



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

MINUTES

September 19, 2005 ■ 7:00 PM
Committee Room
Second Floor, City Hall

- Members Present:** Bo Glenn, Tim Griffin, Judy Martell, Phil McHugh, Pete Schubert, Caleb Southern, Mike Wolosin
- Members Absent:** Excused absences: Phillip Barron, Diane Daniel, Heather Fisher, Sam Hummel, Chris Mankoff
- Staff Present:** Alison Carpenter
- Guests Present:** N/A
- Public Present:** Jim Gudaitis, David Love

I. Call to Order

Chair Judy Martell called the meeting to order.
Acting Secretary was Alison Carpenter.

II. Approval of Minutes

The July 2005 and August meeting minutes were adopted without changes.

III. Adjustments to the Agenda: Introductions & Announcements

An item on the “Pedestrian Plan Update” was added to the agenda.

Pete Schubert announced the upcoming Cycle NC ride in October, from Asheville to Wilmington.

IV. Public Comment

N/A

V. Old Business

- Joint Meeting with Capital Area Bike/Ped Stakeholder Group – Alison reported that the CAMPO Bike/Ped Stakeholder Group met in August and agreed to a joint meeting with BPAC in November. Commission members suggested a meeting on November 22, 4-6pm, at TTA. Alison will work with CAMPO staff to make arrangements. Suggested topics of discussion included bicycle education, CORE plan, and regional events.

- Car-Free Day Event – The Car-Free Day event will be held this year on Sept 22, 8am-2pm, at the American Tobacco Campus. Starbucks has donated free coffee, Ninth Street Bakery has donated baked goods, and gift certificate prizes were donated by Tyler’s and Mellow Mushroom. Several commission members have signed up to help staff the info booth.
- BPAC Website Update – Tim announced that the website has been updated to include bike/pedestrian information about local University campuses – Duke, NCCU and Durham Tech.
- Duke University Update – Mike Wolosin reported that biking activity seems to have increased on campus this semester. The Duke Bike Advocates recently met with Assistant Vice President, Talman Trask, for a walking tour of campus to discuss potential bike improvements for Duke. Mike reported that Trask seems positive and receptive about bicycling issues. He also reported that the DBA are advocating for inclusion of a chapter on bicycle transportation in Duke’s Campus Master Plan.
- Bike Plan Update – Alison reported that the Bike Plan item passed through City Council on September 19. The contract is being finalized with Greenways, Inc, and the planning process will likely begin in mid-October. Pete Schubert will act as the BPAC liaison on the steering committee, which is scheduled to have its first kick-off meeting in October.
- Old Durham-Chapel Hill Rd Study Update – Pete Schubert reported that the study is currently up for review and comment by local jurisdictions. The item went before the Chapel Hill Town Council on September 19, with a recommendation to complete Phasing Option 1, if additional funds are not allocated to the project.

Pete, as the policy committee liaison for the project, asked the commission discuss formal feedback to forward to the Durham City Council in letter format. The item will go before the City Council at their October 17 meeting, and BPAC can advise the Council members of any recommendations for the study. Council will then submit their comments to the MPO’s Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) in November, where the Plan will be recommended for endorsement by the TAC.

The commission discussed the recommended Phasing Options included in the report, and while some preferred to see the eastern section of the corridor constructed first (an option not presented by the consultants), all agreed that it was most important to acquire ROW along the entire corridor to ensure that the project would be completed from Garrett to Sage Rd at some point in the future. The commission discussed the importance of the eastern end, as related to current and anticipated development along Garrett Rd, as well as connectivity with MLK/University Dr bike facilities.

In addition to ROW acquisition, the commission felt it was important to construct bicycle and pedestrian improvements simultaneously. Commission members felt

that it may be easy to complete one facility in Phasing Option 2 or 3, and fail to complete the other portion in time. For this reason, they thought that Phasing Option 1 is the most feasible option if phasing is necessary, but with additional language regarding ROW acquisition along entire corridor to ensure project completion. However, first and foremost, the commission would like to see City/Town Council, TAC and others discuss the possibility of providing additional funding for completion of bike/ped facilities along the entire length of the corridor before opting for project phasing.

BPAC voted to make the following recommendations to City Council. Pete moved the item; Caleb seconded. Pete offered to draft a letter to Council, summarizing these items.

- 1) Request full funding from the MPO/state/local jurisdictions for construction of bike and pedestrian facilities along the entire corridor.
- 2) The typical cross-section should be adopted, to provide design for uniform development and corridor protection during future development processes.
- 3) If full funding is not committed, the Durham City/County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission recommends Phasing Option #1 above others, in order to construct bicycle and pedestrian facilities simultaneously. Commission suggests adding ROW acquisition along the entire corridor to this Phasing Option 1, if it selected.

In addition to these recommendations, Jim Gudaitis suggested that lighting be included in the project. Bo Glenn suggested that a copy of the BPAC letter be provided to the New Hope Creek Advisory Commission and Chapel Hill Bike/Ped Group, for their information.

- Pedestrian Plan Update – Alison reported that the Durham Public School (DPS) photography outreach for 4th/5th grade students had begun. The photography program is part of the Durham Pedestrian Plan, and offers school-aged children in Durham the opportunity to give input on walkability. The program is being conducted through Art classes throughout the DPS system, with the exception of only a few schools. Students will participate in class ‘walking audits’ and mapping exercises, as well as photo-taking. All photos will be displayed in Durham City Hall from November 14-16, 2005.

VI. New Business

- Election of Treasurer – Judy Martell stated that Chris Mankoff discussed this item with her prior to the meeting, and volunteered himself as a candidate for the position of treasurer. Mike moved approval of Chris as treasurer and Pete seconded.
- CenterFest – Alison reported that the CenterFest organizers have offered BPAC a free spot in the government services tent in exchange for the arrangement of bicycle parking at the event entrances. A work order has been placed for the bike parking; Alison will pass out a sign-up sheet via email for those who would like to volunteer to help staff a shared table with DOST.

- DOST Development Review Subcommittee – Judy reported that DOST member, Dan Clever, contacted Judy regarding the possibility of having a BPAC member act as liaison to the DOST Development Review subcommittee. BPAC members expressed interest in the opportunity to give input on development review. Caleb Southern, BPAC’s Planning Commission liaison, asked what plans the DOST subcommittee reviews - Bo Glenn, chair of DOST, answered that the subcommittee reviews site plans and rezonings. Caleb explained that the Planning Commission offers comments on rezonings. The commission discussed the opportunities for input on both rezonings and site plans, and feel it is important for input at both levels through the Planning Commission liaison and a liaison to DOST’s subcommittee. Bo will discuss the possibility of a BPAC liaison to the DOST development review subcommittee at the Wednesday, September 21 meeting and update BPAC members at the October meeting.
- Education Materials – Pete Schubert gave an update on the September 20 meeting of the State Bicycle Committee, where bicycle/motorist education was a major focus. Pete suggested that the NCDOT will work on statewide bicycle/motorist education campaign, likely in the form of radio/TV public service announcements. NCDOT will seek out materials from other states and will continue to discuss the item at State Bicycle Committee meetings.

Alison presented information on the \$18,000 CMAQ grant for development of bicycle education materials and \$30,000 for a user-friendly bicycle map. The bicycle education materials will be the first priority, and the bicycle map will be completed after the Durham County Bike Plan has produced an evaluation of existing facilities and recommendations for future improvements.

Alison has received several quotes from print designers in downtown Durham, in order to begin work on the bicycle education materials, which could include the existing “Bicycle Commuter Guide” booklet and tri-fold “Bicycle Safety for Motorists” brochure, in addition to a new “Bike Law” card and “Share the Road” bumper sticker. Tim presented idea for bumper sticker design to the commission via email; Alison will continue to place the education item on the agenda for future discussion, review of design ideas, and editing of text material.

Commission members recommended that pedestrian safety materials be included as an item for funding. It was also suggested that all print material be posted on the web, once completed. Caleb suggested talking to the Visitor Center about distribution of education materials and map.

VII. Adjournment

ACTION ITEMS

- Follow-up with CAMPO on joint meeting