Tobin gave a recap: The Mayor refers e-scooters to the T&P committee in September to report back in sixty days. She went on to go over the BAC vision: encourage people to ride, but safely; encourage operators to be responsible, maintain order and safety; and treat them like bikes. Ms. Tobin stated the BAC sees them as a useful tool but with limitations, and acknowledged they are popular. It was suggested the operators should add a way for the unbanked and those without a smartphone to use. The subcommittee also determined there should be daily maintenance and rebalancing, turn signals, max speed in certain areas, which could be geofenced, and allowed to ride in the same places as bikes. They believe it is unrealistic to enforce riding on greenways. In terms of sidewalk riding: ride where practical, with certain exceptions in congested business districts. The subcommittee is uncertain whether there should be a maximum speed on sidewalks, but feel they should not be around the stadium when games let out. They believe the City should wait for the State to define what a scooter is, but should decide overall max speed allowed anywhere. Parking concerns need to be addressed: corrals? This could be a good opportunity to increase bike/scooter parking on private property and within the ROW. And scooters should not sit in the same place for more than three days before moved. The subcommittee does not advise requiring locking to a stationary object. Nor do they recommend prohibiting underage riding; kids ride bikes with helmets. Next steps are to get BAC recommendations and reactions, compile comments, adopt and submit to Council.

Debra Franklin asked about smart phone usage and whether there are speedometers on the scooters. She thinks the scooter age limit should be twelve. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked how operators verify age, which is to scan a valid driver's license to begin a trip each time. Plus, a valid credit card number must be entered to open an account thru the app. Robby Boyer said the unbanked population may not have a driver's license and credit card. Caitlin Tobin said we don't have to figure all this out for the operators but the City should encourage age verification and unbanked access. She said she doesn't want to discourage scooter ridership, just wants it to be both inclusive and safe. Debra Franklin asked if staff think the cap should be lifted? Caitlin Tobin said she is not comfortable lifting the cap, she's not sure what the outcome might be. Debra Franklin thinks there are not enough; she often sees people looking for them and not finding one. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked what about using the app to find? And she noted she heard that Raleigh raised their cap. Bob Carter said he is still trying to get his head around what an e-scooter is, that it's technically not active transportation. He is not sure we need to govern the business side of how a rental agreement is done. Mr. Carter said he sees problems with

riding them on the sidewalk and parking them wherever. He posed the question is it really providing the kind of transportation we want to support? Mr. Carter stated we still need to address a lot in pedestrian safety and have now added another threat with scooters. He does not think the BAC needs to rush to endorse and compared them to taxis and car rentals. Mr. Carter said he is more concerned about general safety rather than how the companies conduct their business. Milton Irizarry fears that eagerness to adopt may leave safety on the sidelines. Brian Hall talked about his experience working the Panthers game: scooters cluttering up the area outside and around the stadium, along with bikes, causing pedestrians to trip over them. He also sees people double-riding, riding on the sidewalk, riding in street, and many other dangerous behaviors, not to mention parked in strange places. Robby Boyer said he thinks the area around the stadium should be restricted, if the Panthers want to do that. This raised the question of how do you manage parking? Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if there are existing laws for where and how bikes can be parked that we can model? She talked about riding against traffic and opportunities to educate. Robby Boyer said this is also an opportunity to educate about biking safely as well. Debra Franklin said by the same token motorists need to follow the 3-foot passing rule. Scott Curry shared that safety is the #1 concern for CDOT as well and has been from the beginning. He stated that staff is looking at limiting the speed, weight, and size for scooters allowed to operate in Charlotte for that very reason. The current speed max is 15mph by permit. In terms of scooter caps Mr. Curry said staff struggled to find the right number, but knew we needed a minimum to manage the number of operators. The max number is a concern because we don't have adequate parking for the ones we do have. He thinks all points in the subcommittee memo are spot on. Mr. Curry mentioned that other cities are using this rise in scooter popularity to convey a sense of urgency that more bike facilities are needed and fast. Caitlin Tobin responded that the BAC's recommendation will tie back to the importance of funding these bike facilities. Jeff Viscount pointed out that it is the phrase "as far to the right as practicable" which is used in the state statute and it does not mean sidewalk riding is okay. He said if we start making scooters out to be so dangerous and don't belong in the street we need to be careful because that kind of thinking could backfire and be used to make the same argument about bikes. Robby Boyer reminded the group that the goal is to get feedback to write a memo for Council. Bob Carter moved to write a memo to review at next month's meeting. The motion got a second from Debra Franklin and received a consensus vote to move forward with drafting a memo. Caitlin Tobin said she will send in advance of next meeting. Scott Curry asked about where sidewalk riding should be disallowed. Robby Boyer said he is not thinking about prescribing specific places, but rather types of places and allow CDOT to determine. Ms. Swanzy-Parker thanked everyone for contributing to the dialogue and ended the discussion on this topic.

Agenda Item # 6 Other Business

Art in Transit Bike Tour

Will Washam gave an overview and some background on this planned bike ride. Chris Lange

of CATS is going to bring in an artist to look at and talk about the public art that has been installed at different Lynx Blue Line stations between uptown and NoDa. Mr. Washam worked up a 7-mile route that should be comfortable for a variety of rider types. He asked if anyone from the BAC would like to help be a ride leader. Debra Franklin said she will be there. Robby Boyer would like to help, but needs to check his calendar. Mr. Washam said advertising for the tour has been thru social media and Weekly Rides.com. Caitlin Tobin said she will push out thru professional organizations. Will Washam said he will forward the flyer to Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker.

Rules of Procedure

Ms. Swanzy-Parker said she made some modifications to the BAC Rules of Procedure document, highlighted in yellow, and wants to briefly review and put to a vote to adopt. Will Washam gave some clarification on subcommittees: they will make recommendations to the full BAC and provide some overall updates. He pointed out that staff attendance is not required at subcommittee meetings. Milton Irizarry motioned to approve the Rules of Procedure as modified, Caitlin Tobin seconded and the motion has passed by all.

Mr. Carter said he had asked how the budget overview is coming along. Will Washam replied it is coming along well and there has been a lot of coordination with E&PM, staff have retained consultants to design projects, and he has been working with CDOT's TOD group for new pavement markings. Mr. Washam stated CDOT has done a test with painting sharrows on Tryon Street uptown. Mr. Washam said he will share project information in the future after the bonds are voted on. Bob Carter said he would like to be able to go back to the community and let them know how the \$4 million will be spent. Scott Curry explained how the budgeting works for the bonds and transportation spending. Mr. Carter said he was confused about the process; he thought the bike budget was part of the City's operating budget.

Robby Boyer said he is doing a bike experiment: taking photos of streets with a sharrow versus a bike lane to do visual survey of which one people would feel safer riding on. He also thinks the RNC coming to Charlotte is a good opportunity to push for more bike facilities to accommodate all the visitors.

Agenda Item #7 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

It was confirmed that the next meeting is scheduled for the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, November 27. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.