



**CHARLOTTE**  
**BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 22, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**

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

Members Present: Adam Raskoskie Eoin Sheil Debra Franklin  
Liza Pratt Veda Evans Jamie Emmanuelli  
Caitlin Tobin

Members Absent: Milton Irizarry Jr. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker Angela Stoyanovich

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Mr. Raskoskie called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present were Dick Winters, Eric Zaverl of Sustain Charlotte, and Martin Zimmerman.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Eric Zaverl talked about CLT Moves.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Caitlin Tobin motioned to approve the minutes from the July meeting, Veda seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly Reports

*Chair's report:* Adam Raskoskie talked about the annual report. He asked the committee to bring anything they want to be sure it is incorporated into the draft report.

*Staff report:* Will Washam gave an update on CLT Moves. He talked about doing Bike CLT in the fall, a virtual outline has been put together with an online library of bike routes using a Google Map format so you can open on your phone. There will be approximately 20 routes, many are family friendly, and we hope to encourage lots of riding. Mr. Washam stated staff is going to begin working on updating the CLT Cycling Guide. CDOT has kicked off at the staff level and will bring to the BAC at an upcoming meeting.

*Standing Subcommittee Reports*

*Engineering & Evaluation:* The committee met last week and is paying attention to CLT Moves. The larger BAC was asked to please share on your social network. The next task force meeting will be reviewing the State of Mobility report. Moving into November they will be proposing different scenario options. In December they will deliver an action plan for transportation infrastructure for the City. The meetings are recorded on YouTube. Mr. Sheil shared that when they met in Aug they talked about neighborhood shared streets, west, north and east of center city. They want to encourage expansion of this initiative. The committee thinks some of the streets chosen could be longer and could do more. Mr. Raskoskie agrees and wants to discuss before the October meeting. Mr. Sheil wants to know how to support this initiative—a formal letter, what is the best method? Adam Raskoskie replied that since it is not a formal recommendation to Council there is no need to vote on it. Mr. Washam will share the email address of CDOT staff who chairs the committee. Mr. Washam offered that he thinks it would be nice if the BAC would encourage neighborhood leaders to add support if they know them and can reach out.

*Education & Encouragement:* Veda Evans said they have been working on ideas for updating the Cycling Guide and are looking forward to helping CDOT with this effort because there are so many new cyclists in Charlotte. Eric Supil from Trips for Kids was a guest attendant at the subcommittee meeting and shared what TFK is doing and how they could collaborate with the BAC on similar efforts. Ms. Evans stated she enjoyed the bike ride last month and would like to see more projects outside of the uptown core. She knows we are doing things but would like to see that we are truly spreading some of these projects around. Ms. Evans asked about vacancies. Adam Raskoskie replied they are posted on the City Clerk's website and the only one now is a County Commission appointed and has been vacant all year. Mr. Washam replied he is working with the County to figure out how and when that will be filled. Adam Raskoskie said he needs to look into when terms are up because he's not sure. He Asked Will Washam to put together a report of who's terms are up when so they can know. Mr. Washam replied he will get that list from the City Clerk.

#### Agenda Item #6 New Business

##### *Central Avenue Bus Lane*

Bruce Jones from CATS shared a presentation about this project. Mr. Jones reminded the BAC that he is the same person who gave a report on the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Bus/Bike Lane. Mr. Jones shared graphics from pilots tried in other cities like Boston, Portland, etc. This is all part of the vision CATS has been working on for years to create a more connected and efficient system with better service and shorter headways. They had to reduce some schedules because of COVID. He talked about Envision My Ride, focus on speed and reliability. Cross town connections will make a big difference to fill the gap. CATS has increased frequency on four routes so far. The agency is working to build service back up post-COVID. They are working on this bus priority study to look at how we can improve service within Charlotte's busiest corridor. Mr. Jones described how the buses can communicate with traffic signals, transit signal priority. There will be dedicated space at intersections to allow buses to jump thru while other traffic has a red light. They are looking at a number of things to enhance the rider experience. Beginning last summer CATS and

CDOT looked at what corridors would be the best candidates. 4<sup>th</sup> St. uptown (ph. 1) and outer Central Ave were the two major ones to come up. The Eastland Transit Center all the way to Eastway Drive is phase 2. Then eventually from Eastway to uptown will be phase 3. Mr. Jones showed a graphic to illustrate what has been implemented so far versus what is coming next. Fifteen percent of riders say they would increase their transit usage if headways were reduced. Cyclists said they want a dedicated space and there is an improved sense of comfort because of the wider space. He showed a graphic of how the space will be separated on Central Ave. CATS thinks it best to keep a separate space for cyclists because traffic travels faster on this section of Central Ave. Motorists will still have access to businesses along the corridor. CATS is working with the public and business owners to work that out. Mr. Jones posed the question what can we do where it is too constrained to incorporate a bike lane? He went over next steps and timeline. The bus priority study will be underway this fall. Kittleson & Associates is the consultant.

A question was asked about painting the bus/bike lane. Mr. Jones replied they do not plan to paint the lane at this point. Eric Supil asked what is the penalty if a car is found driving in the bus only lane? Bruce Jones replied there is language and a statute we can follow, but he could not remember how much the fine is. Someone said that more signage is important to discourage drivers from driving in the bus/bike lane. Bruce Jones pointed out there is no parking along this corridor so we should not have a problem with cars parking or stopping in the bus/bike lane hopefully. Since it is a pilot they will be looking at what works well and what can be improved.

Will Washam responded to a question from Eric Zaverl commenting that if you have two lanes of highspeed traffic driving next to you we feel it's important to keep the bike lane separate for this pilot. He said it will be very interested to see how this increases comfort, and will be the crux of the survey questions as part of the follow up of this pilot. They may allocate even more space to allow buses and bikes to operate cohesively. Bruce Jones agreed and mentioned the headways will be increased to every ten minutes.

Liza Pratt said she is excited to see the bike lane is kept separate from the bus lane. Will Washam shared Jamie Emmanuelli's question from the chat, what are the success metrics for the pilot? He replied traffic volume data and bus on-time performance, against existing crash statistics. So staff will compare before and after to evaluate how it's improved. As far as cyclists' success, staff will rely more on the survey and qualitative accounts of comfort. Bruce Jones said we are going into this with the caveat we know this is a small stretch but yes, these are some of the main things we are looking at. There was a question about eliminating left turns? Bruce Jones replied they need to study that a little more.

Adam Raskoskie thanked Mr. Jones and asked if the BAC had any more questions. He looks forward to seeing this project on the ground. Bruce Jones thanked the group for their time and interest.

#### *BAC Speed Limit Reduction Support*

Jamie Emanuelli talked about how Angela Berry came and talked to the BAC in July about Vision Zero. He said we want to look more closely at this issue of lowering speed limits, and thinks taking 5mph away from drivers is not really a big ask when it comes to saving lives, and

thinks Mayor Lyles and others agree. The committee would like to take this initiative beyond the inner loop and into the neighborhoods. The citywide default is 35mph if not posted. They want to take it down to 25. They shared the draft letter in an email before the meeting and want to submit to City Council for formal support. Adam Raskoskie said yes, we can open up for comments before taking a vote. He thinks we should give specific examples of streets we want to take this effort to, and gave Shamrock Drive as an example. Caitlin Tobin said her only hesitation with giving examples is that CDOT seems to have a good process that they are comfortable with and the group may throw their own bias in; she wants to keep it methodical and data-driven. She just wants to advise Council that they are proactively supporting this. Jamie Emanuelli said our intention here is to drive the policy but as a body we want to make sure we are keeping this top of mind. He sees it more as reiterating support for it and thinks perhaps down the road we get more specific. Adam Raskoskie agreed and said this is definitely something we need to take a vote on. He asked if anyone else had thoughts? Veda Evans asked if they have to vote on it tonight? Mr. Raskoskie replied just from a procedure standpoint they don't have to vote on it tonight. Ms. Evans just wanted to know if there was more that needs to be said offline? Mr. Emanuelli said it's more to just formalize, he just wants to make sure Council knows they are supporting the effort. Caitlin Tobin said she thinks they could give examples of streets that have changed to 25 that people may not be aware of because they might be surprised to learn that it wasn't already 25. Adam Raskoskie agreed and they could reference their letter of support for uptown speed limit reduction if that happened. Ms. Tobin pointed out that it had already happened so there was no need to send a letter. Jamie Emanuelli said looking at the notes from July, someone had brought up there was a request to Angela to show how these speed limit reductions have worked and saved lives in other cities. This would add legitimacy to the BAC's letter. Adam Raskoskie liked this idea and offered they could move to finalize the draft. Caitlin Tobin made a motion to make a change about cyclists' safety and give an example of a street that was converted from 35 to 25mph. Eoin Sheil seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

#### Agenda Item #8 Member topics and updates

Veda Evans asked about the pedestrian plaza uptown. She saw some surveys and wants to know if we have any feedback about it yet and do we have any plans to expand upon this? Will Washam replied that is a great question, he has not been working directly with the team that has been working on this. He said there is a great team working on this, including the Assistant City Manager. Mr. Washam offered to bring an update to the next meeting or just email the group. Adam Raskoskie said lets target for October, he would like to have that update. Veda Evans said the reason she brought this up is because she would like to know how can we expand upon this idea if it is popular? She also said as far as CLT Moves, is there anybody in the group who is going to see if we are in line with their schedule to tie in to the work the BAC is doing? Adam Raskoskie pointed out the agendas are public but it would still be good to have staff perspective. Will Washam said there will be discussions on a transportation mobility network on a large scale on what this will look like across the city. He mentioned Scott Curry's presentation during the July meeting and said he can bring to the BAC after the public unveiling. Mr. Washam stated he is working with Scott Curry on this so he can make sure to keep the BAC updated. Caitlin Tobin

said based on the schedule from the last meeting staff is planning to present the network map on October 13 so the October BAC meeting might be a good time to allocate some time to review those recommendations. Veda Evans said it sounds like they are already starting to bring recommendations quickly so she just wants to make sure the BAC is staying plugged in.

Agenda Item #9 Confirm next meeting and adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:25PM. The next meeting of the BAC is scheduled for October 27, 2020.

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