



CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 27, 2020
6:00 PM

This meeting was conducted in remote session as a virtual meeting online due to COVID-19.

Members Present: Liza Pratt Eoin Sheil Jamie Emmanuelli
Caitlin Tobin Veda Evans Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
Angela Stoyanovich Milton Irizarry

Members Absent: Adam Raskoskie

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen Scott Correll Vivian Coleman
Monica Holmes David Smith

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Vice Chair Swanzy-Parker called the meeting to order at 6:06PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present was Eric Zaverl from Sustain Charlotte.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Caitlin Tobin made a motion to approve the minutes from the September BAC meeting, Veda Evans seconded the motion and the September minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly reports

Chair's report: Ms. Swanzy-Parker informed the group that Debra Franklin has left the BAC due to health reasons. There is now a vacancy if anyone knows someone who may be interested in serving.

Staff report: Will Washam offered information on how and when the County will fill vacancies. The Chairperson has until November 10 to make recommendations. Mr. Washam shared the People For Bikes city ranking for Charlotte went from 1.3 to 2.4, putting Charlotte in the top 15% of cities ranked. Mr. Washam also talked about work on the development of a bicycle priority network. Toole Design is a subconsultant for the Strategic Mobility Plan to help with this effort. Mr. Washam is requesting input from the BAC and suggested at either the November or

December meeting on this effort. Mr. Washam said in regard to the Mayor appointed task force, the BAC will be another critical piece to this. Will Washam suggested the vice chair confirm the meeting dates around the holidays and decide if a special meeting needs to be called.

City Council report: none

Board of County Commissioners Report: none

Other Legislative Reports: none

Agenda Item #6 Standing subcommittee reports

Engineering & Evaluation: Ms. Tobin said they met last week and discussion focused on a letter to Council to support further extension of speed limit reductions. No major edits to the letter, just added some details. The group spent a lot of time talking through the Charlotte Moves Task Force and what's next for that. Liza Pratt talked about the State of Mobility Report. The work happening around the Mayor's Task Force could lead toward this year's goal of developing a bike map. Caitlin Tobin asked the subcommittee to look over documents she shared to be informed for future discussion. Eoin Sheil asked if they will have a chance to discuss the Charlotte Moves presentation to plan out a BAC strategy. Ms. Swanzy-Parker replied this is scheduled to be discussed on November 24 or could be discussed prior as a special meeting of the BAC. Caitlin Tobin requested time in this meeting to ask some clarifying questions but is basically going to table those questions until next month. Eoin Sheil just wanted to make sure that if anyone has questions now, they have an opportunity. Ms. Swanzy-Parker said let's wait until November to discuss.

Education & Encouragement:

Veda Evans shared that the annual report is due earlier than last year, so she reviewed. Milton Irizarry went through a presentation on how to improve upon the CLT 311 reporting for bicycle related issues when there are obstructions or debris. He proposed a centralized area for all biking related incidents and issues. Nothing exists like this in Charlotte today. The idea is to track needs for cyclists. The committee surveyed people of different ages to see what kind of requests are desired. The top three were road debris in bike lanes, road hazards, and traffic light detection. Mr. Irizarry shared the survey questions and results. Veda Evans added she wanted the committee to at least look at the options and agree which are most important to include in the final recommendation to 311. Feedback is welcome. The presentation will be shared with the BAC after the meeting. Consensus of the committee is that this is a great project, could have a big impact and is a good way to get cyclists engaged and bring attention to the lives of cyclists and safety. Caitlin Tobin inquired about the next steps for implementation? Milton Irizarry replied it must come through 311 as a request and would be forwarded to CDOT. Will Washam clarified that 311 already forwarded Milton's request from this morning and thinks requests like this could be routed to 311. Caitlin Tobin asked if requests are already being addressed? Milton Irizarry replied no, this is just a prototype. Veda Evans said it was just to see which visual option the BAC would prefer before asking 311 to add to the app. Ms. Swanzy-Parker said this is

fantastic work, she is trying to figure out the process and wondering if this something to add to the annual report? Milton Irizarry said the draft proposal is still being worked on and he wants to get feedback first. Ms. Swanzy-Parker gave an opportunity for other BAC members to comment. She asked when a street is built with a bike lane, who is responsible for the sweeping. Will Washam replied Solid Waste Services cleans the streets. A lot of these requests come through 311. The presentation and findings will be shared with the committee for review and feedback. Ms. Swanzy-Parker suggested having the comment deadline be the Wednesday after election day.

New business

Tryon Street Pedestrian Plaza Pilot Project

Scott Correll and Monica Holmes with the Planning Department made a presentation on the Tryon Street Pedestrian Plaza. The BAC is the first non-staff group to see this presentation. The staff gave an overview of how the mural developed and was implemented between 3rd and 4th Streets. The project's focus is the Black Lives Matter mural which came out of the George Floyd murder protests. There was a hunger for justice and racial equality and the mural gave people an outlet to express themselves, what's going on in the community, and to raise awareness. The City decided to engage the arts community to develop the project. Different artists designed each letter of the mural. The project became larger than expected because so many people gathered to see it, so the City decided to close the street for safety. This location was chosen because of its proximity to Trade and Tryon without construction and minimal trees blocking an aerial view. Staff outlined the project goals testing best practices and collecting data during the pilot. Staff surveyed residents and businesses in June. Center City Partners assisted in facilitating surveys.. Staff mentioned that data was easy to track from 311 calls. 73 participants participated in the resident survey and 93 businesses. Residents had more negative comments, such as homeless loitering. Businesses tended to be more favorable except for Ground level business because of having to deal with the number of people gathering.

The pilot plaza survey ran August 8 to 30. Dissemination was through Next Door, social media, Sustain Charlotte, Housing and Neighborhood Services list of leaders. There was a very robust response rate. 28202 and 05 zip codes had the highest response rates. Most people reached the site by walking, biking or scooters. The mural makes people more likely to visit uptown. So it is generally seen as a positive thing. 65% say use Tryon St as more than just for cars. Demographics of respondents are not representative of Charlotte as a whole. Uptown residents choose to go visit the mural. Over 50% think using Tryon St for a pedestrian plaza is a good idea. Uptown businesses and employees thought Tryon St should be public space and see additional blocks considered. There was a slight increase in 911 calls but not significant. Are those calls significant to the site or reflective of broader patterns throughout the city? Solid Waste Services (SWS) was not impacted at all essentially. In terms of transportation: 16 on-street parking spaces taken away. A delivery area was established. Regarding vehicle volumes, collecting data right now is tough because of COVID, not as many people working uptown so it's hard to make comparisons relevant. The team is earmarking for a future study, if more blocks are closed for a longer period of time, what are the implications? The challenge with this site is

it's fairly large, had to capture ped counts. The evaluation team pointed a traffic camera and counted when and where people moved and tracked on a spreadsheet. On average 48 people were counted onsite at any given time, and 150 was the highest number. They tracked people who lingered verses just passing through. The wheelie boys love this site. It drew a large variety of street performers. Weekday afternoons were the least busy. Weekend evenings the busiest, 70 to 90 people any given time. Counted four times a day. Mr. Correll showed a schematic of ped movements and gathering points. The support staff survey went to CCP ambassadors, police, and SWS. Their feedback is important. CDOT will reopen the street by January 1. But it will remain an option to close for future events. A Tryon St ped study will take place in the near future. The Placemaking program in uptown will continue to look at opportunities to activate different spots uptown. Staff provided the timeline for the project. (Key dates: Street closed in June; Scheduled to reopen on Sept 30th, but the City decided to keep it closed past that date.

Angie Stoyanovich asked about the emotional or psychological impact? Was that measured? She knows a couple of companies that were impacted and wonders about the impact on services who make deliveries or building cleaning services, finding it difficult to access with limited parking. She believes it important to include that perspective of vendors. Scott Correll said thank you for that perspective, they were relying more on the businesses onsite. David Smith replied they got some indirect feedback from property management companies. Valet parking had to be adjusted. Restaurants were nervous about anything that makes it more difficult for customers to get to them in a market that is already uncertain. Mr. Correll said he thinks the feedback was more positive than negative. But it also ties into national politics too though so a lot to sort through. He would like to try to make a more concerted effort to reach out to the black community who is most impacted by what this message is trying to get across. Veda Evans said based on this data residents are still wanting to see this ped plaza become permanent. She asked have we looked at the edges of uptown where there is less traffic? Can we investigate where it may not be as much of a burden to businesses or residents? Mr. Correll said everybody surveyed came from one building. Ms. Swanzy-Parker wrapped the conversation at this point.

XCLT

Will Washam gave an update on the Cross Charlotte Trail. The 7th to 10th St gap will be closed. Construction will continue to late 2021. Brandywine to Tyvola is also under construction. When complete, users will be able to traverse the entire segment from uptown to 485.

Bike CLT

The consultants kicked off virtual promotion for Bike CLT fall events by revealing an online ride library that went live on October 9. There are 28 routes and growing. They will be promoting through November 8 but will leave up for the community to access. The rides are a mix of transportation routes and leisure/sightseeing routes, a good variety, showcasing different parts of the city.

Member topics and updates

ESP said in order to have a Bicycle Priority Network discussion, we need to look at dates for November. She asked for conflicts, who's available. Mr. Irizarry asked about the Central Ave bus/bike lane? Any updates? Caitlin Tobin said it's been generally well received by Council but there has been some negative feedback from drivers worried about congestion. Will Washam said the best way to provide feedback is to take the survey. But if you do ride this bus route CATS would like to hear from you. Also, he said, go ride it yourself and see what it feels like. It has a nice wide buffer and feels very comfortable. Eoin Sheil asked about before and after counts.

Eric Zaverl, in a belated call to the public, encouraged BAC members to send their comments of support for the Central Ave bus/bike lane project. The link was shared in chat. Caitlin Tobin said she thinks it is worth having an update beginning of next year to write an official letter of support for the project.

Confirm next meeting and adjourn

Vice Chair Swanzy-Parker adjourned the meeting at 7:59PM. The next meeting of the BAC is scheduled for Nov 24.