



CHARLOTTE
May 24, 2022
6:00 PM

BAC Members Present: Dustin Branham
Veda Evans
Lekisha Hamilton
James Lee
Eoin Sheil
Angela Stoyanovitch
Caitlin Tobin
Michael Trivette

Members Absent: Paula Kranz
Alane Paraison
Liza Pratt

Staff Present: Hannah Bromberger, CDOT
Katherine Cogar, CDOT

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Veda Evans at 6:05 P.M.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present was Klaudio Hyseni, social justice fellow from Albania, Alexis Gordon with Economic Development.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

No members of the public spoke.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Eoin Sheil made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Caitlin Tobin seconded the motion, and the April minutes were approved by all.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly reports

Vice Chair's report: Veda Evans stated her goal as interim chair is to better utilize the monthly reports portion of the agenda. She would like to target four volunteers a month for a five-minute summary of pertinent city/county meetings. This would mean having members view the following meetings: City Council, County Commission, Transportation and Planning City Council Committee, and Safe Communities City Council Committee. All these meetings can be viewed on YouTube.

Staff Report: Hannah Bromberger announced the first draft of the Strategic Mobility Plan (SMP) was released on May 20th for public comment. Comments can be made in a draft document online at <https://publicinput.com/cltsmp>.

Each BAC member was given a token of appreciation from City Council as part of Volunteer Week in April.

Agenda Item #6 New business

The chair role and next steps

Liza Pratt has resigned from the BAC and her role of BAC Chairperson so that seat is now vacant. Please notify the group at the June meeting if interested in serving in the Chairperson capacity through the remainder of the current 2022 term. Elections are held annually in January per the BAC Rules of Procedure. Whoever takes over the Chairperson position may be considered for reelection in January, if interested. Angie Stoyanovitch suggested adding an exist survey to the process when the Chairperson rolls off/resigns to retain institutional knowledge.

Letter of support for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Budget

The group reviewed a draft letter, prepared by Veda Evans, supporting adoption of the FY 2023 City Budget, which proposes to double the bike program funding to \$8 million per bond cycle, or \$4 million per year. Hannah Bromberger explained that the City Manager released a plan for the next four bonds (2022, 2024, 2026, and 2028) last year but that this year, the FY 2023 Budget, is the first time it will be considered for adoption by City Council on May 31. If approved by City Council, the 2022 bond would be voted on by residents in November 2022.

Dustin Branham asked why the BAC would support the proposed \$8 million and asked the BAC to consider whether it should request more funding. Caitlin Tobin pointed out that the proposed \$8 million is the recommendation from the 2017 Charlotte Bikes plan and is in addition to other complete street projects that have bike facilities, as well as greenway projects constructed by the County. Following group discussion of the proposed funding amount, Angie Stoyanovitch asked if the City will hire a consultant to reexamine the amount of funding for the bike program. Hannah Bromberger replied that there will be subsequent work to identify and prioritize a list of projects if City Council votes to adopt the SMP. The last bike plan, Charlotte Bikes, was adopted in 2017 and called for \$8 million per bond cycle for the bike program. If the SMP is adopted, it's possible a new consultant will be brought on to make new funding recommendations based on the new plan.

James Lee said he is concerned because he is unable to use many existing bike lanes because they are not kept clear of debris. He noted that bike lane maintenance and street sweeping needs to be prioritized to ensure existing facilities are safe. He went on to list some of the bike lanes that need to be swept. Veda Evans pointed out that on page 65 of the SMP there is an action item about debris maintenance. Dustin Branham agreed and encouraged people to report unclean bike lanes to 311 or on the CLT+ app. He then asked about the purchase of a special street sweeper that can access protected bicycle facilities and Hannah Bromberger said she would follow-up with City staff and report back to the BAC on the status of the purchase.

Following additional discussion of the proposed 2022 bond funding level and bike lane maintenance needs, Caitlin Tobin proposed the following addition of language to the letter of support for the FY 2023 Budget through the Microsoft Teams meeting chat feature:

"As we move forward, these investments in new infrastructure, robust maintenance programs and bicycle programming are critical to promoting bicycling and moving towards our goal of a 50/50 mode split. As cyclists who use these roads every day, these investments make, what can be a life-and-death difference, in bicyclists' comfort and safety and moves towards our goal of becoming a Vision Zero City. We look forward to working with the City to keep increasing these investments over time and see more investment through the Strategic Mobility Plan implementation."

Angie Stoyanovitch said the BAC needs to mention safety in every letter because the redundancy helps emphasize how critical safety is to the cycling community. Veda Evans asked for everyone's thoughts on Caitlin Tobin's proposed addition to the letter. Eoin Sheil made a motion to approve the letter with the changes in the meeting chat posted by Caitlin Tobin with final changes to be sent out later. James Lee seconded the motion.

SMP Q&A and discussion of support and timing

Hannah Bromberger provided a brief overview presentation of the SMP and opened the floor for questions or comments about the SMP.

Upon Ms. Evan's suggestion, Angie Stoyanovitch made a motion for an ad-hoc meeting to discuss this topic further. Lekisha Hamilton seconded the motion for June 9th at 6pm and it was decided by the committee this would be a virtual meeting.

Agenda Item #7 Old business

Dissolution of the subcommittees

Veda Evans asked the BAC if everyone was still comfortable with the vote to dissolve the standing subcommittees and whether there was interest in discussing the addition of a standing agenda item. Eoin Sheil said it lets the BAC be more nimble to add ad-hoc meetings as needed so that they can be more deliberate with the group's use of time.

It was decided to keep the standing subcommittees dissolved without the addition on a standing topic on the BAC meeting agenda.

Agenda Item #8 Member topics and updates

Dustin Branham proposed offering to take City Council members on a guided bike ride to help them understand the importance of bike lanes and keeping them clear and well-maintained.

Dustin Branham encouraged all BAC members to participate in the critical mass ride on Friday, May 27, to advocate for better cycling conditions in Charlotte.

There was a question about the status of the Charlotte Cycling Guide update. Hannah Bromberger said she will follow-up with City staff and report back to the BAC.

Agenda Item #9 Confirmation of next meeting and adjourn

The next regularly scheduled BAC meeting will be June 28, in addition to the June 9 ad hoc meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 P.M.