



D U R H A M
Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

M I N U T E S

March 18, 2008 ■ 7:00 PM
Committee Room
Second Floor, City Hall

Members Present: Scott Carter, Alan Dippy, Dan Clever, Diane Daniel, Jim Dunlop, Greg Garneau, Ken Kaye, Pete Schubert, Linda Smith, Jack Warman
Members Absent: Excused absences: Henri Gavin, Bo Glenn, Tim Griffin, Lars Trost
Staff Present: Dale McKeel; Mark Ahrendsen
Guests Present: N/A
Public Present: William Thornton

1. Call to Order – Dan Clever called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. Meeting Minutes – On a motion by Jim and second by Jack, the January 26, 2008 retreat minutes were approved unanimously. On a motion by Ken and second by Jim, the February 19, 2008 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Adjustments to the Agenda – None.
4. Announcements – Dale announced that Durham’s application for Safe Routes to School funding had been approved for a proposed pedestrian bridge, sidewalk, and road diet near Fayetteville Street Elementary School.
5. Public Comments – None.
6. Development Committee Report – Jack reported that the committee has (1) reviewed the Duke Pedestrian Plan and is concerned that it is a high-level map with very little information; (2) continued the discussion of rezoning cases and wants to meet with Scott Whiteman from the Planning Department (3) discussed the Ninth Street North project and has received a request from the applicant to meet; (4) discussed UDO changes and recommendations are forthcoming.

Pete provided a brief overview of the Triangle Parkway and reported that there is an open house and design public hearing on March 25. Pete will take the lead in drafting BPAC comments on the project.

Diane asked about the status of the Anderson Street report. Dale said a draft report has been prepared but is not ready for release. An ad hoc committee consisting of Diane, Jim, and Lars was formed to review and comment on the recommendations. Diane requested that Anderson Street remain on future meeting agendas under Old Business.

7. Bike Plan Implementation Committee Report – Scott reported that at the March meeting he and Alison Carpenter discussed the bike map and how to collect ideas on bikeable roads. He noted that funds would be available in July. Diane asked about hiring a firm to do the map and Dale said the city would probably issue a Request for Qualifications for a consultant to assist with the project.

Scott stated that the General Services Department has reported that the Third Fork Creek Trail will be bid in March with construction beginning in May.

Scott said he is trying to keep momentum going with the committee and needs more participants from BPAC and non-BPAC members and will better publicize future meetings. He also wants the committee to move forward with the bike plan implementation progress report and get that out to the elected boards and the public.

8. Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee Report – Greg reported that he has read the ped plan and agreed to chair this committee. He attended the meeting of the statewide group in Greensboro and the recent STAC meeting, and also attended a recent precinct meeting and successfully requested his precinct vote to support a half-cent sales tax for infrastructure.

Diane added that the committee needs to put its digest of the ped plan on-line and finish its progress report to give feedback to the city council and the public.

Mark Ahrendsen said that the STAC final recommendations should be completed in a week or so. Pete suggested follow-up at a future meeting on how to move the STAC recommendations forward.

9. Communications Committee. Alan reported that the committee is working on a new handout item and logo for BPAC. The committee is planning for Bike to Work Week and plans to have an evening event at Tyler's and a breakfast event at Mad Hatter's. The committee moved that an amount not to exceed \$500 be approved for Bike to Work Week outreach activities, and the motion was approved unanimously.
10. BPAC Interlocal Agreement. There was a general discussion of increasing the number of members of BPAC. Dan suggested a goal of 25 members. After much discussion, there was consensus to request the following: (1) that the number of liaison members be increased from 3 to 7, with the new members being from the City Council, Board of County Commissioners, and representatives (either student or staff) from N.C. Central and Duke universities and (2) that up to six members may be appointed by the commission. On a motion by Jack and second by Jim, it was unanimously approved to take this request to the Joint City-County Planning Commission in April. Dan mentioned there were other minor changes that also need to be made to the agreement, such as stating that the Public Works Department rather than the Planning Department will provide staff to the commission.

11. BPAC Goals 2008-2009. The goals were briefly reviewed. There was consensus to add a goal for the Bike Plan Implementation Committee to prepare a progress report on implementation. It was decided that once the goals are finalized, they will be placed on the website.

Pete discussed several items to be included in the annual report, including an emphasis on the amount of additional bicycle parking that has been provided through the UDO requirements, road diets and a running total of bike lanes in Durham, the number of site plans reviewed, and proposed UDO changes.

12. Alston Avenue Widening Project. Dan began the discussion by referring the BPAC members to the letter dated January 24, 2008 from Mark Ahrendsen to the Durham City Council, which was included in the agenda packet. Dan suggested that BPAC may wish to take a position on whether to support the widening project as proposed or, as an alternative, a streetscape enhancement project. Dan distributed a summary of the memo.

Pete suggested that it is ripe for BPAC to take a position. Mark Ahrendsen said there are two levels of decision: (1) whether to widen the road and (2) if the decision is to widen, address concerns with the current design (right turn lanes, etc.). Mark mentioned that if the decision is made not to widen, there could be a public process to engage the community in a streetscape project. Mark noted that there is a similar streetscape public process beginning for several other corridors in Durham.

Jim mentioned that Alston Avenue is a state route, NC 55. Pete stated that it is a short project that stops at Holloway Street and doesn't carry through to I-85, and that a lot of the money is for structures. Pete asked what would happen to the money if it were not spent on Alston; Jim answered that the money would stay in the Division but would not necessarily be spent in Durham.

Mark said there is a need to separate the money from the vision. What is Durham's vision for Alston Avenue? If the decision is made to not move forward with the widening, Durham would suggest other projects to fund and NCDOT and the MPO would make the final decision.

Jim said that there is a thought that the East End Connector will take traffic from Alston, and one idea would be to delay the project until the EEC is built. Jim also stated that the Durham Freeway and railroad bridges might need to be replaced soon. Mark suggested that the railroads could fund their bridge replacements.

Jack moved and Ken seconded to draft a letter to the City Council recommending the following: (1) reject the design currently proposed by NCDOT and (2) move forward with a streetscape-style project that uses as its start the goal of addressing the concerns documented by Mark Ahrendsen in his memorandum entitled "Alston Avenue Widening Project (TIP Project U-3308) dated January 24, 2008. All members voted for the motion with Jim Dunlop abstaining.

Mark mentioned that the issue of whether to provide bike lanes on Fayetteville Street may come before the City Council soon.

13. Letter to NCDOT on Hopson Road Grade Crossing. Jim requested that the draft letter be modified to request greenspace between the curb and sidewalk. On a motion by Pete and second by Greg, the BPAC approved sending the letter to NCDOT.
14. Letter to 21ST Century Transportation Commission Intermodal Subcommittee. Dan said he is still formulating ideas on what to include in the letter but is considering more funding for independent bicycle and pedestrian projects, more funding to include bicycle and pedestrian facilities in maintenance projects, and a more multi-modal focus that makes bicycle and pedestrian transportation a part of the overall transportation vision. Dan said he also wants to forward BPAC's letter to other groups in the state to encourage that they write similar letters.

Mark noted that the 21st Century Commission will meet through December but in the short session this summer may focus on stopping the transfer from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund, supporting gap funding for Turnpike projects, improving the bridge program, and addressing urban congestion.

15. Comments on meeting agenda/minutes template. Jack said he is working to revise the template and will provide to the committees.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m. Next meeting: May 20, 2008, at 7 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dale McKeel.

Action Items

- Draft and send letters on Alston Avenue, Triangle Parkway, and Hopson Road.
- Draft the request to modify the Interlocal Agreement.