



CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE / GREENWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 23, 2020
6:00 PM

This meeting was conducted in remote session as a virtual, joint meeting of the BAC and GAC online due to COVID-19.

BAC Members Present:	Liza Pratt Caitlin Tobin Angela Stoyanovich	Veda Evans Jamie Emmanuelli Michael Trivette	Adam Raskoskie Eoin Sheil
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Members Absent: None

GAC Members Present:	Paul Freestone Gordon Clark Dick Winters Shree Ganesan	Tom Watson Jerry Lee Dan Putnam	Tim Sanborn Paul Strickland Kevin Walsh
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Members Absent: Megan Gregory Dyrrie G. Osborne Brian Malec

Staff Present:	Will Washam Ashley Landis	Keith Sorensen Katie Lloyd	Scott Curry Katie Daughtry	Vivian Coleman
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Agenda Item # 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by BAC Chair Caitlin Tobin at 6:06PM.

Agenda Item #2 Call to public

Martin Zimmerman shared he is anxious that if we don't get the SMP moving forward quickly the public will continue to be dismayed about the comp plan because they don't fully understand the transportation issues.

Eric Zaverl agreed the comp plan is under threat, there is a lot of opposition. He was at the Council meeting last night and wants to make sure everybody is out there supporting it. Mr. Zaverl encouraged everyone to give Council good feedback. He also said the group needs to understand what is at stake and communicate to friends and family so it gets passed in June. Adam Raskoskie asked when the State mandated deadline is to adopt the plan. Mr. Zaverl said

parts of the wording need to be changed but can be done through text amendment. Some of that has been put off until July 2022 anyway to have language in place so it's not too big a deal.

Agenda Item #3 New business

Scott Curry began the presentation on the Strategic Mobility Plan, Bicycle Priority Network, and Greenways update. He said the objective is to get some insight into how the GAC and BAC view the bicycle priority network. The comp plan is the north star to really set the vision for how we want to grow, the UDO will provide the development regulations to implement, and the SMP will tie together the transportation component. For this discussion the focus is on goal #5, safe and equitable mobility. Mr. Curry mentioned CATS bus route changes, TAP, Charlotte Walks, Charlotte Bikes, all tie into this effort. He noted we are not doing away with any of these plans, just tying them all together, and mentioned the "creative disruption" from covid-19 as a catalyst. We want to set new goals to match our progress based on six modes of transport. They want to home in on the bike part tonight, including greenways specifically.

Will Washam took over the presentation talking about how the corridors were chosen and why they are important. He noted they are not fully comprehensive, focusing on equity to prioritize underserved parts of the city. He described the arc and wedge, affluent versus impoverished parts of the city. This process is similar to what was done in Austin, TX. Staff did a series of special overlays to see what corridors connect to rapid transit, jobs, schools, low-income neighborhoods, etc. We have a facility type matrix in the bike plan and used that to develop a more comprehensive view of what is appropriate for those thoroughfares. Staff used that as a guide and reference for developing this bike priority network.

Angie Stoyanovich asked how we plan to engage the community with COVID. Scott Curry said he expects it to all be virtual, have a Spanish language session, online mapping, and geographically focused listening sessions. Staff will try to engage and interact in a number of different ways. Ms. Stoyanovich agreed and offered some tips. She noted that not everyone has access to that kind of virtual platform. Paul Freestone said it would be interesting to overlay Strava user data to compare before and after ridership on these corridors, how user habits are changing and hopefully making things safer. Will Washam said we did look at existing Strava data to look at routes being used and have incorporated connections based on that. He showed the map to illustrate and noted there can be changes based on large developments or rapid transit corridor realignments.

Scott Curry talked about work done to engage the Meck Playbook effort. It's all about having seamless connections between facilities, overland connectors or urban trails to connect gaps in the greenway network.

Katie Lloyd shared the greenway network map, showing urban trails that need further study. They still need to figure out details for these connections, so it will be kind of a living document as it gets refined over time. She went over the alignment with Meck Playbook, guiding principles and goals, connection to transit or other facilities, to stitch the network together and provide access. The goal is to build more greenways to make a more complete network. Will Washam came back in to talk about all ages and abilities as the preferred facility type. They are also using

the City's Streets Map for guidance on appropriate street cross sections. He showed maps that connect to cost burdened households, jobs, high-density neighborhoods, and transit.

Katie Lloyd came back to talk about the County's environmental stewardship, building greenways within these riparian corridors along creeks and streams, protecting wildlife and water quality. Decades of planning have gone into the Greenways Master Plan. The accelerated greenway plan is to build 30 miles of new greenway from 2019 by 2023. She went over the timeframe from funding to design and construction, 3 years ideally. Real estate can add a lot of time because it is a really difficult process which can add years to a project. There are other agencies working within these stream corridors that we need to coordinate with. Ms. Lloyd went over the 2008 project ranking criteria, funding partnerships, land needs, geographic parity. She went over the current draft greenway ranking criteria: Connectivity—are we expanding the existing network and adding connections? Equity—is it in a priority community Park & Rec gap area? Next steps are feedback from Meck Playbook. Staff will evaluate the 200 miles of future greenways and recommend funding for the capital plan. Ms. Lloyd also went over greenway etiquette tips for the group's benefit.

Scott Curry came back to talk about how we are trying to coordinate City and County staff. Will Washam concurred, showed bike priority map and went over the symbology. He showed how to use the map, turn layers on and off. What's built, what's a AAA facility, all bike lanes (both on and off the prior network), XCLT, LRT, Gold Line Streetcar. He showed where there will be connectivity at the city limits, and how to use the comments feature. Mr. Washam closed by stating they are looking for feedback.

Questions

Shree Ganesan asked do we have any special interest areas? She would suggest GIS analysis centering on the high schools because CMS is talking about parking garages and the amount of traffic they generate. Scott Curry replied we have not run this analysis but likes the idea and will take that back. Ms. Ganesan said CMS admins may be more than happy to help because this could be easier than trying to build parking garages.

Paul Freestone said Safe Routes To School (SRTS) can probably help with this. He loves the use of engaging the community through this online map, but if there is going to be a countywide sales tax than this map should also include towns across the County, not just Charlotte. Mr. Curry replied at this time it is only intended to be a tool to help guide the citywide project. Mr. Freestone worries that the optics look like we are being asked to help pay for something not everyone will benefit from. Scott Curry made the point this is not about the countywide referendum.

Doug Barnet asked if these new greenways will be wider? Katie Lloyd said the standard is still 10 feet but they have talked about striping as an option. The County tends to keep them unstriped for the aesthetic of the parklike feel. Mr. Barnet wants to make sure that when the integrated spokes get built, they can accommodate the high bike usage and it doesn't become overcrowded. Ms. Lloyd agreed this is important and they are looking at that. Angie Stoyanovich agreed and said making these pathways discoverable will give us the opportunity to understand the

perspective of a more diverse user base. She thinks we can do so much better for the citizens of Charlotte if we can offer more real connections between places, regardless of the facility type. She stated they do not all have to be greenways, just safe, quality facilities. She posed the question who are we as a community? What are our goals? If we are truly embracing Vision Zero and saving lives it should be easy to get the funding for these ideals.

Caitlin Tobin said she is curious to hear the perspective on what the best way for an advisory body like this is to help move all these plans forward. Scott Curry replied we want to hear everyone's individual thinking but it's important as an appointed body to speak in a unified voice of what you think is important, what do you want, agree with? A letter of support is the goal. Ms. Tobin thinks maybe a joint letter of support from both committees would be even more powerful. Paul Freestone would like this group to understand the recommendations from the GAC and it would be great if we could have talking points to the community about how and why we came up with these priorities. Can we frontload these projects and job creation as a kicker to get positive thinking toward the one cent for mobility because it is a tax and will be a challenge to sell? He thinks each individual should be able to speak to this in order to advocate articulately.

Katie Lloyd said not only are you advocating for these plans but for the funding that supports implementing these plans. Mr. Freestone thinks the Charlotte Task Force did an incredible job and would love for this group to support the work that has gone into it.

Angela Stoyanovich asked what can we do if we aren't funded? She wants to make sure that we still have a voice and need to think about alternatives to keep moving these ideas forward. Caitlin Tobin agreed it is important to educate our leaders so that it does get funded, not *if* it gets funded. She thinks it ought to be more a matter of how *much* funding does it get.

Paul Freestone thinks these projects can help with COVID economic and health recovery.

Martin Zimmerman said going back to the question he asked at the beginning of the meeting, it seems it is going to be difficult to get enough of a sale on the importance of the bike priority network while the Council is distracted by the comp plan right now. This is not a criticism, but rather an anxiety he is having with issues over single-family verses multifamily housing.

Eoin Sheil asked what are the expectations of these committees? He looked at the map and cannot make an educated suggestion because so much thorough thought has gone into it. He does not feel like he can really improve upon it, just wants to support this. He asked how much time do we have to support? How/when? Scott Curry replied that yes, a lot has gone into this, but you still have your own individual experiences to contribute. What routes do you use or prefer? Where do you think it can be improved? They have until April 5 to get feedback on the map and will continue to communicate with the BAC so they are aware of the timeline to prepare a letter of recommendation to Council.

Doug Burnett said what is getting done today is because of what was planned five years ago so nothing is being taken away from other projects. These are plans that have been in the works for years. We need citizen input otherwise the commissioners will make these decisions on their own.

Elaine Powell said there are a lot of people from North Mecklenburg on this call and she wants to know why do you support this or not? She wants to hear how her constituents feel and wants us to think about how fair is it when you look at all these maps to every part of the County.

Paul Freestone said he would like to synthesize some of the recent comments. To Doug's point, we don't have to wait five years to adjust our capital plan if we feel like we need to do that.

These ideas come from dialogues with leadership. It's up to us to make the case. We cannot wait until the referendum in 2022, we need to begin making the case for this on an ongoing basis. We need to prepare for all the growth. Caitlin Tobin thanked Mr. Freestone saying she thinks this is a good summary. She said the BAC also looks at what other cities are doing or have done for good ideas.

Scott Curry thanked the GAC for all their good work and complimented the greenway staff as professional and great to work with. Ms. Lloyd said if each committee wants to discuss further in their respective groups' meetings next month that would be good. No need to provide feedback immediately, we have some time. Mr. Washam confirmed that the feedback on the map is very important and valuable, we are using the comments to inform the plan.

Ms. Tobin thanked the staff for their presentation and the group for their feedback.

Agenda Item #4 Member topics

None.

Agenda Item #5 Adjourn and confirm next meeting date

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM. The next BAC meeting is scheduled for April 27. The next GAC meeting is scheduled for April 12 and the chair will circulate the project schedule before that.