

Meeting Minutes
Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission
September 19, 2006

Present:

Excused Absences: Tim Griffin, Robert Glenn

1. The minutes of the August meeting were approved with corrections to the spelling of Michael Knies's name.
2. Visitors were acknowledged: Brian Burgler of Bike Plan, Jack Worman, visitor
3. Announcements: Pete announced that he will be attending a Pedestrian Safety Action meeting soon, which offers resources for "opportunity states", of which North Carolina is one.
4. Discussion on the status of the Durham Bicycle Plan: Dan reported that the final draft is now out for review. It will be going to the Planning Commission in October, and then on to governing bodies (City Council, County Commissioners) in November. Felix added that if the Planning Commission can't take it up in its regular October meeting, they will try to hold a special meeting. He added that it would be good to have a recommendation from BPAC for approval (see #6, below) . Pete asked how members of the public can get a copy of the plan to review. Brian replied that Bonnie in the Planning Department will handle inquiries and, when the plan is in its final form, it will be posted on the website and those who inquired will be informed. Diane inquired how much the plan has changed since the last time BPAC saw it, and Brian replied that there are many new sections in implementation, strategies, and staffing guidelines; the sections in implementation are significant. The network chapter was reworked, and Chapter 4 has easier-to-use maps by regions. He said that the greenway recommendations are from the 2001 trails plan; they tried to use city owned property and rail trail options as much as possible for trail alignments.

Felix said that from this Bike Plan, and once the new BPAC coordinator is on board, two projects will quickly ensue: 1) a new bike map for Durham County will be written; and 2) identification of areas that can be striped now for bikes will be done, which can add up to 30 miles of bike lanes quickly.

5. Development Review Board (Judy Martell, Wesley Parham)

Judy introduced the issue of the Duke Pedestrian Plan which recently came before the Development Review Board. Judy asked to have the plan pulled from the last DRB meeting's agenda so BPAC could review this plan, and invited Wesley to help with background and field UDO questions. Wesley said that this is the second revision of the Duke Pedestrian Plan that the Planning Department has reviewed, but there is little difference from the first. Of concern here is the directive that this pedestrian plan cannot be critiqued in full by the Planning Department; rather, only the transitional areas (where Duke boundaries join Durham boundaries) are to be reviewed, not the internal campus. If

this is the case, then once the plan is approved, the applicant (Duke) cannot be requested to make any changes different from the plan. However, Duke is identified as a UC (University College) district in the UDO, and there are specific ordinances in the UDO for internal pathways, not just transitional pathways. It is Wesley's opinion that Duke should adhere to the ordinances unless they request alternate standards and get them approved by the DRB.

It appears that there is some urgency to Duke's Pedestrian Plan request for approval, as they wish to receive a certificate of occupancy for the Duke Integrated Medicine building, but are opposed to building a sidewalk along Morreene Road, which has been required by Durham under current guidelines, before a CO is given. If this pedestrian plan is approved by the DRB, Duke would then be exempt from ever building this sidewalk, as it is not indicated on this plan. Duke is also opposed to building a sidewalk on 751 in front of the Washington Duke Inn, indicating that the jogging/recreational trail around the golf course qualifies as having the same functionality, which exempts them from building a sidewalk on 751.

Wesley said that if Duke's pedestrian plan is approved, then future development within Duke's campus will not trigger the city to require sidewalks under UDO guidelines. Caleb suggested that this is precedent-setting as regards the interpretation of conventions for sidewalks at Duke vs. Durham. Wesley reminded us that while alternate plans for some sidewalks within Duke's borders might be useful, a campus-wide alternate plan would have to be written. Judy stated that she will draft comments on this plan to be reviewed by BPAC members on-line before she submits them. They need to be submitted by October 4th. She will also draft questions for the DRB regarding the process by which this plan came before the DRB without prior review by BPAC.

In further DRB comments, Judy mentioned that the bike parking design for the new bus transit station is now significantly improved: the plan provides 10% of daily bus arrivals in bike parking spaces, which will yield 37, 20 additional spaces to accommodate the future TTA station nearby (so 57 total), and 9 of these spaces will be bike lockers. Bike parking is now located at all three entrances to the station, and will be under cover.

Finally, Judy asked for feedback from BPAC on a plan for a new school located on the Northern Durham Parkway. The commission advised her that this will be along a multi-modal 4-lane highway and thus the school should make accommodations for bicycle parking.

6. Resolution for the Bicycle Plan. Judy made a motion to approve the BPAC resolution to approve the Durham Bicycle Plan with amended wording to the 5th statement ("whereas the Bike Plan offers both short term and long term opportunities for bike facilities:"); Caleb seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The resolution will be given to both the Durham City Council and the Durham Board of County Commissioners.

7. Law Enforcement Campaign (Diane Daniel): After some discussion, it was agreed that Diane will request of the police department that : 1) BPAC receive a report on how the department is improving conditions at the intersection at Broad and Perry Streets; 2) BPAC be informed of the resolution by the department on charges to the driver for the recent accident involving a pedestrian at that intersection; 3) the department target enforcement of bicyclists biking on the correct (right) side of the road, issuing written warning to those riding incorrectly, and that the department give us a report on the number of warnings written during the period that they focus on this effort.

7. University Updates (): the Duke Bike Advocates group now has their bike fix-up station up and running, located between the Bryan Center and the quad. It will be a mobile unit.

8. Smart Commute Challenge (Pete): No further information; nothing is currently set up for this event.

9. Ozone Awareness Activities (Pete): No report for now: will consider again for next year as a new action.

10. Traffic Safety Hotline Committee: tabled.

11. Joint CAMPO, CH-BPAC, Durham BPAC meeting (Heather): This meeting is in the process of getting set up for November or later. It is hoped that Tom Norman will come; if he does, it would be good to prepare questions about statewide issues for him ahead of time.

12. American Tobacco Trail update (Felix): Pete asked if Phase E (the bridge over I-40 and connections to the county line) has been contracted yet. Felix replied that this has not yet occurred. A TIP amendment was needed to increase the available monies, up from the original \$2 million to approximately \$8 million now. This has gone to the DOT. Contracts should be ready by the end of the year. A question was asked about the surface design: it is now planned to be 10' of asphalt and 8' of screenings, though Felix is unsure if there is final resolution on this. Pete asked if BPAC could see the design; Felix will get this for us. Dan reported that Rail to Trails is getting signatures (online) to help keep the focus on this project.

13. Retreat Planning: tabled.

14. Alison's replacement: Felix reported that applications for Alison's former position as BPAC coordinator have now been closed; there are 9 candidates, with perhaps one or two still outstanding. Felix will share information on the candidates with us when the list is completed. He suggests that a BPAC representative be included in the decision process.

15. Bike Lane Maintenance (Pete): Pete announced that Katy Kalb, Director of Public Works, worked out an agreement with NCDOT to have street sweepers include regular

maintenance of bike lanes in their routine. This will help to keep the lanes clean of debris for bicycle safety.

Meeting adjourned; 9 p.m. Next meeting: October 17, 2006 7 pm
Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Martell