



CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 28, 2021
6:00 PM

BAC Members Present:	Liza Pratt Michael Trivette James Lee	Veda Evans Lekisha Hamilton Eoin Sheil	Angela Stoyanovitch Caitlin Tobin
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Members Absent: Alane Paraison

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen Keith Bryant Corey Watt

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present was Dick Winters of Trips for Kids.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Eoin Sheil motioned to approve the August minutes, James Lee seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly reports

Chair's report: Ms. Tobin announced they had cancelled the bike ride that was planned for the subcommittees due to rain. The ride has been rescheduled for October 8 after the Parkwood cycle track ribbon cutting ceremony. The group will roll out at 4PM.

Staff report: Keith Sorensen gave a summary on the All Kids Bike/Strider bike build that took place on September 16 at Highland Creek Elementary school. Twenty balance bikes were assembled with the help of CDOT staff, County Health staff, TFK volunteers, and CMS staff. The PE teacher plans to start using the bikes in November to teach her students how to ride. There are two additional schools that have received bikes thru the City's Bike Program funding to support education and encouragement efforts as described in the City's bike plan, Charlotte Bikes! Bike build dates have yet to be scheduled for the other two schools.

County report: None.

Council report: None.

Subcommittees report: Caitlin Tobin encouraged the new members to join a subcommittee.

Agenda Item #6 New business:

Bike lane sweeping update

Keith Bryant gave a recap of CDOT staff's meeting with SWS. Staff put together a GIS web map for existing and future bike lanes. There are concerns about staff resources for additional street sweeping work. Staff are researching the state of the practice and have started a literature review of what peer cities are doing, using NACTO resources. CDOT will be reaching out to staff at peer cities. Mr. Bryant encouraged the BAC to reach out to Will or himself with suggestions if they have any and asked for volunteers to help with the research process if they would like. James Lee asked about what qualifies as a peer city since there may not be a lot of other cities that are growing as fast as Charlotte. Mr. Bryant explained we are mainly reaching out to these peer cities to ask them about equipment, frequency of sweeping, etc. Mr. Lee pointed out there are some hot spots in Charlotte which require riding in the street instead of the bike lane due to debris, including grass clippings and suggested maybe the City could reach out to residents/homeowners to educate about that. Veda Evans asked if we are currently sweeping nonprotected lanes. Caitlin Tobin answered they are being swept on a schedule with all city streets. Ms. Tobin asked Mike Trivette to speak about the letter of support that was drafted. Mr. Trivette talked about how the inception of this idea came to him; he feels like it's important that the City is properly maintaining the bike lanes they have invested in, otherwise people don't want to use them and could end up discouraging ridership. He wanted to know if there is a way to notify the City when a bike lane needs to be swept. How often are they currently being swept? What would it take to have them swept more frequently? James Lee said he has spoken to a couple of City Council members regarding his work as an advocate for affordable housing and thinks some of the funding that we have should go toward crews that target hot spots in Charlotte. He suggested using a leaf blower or something like that. Mr. Trivette pointed out there are 130 miles of bike lanes in town and the BAC cannot determine how the City spends this money but can make the recommendation. He said we want people to feel safe using the existing lanes that are already out there. Ms. Tobin said it sounds like Keith Bryant has some volunteers to help and feels like it's moving in the right direction even though it is taking a while.

Uptown CycleLink

Will Washam gave a presentation to update on progress of developing and delivering the Uptown CycleLink. He explained that it has been many years in the making. The idea for it dates back to the Uptown Connects plan from 2016. The 6th Street cycle track project was the first project to come forward to construction. In 2020 the next phase of feasibility planning kicked. The feasibility study developed concepts to inform the design phase. The design phase will lead into future capital projects similar to 6th street and the entire Uptown CycleLink will be about seven miles when all built out. Mr. Washam shared a status update with a color coded map for

each corridor and showed which segments are in further analysis right now for more in depth planning. Concept plans are to make sure the All Ages and Abilities bikeway will function within the street network. Currently we will fund the full planning and design for the rest of the network (what is not already in construction). Final cost estimates will be made as we get into engineering. This will help determine how projects may be programmed in upcoming bond cycles. Staff are focusing on segments that will link to other facilities like the Rail Trail and will connect to many other parts of the bike network. Dick Winters wanted to know if it will tie into the Baxter Street development. Mr. Washam said that it may. Part of the feasibility studies is looking at how it will tie in with private development to make sure we maintain the future network. The CycleLink will connect to the existing Pearl Park Way cycle track. The city will be advertising for design services this fall.

Caitlin Tobin opened up the discussion for questions and gave some guidance on what the BAC's role and vision might be for implementation in terms of what the Engineering & Evaluation subcommittee has been talking about. James Lee asked about raised bike lanes at curb level. Will Washam explained what this is. Some locations may place cyclists above the street grade from car traffic. Veda Evans asked how do we decide when to use the cement dividers verses the flex posts? Will Washam answered that we have learned a lot in the past few years about how each of these barrier types work. The concrete barriers are especially helpful where there are a lot of turning movements. Flex posts are cheaper and best suited for pilots. We are trying to discourage illegal parking in the cycle tracks and will see where it's working well and where it's not. Keith Bryant explained that the maintenance costs are lower with the concrete, but the capital costs are higher. With MLK we saw an opportunity to get something on the ground quickly thru resurfacing. We can always go back and retrofit with concrete if we want to. Veda Evans pointed out that cleaning will be a factor too she imagines and asked for some clarification on the timeline. Mr. Washam gave an overview. 6th Street design took about a year and a half for example. Liza Pratt asked if the CIP budget would be able to absorb any of this? Ms. Tobin wanted to know if we can start advocating for this future bond funding or is it too soon? Keith Bryant said we know we need to start getting it designed first and once that gets a little more advanced, we will have a better grasp of the numbers. This will allow CDOT to have high confidence when proposing bond funding to construct CycleLink segments. James Lee asked how can we keep cars out of these new separated bike lanes? Mr. Washam replied that all of the driveways and intersections will have markings to alert motorists to stay out. Mr. Lee asked about the costs, \$3.4 million for one mile on Kilbourne Ave? Is that typical? Keith Bryant explained what all the costs are that go into completely redoing a streetscape; moving the curb, utilities, etc. Ms. Tobin asked if there were any more questions and thanked Mr. Washam for the presentation.

Agenda Item #7 Member topics

Veda Evans asked if there will be additional funding for educational projects? She mentioned Terry Lansdell's recommendation, stating she doesn't want to lose sight of that. Ms. Tobin said we can do a straw poll to make sure we will have a quorum for the November meeting. She mentioned she would like to have a holiday social in December instead of the monthly meeting.

Ms. Evans agreed on the straw poll at the October meeting. Caitlin Tobin reminded the BAC the annual report is due in December. James Lee asked for hard copies of any documents that can help him be better informed and prepared because he does not have a computer or a car.

Agenda Item #8 Adjourn

Ms. Tobin told Mr. Lee how to join the subcommittee meetings, where to find the WebEx links. And to feel free to attend or just sit in to get a feel. Staff will add James and Lakeisha to the invite for the Education & Encouragement subcommittee, as that is the one they both expressed interest in. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting is for October 26.