



## Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

### MINUTES

August 16, 2005 ▪ 7:00 PM  
Committee Room  
Second Floor, City Hall

- Members Present:** Phillip Barron, Tim Griffin, Sam Hummel, Chris Mankoff, Pete Schubert, Caleb Southern
- Members Absent:** Excused absences: Mike Wolosin, Heather Fisher, Judy Martell, Diane Daniel, Bo Glenn, Phil McHugh
- Staff Present:** Alison Carpenter, Cherri Smith
- Guests Present:** Jennifer Lewis (Louis Berger Group)
- Public Present:** Dan Clever

#### I. Call to Order

Chair Judy Martell and Vice Chair Heather Fisher were unable to attend the meeting. Sam Hummel sat in as chair and called the meeting to order.

Acting Secretary was Alison Carpenter.

#### II. Approval of Minutes

The July 2005 meeting minutes were endorsed, but as there was no quorum adoption of minutes was deferred to September meeting.

#### III. Adjustments to the Agenda: Introductions & Announcements

Introductions were made around the room.

Three items were added to the agenda:

- Bike Plan update
- Pedestrian Plan update
- Cornwallis Rd update
- Share the Road License Plate

Several announcements were made:

- Phillip Barron announced a cruiser ride in Carrboro/Chapel Hill on Tuesday, Aug 23rd @ 7:30pm

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Dave Sokal spoke to the commission regarding a proposed trail from the ATT to Parkwood (presentation materials filed in BPAC notebook), and subsequent request to connect this trail to RTP via Sedwick Rd. Dave asked that the commission pass a resolution to place Sedwick Rd (from Grandale to Alston) on the Regional Priority List, because of its importance for bicycle connectivity to RTP, the new public library (at Alston & NC54), as well as to the proposed new connector trail of the ATT.

Dan Clever, of the DOST Commission, attended the meeting to advocate for Sedwick Rd as a regional priority, as well, in conjunction with Dave Sokal's trail proposal.

Dave Sokal also mentioned the UDO comment period, and asked if changes to the ordinance would be made before adoption. Dave drafted a letter with suggested changes to the UDO, regarding bike/ped-related issues as well as discrepancies between the Comprehensive Plan and UDO.

#### **V. Presentation**

- PACE Car Program – Christina Headrick was unable to attend the meeting

#### **VI. Old Business**

- Chatham County Hit-and-Run Update – No updates were available on the police investigation, but Phillip informed the commission that a private investigator had been hired to look into the crime, however there are not any leads at this time.

Pete Schubert reiterated the impetus for bicyclist/motorist education with a “share the road” message. The State Bicycle Committee will discuss courtesy and education issues at its September 14 meeting, 10am-3pm. They will likely explore the possibility of a statewide educational campaign, involving public service announcements or something of the like. More info about the State Bicycle Committee is available online at [www.ncdot.org](http://www.ncdot.org)

- BPAC Website Update – no update
- Duke University Update – no update
- Car-Free Day Event Organization – Alison reported that she is working with TTA and the City's Economic Development office to reserve a space at American Tobacco Campus for a Sept 22 Car-Free Day/SmartCommute event. The event will run from 7:30am-5:30pm. Alison passed out a sign-up sheet for 2 hour shifts, the following people signed up:
  - Phillip Barron, 7:00-9:00am
  - Tim Griffin, 9:00-11:00am
  - Pete Schubert, 5:00-6:30pm

Caleb mentioned the need and possible opportunity for media coverage at the event, and offered to contact Channel 5 and Fox 50.

- Old Durham-Chapel Hill Rd Study Update – Copies of the draft report for the Old D-CH Rd study were available for commission members to review and discuss; large-scale maps were also posted for review. Pete Schubert went through the project, map by map, and explained major elements of the plan and related constructability drawings.

Tim Griffin asked about the problem of missing ROW cost estimate, and the inability to make a decision on a best design alternative (curb-and-gutter vs. shoulder) without cost information. Alison is working with the City's Real Estate team to find ROW cost estimates, which will be provided to Kimley-Horn and incorporated into the "Phasing Options" section of the final report.

Caleb Southern raised the issue of bike and pedestrian safety at roundabouts, especially pedestrians. Caleb cited the national debate on this issue, and asked about the design of the two roundabouts in the study. Alison explained the design origin and details, such as 25mph speed limit. Caleb agreed that roundabouts may be most appropriate solution in this case, but would like to discuss at a future meeting the safety issues of roundabouts. He stated that, in general, he prefers traffic signals to roundabouts due to ped concerns.

Pete offered to address all the concerns raised by the commission in a letter to City Council. He will bring this letter to the September meeting.

The commission has been asked to make formal comments, prior to the item being presented to City Council in October.

- Pedestrian Plan Update – Jennifer Lewis of Louis Berger Group attended the meeting and gave a brief summary of the survey results thus far. A survey summary report was handed out for review.

## **VI. New Business**

- Election of Treasurer – item postponed to September meeting, due to lack of quorum
- TIP Process & Regional Priority List Updates – Alison distributed the FY2007-2013 Regional Project Priority List for State Transportation Improvement Program funding. The commission reviewed this list and made comments at the February BPAC meeting, and Alison noted that 4 bike/ped projects were added by City Council subsequent to that meeting:
  - Morreene Rd - bicycle & pedestrian facilities
  - Cole Mill Rd – bicycle facilities
  - LaSalle St – pedestrian facilities

- Chapel Hill Rd – bicycle & pedestrian facilities
- Dearborn Dr – bicycle & pedestrian facilities

The MPO reopened a public comment period for this list through September, so that local jurisdictions have an opportunity to give additional feedback.

Transportation Advisory Committee member Ed Harrison and BPAC member Pete Schubert requested that the item come before the commission again for further review and comments.

Over half of the projects listed in the City of Durham Regional Priority List (21/36) include bicycle and pedestrian improvements. A question was raised about the likelihood of independent bike/ped projects being funded over others. Alison explained the MPOs criteria ranking methodology for project priorities, and also explained that the TAC had the capacity to push project rankings in the MTIP (the MPO-suggested TIP funding allocation).

Sam Hummel asked what percent of various budgets are spent on bike/ped improvements. Alison reminded commission members of a previous vote to encourage NCDOT to spend at least 5% of their annual budget on bicycle and pedestrian projects, in order to keep up with the expectations of the MPOs Long Range Transportation Plan “Bicycle Element.” The commission also discussed Dave Sokal’s request for Sedwick Rd as a regional bicycle priority. Due to lack of quorum, the commission could not vote on either of these matters prior to the end of the public comment period, but it was suggested that individual comments be directed to the MPO through the [www.dchempo.org](http://www.dchempo.org) website.

- Federal Transportation Bill – Alison passed out information from America Bikes regarding funding in federal transportation bill allocated toward national Safe Routes to School program and other bike/ped opportunities.
- Centerfest and other events – the commission has decided to work on an International Car-Free Day event for Sept 22, so decided not to participate in Centerfest this year.

## **VII. Adjournment**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Follow-up with CAMPO on joint meeting
- Explore opportunities for BPAC to review rezoning plans for scrutiny of potential bike/ped improvements
- Schedule update on Bike Plan item and discuss trail opportunities and connections to ATT/other trails
- Work on Car-Free Day media coverage