

Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC)

Calendar Year 2004-2005 Annual Report

I. Mission:

The primary purpose of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission shall be to provide **advice** to the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners on questions relating to bicycle and pedestrian issues. In order to provide health, recreation, and transportation benefits to the City and County, the Commission shall study and promote the following: the full **integration** of bicycling and walking into community transportation policies and practices; **incentives** for increasing bicycling and walking; best **practices** in bicycling and walking facilities development; bicycle and pedestrian **programs** designed for children and seniors; bicycle touring as economic development for the community; **safety** programs for bicycling and walking; physical and mental **health benefits** of walking and bicycling; and **funding** for bicycle and pedestrian programs and facilities.

II. Structure of BPAC

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) was established in July of 2001. Operating under adopted by-laws, the Commission consists of 12 appointed members from City and County, and three liaisons from existing City/County commissions – the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission, the Recreation Advisory Commission, and the Durham Planning Commission. BPAC sets annual goals in the areas of (1) education and outreach, (2) facilities and access, and (3) planning and policy. Commission members divide themselves into related sub-committees as projects arise. A permanent City staff member is now assigned to the Commission, and acts as Secretary. Elected officer positions include Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer.

Chair: Heather Fisher

Vice-chair: N/A

Treasurer: Chris Mankoff

III. Presentations Made to BPAC for Discussion

- A. Juanita Shearer-Swink, Triangle Transit Authority (July 2004)** – TTA Rail Project Manager, Juanita Shearer-Swink, presented 60% plans to Commission members and took feedback regarding bike/ped access to rail stations.
- B. Ben Hitchings, Triangle J Council of Governments (October 2004)** - attended the meeting to speak about the Center of the Region (CORE) Bike and Pedestrian Planning project. This project focuses on bike and pedestrian routes in southern Durham County and northern Wake County, feeding into the Research Triangle Park.
- C. Stephen Bevington, Durham citizen (November 2004)** – Durham citizen and parent, Stephen Bevington, made a presentation to the Commission during the November public forum and later submitted a letter to BPAC and Ann Denlinger, of Durham Public Schools, regarding biking/walking conditions for Durham students. Steve suggested great improvements to local facilities, as well as a shift in mentality regarding quality of life for local kids and parents.

- D. Tom Norman, NCDOT Bike/Ped Division (January 2005)** - Tom Norman, Director of the NCDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Division, presented information to BPAC on the Cornwallis bike lane project. Tom presented site plans of the entire bike lane project for commission members to view. Tom discussed the regional significance of this project, with its connections to the ATT to the north and RTP to the south. Commission members requested an NC55 connection between MLK and Cornwallis Rd, and suggested a maintenance/debris removal plan for bikeways, in order to improve the convenience and safety of cyclists.
- E. Mary Meletiou, ITRE (January 2005)** - As a consultant to the NCDOT Bike/Ped Division, Mary is overseeing the NCDOT Ped Plan grant for the City of Durham. Mary spoke to the Commission about the plan's progress, and how the NCDOT plans to incorporate local bike/ped plans into the State's Comprehensive Transportation Plan for future project funding.
- F. Nick Lurie, Chapel Hill Bike/Ped Advisory Board (January 2005)** - Nick Lurie, member of the Chapel Hill Bike/Ped Advisory Board, presented the Chapel Hill Bike/Ped Action Plan to the commission and discussed opportunities for cooperation between adjacent municipalities. Nick presented maps of improvement corridors for Chapel Hill, and discussed their plans for sidewalk/bicycle improvements. The full Action Plan can be viewed at: <http://townhall.townofchapelhill.org/planning/bikeped/BikePedPlan.htm>
- G. Dave Sokal, Durham citizen (February 2005)** – Parkwood resident, Dave Sokal, attended the meeting and spoke about the lack of bike accommodations between his neighborhood and surrounding retail/business districts. Dave was particularly concerned with bike/ped access along NC 54 and NC 55, and between his neighborhood to RTP and the ATT. Dave later submitted specific route suggestions to BPAC, the DCHC MPO TAC and other City/County staff and elected officials.
- H. Kathy Molin, TTA (February 2005)** - TTA staff liaison to BPAC, Kathy Molin, brought materials to present to the commission about the Durham County Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Ordinance and TTA's Commuter Resources program. She discussed the Commuter Resource team's work with local businesses, especially those that have over 100 employees and are required to develop and implement TDM plans that promote employee use of alternative transportation.
- I. Kathy Molin, TTA (April 2005)** - presented information to commission regarding the "Travel in Your Neighborhood" marketing project at TTA. The project is funded by a Federal Transit Administration grant, and allows TTA to focus resources and staff time on personalized marketing tactics to residents in the downtown Durham area. TTA has packaged a number of resources about transit, biking and walking for distribution as part of the project.
- J. Jason Langheier, Fitness Forward (April 2005)** - gave a presentation to the commission on his local "Fitness Forward" project. Jason is a med student at Duke, who began an initiative in local schools that focuses on increasing healthy eating habits and physical activity in elementary school kids. The program focuses on 4 health behaviors – nutrition, sleep, stress management, and daily physical activity. Jason hopes to work with the Commission on future events, and is prepared to promote the program locally and nationally through outreach and media. More info is available at www.fitnessforward.org.
- K. Phil Loziuk, City of Durham (June 2005)** - City Traffic Engineer, Phil Loziuk, attended the meeting to discuss intersection improvements in response to a letter sent by the BPAC traffic committee in May. The committee recommended improvements for five intersections. Phil addressed each intersection:
- Hwy 15-501 & Garrett Rd – City is currently working with NCDOT regarding ped improvements to intersection during an upcoming 15-501 widening project

- Broad & Perry St – City recently made a number of signage improvements and is looking into additional treatments, such as in-street crosswalk lighting.
- Broad/Swift/Main St – City is petitioning NCDOT for crosswalks to be installed at the north and west legs of the intersection; crossing is pending construction of 5ft curb ramp/pad at NW corner.
- Hillsborough/La Salle St – recent request resulted in decision to install pedestrian signals and crosswalks on the north and west legs of the intersection.
- Roxboro/Mangum/Markham – City and NCDOT have planned a Small Urban Fund project at this intersection to increase pedestrian safety and improve traffic flow. The plan calls for raised concrete islands for channelization, tighter crossing radii, and improved pavement markings. The project has been postponed by NCDOT, and may be delayed until summer 2006 at the least.

L. Ed Harrison, Chapel Hill Town Council member (July 2005) – Chapel Hill town council member and Durham County resident, Ed Harrison, attended the meeting and briefly discussed the Division 5 Regional Project Priorities for the statewide Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ed inquired about the process for suggesting new projects, and explained to the commission the importance of bi-jurisdictional support for facilities in areas of overlap between Durham and Chapel Hill.

M. Audra Foree, Julie Woosley and Cha'ssem Anderson, SmartCommute Challenge (July 2005) – Respective representatives from TTA, SmartCommute in RTP, and DATA presented information to the Commission regarding the expanded 2005 SmartCommute Challenge throughout Wake, Durham and Orange counties. The Challenge was held from August 15-September 30, 2005 to encourage the use of alternative commute modes (walking, biking, carpool, transit, telecommuting, etc) by Triangle-area employees. TTA and SmartCommute worked with the Commission to hold events in downtown Durham, and the Commission co-hosted an event to celebrate the SmartCommute Challenge and Car-Free Day on September 23, 2005 at the American Tobacco Campus.

N. Dave Sokal, Durham citizen (August 2005) – Parkwood resident, Dave Sokal, spoke to the commission regarding a proposed trail from the ATT to Parkwood, 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 Division 5 Regional Priority List because of its importance for bicycle connectivity to RTP, the new public library (Alston & NC54), as well as to the proposed new connector trail of the ATT. Dave also asked that changes related to bike/ped use be incorporated into the UDO prior to its adoption. Dave offered to draft a letter with suggested changes to the Comprehensive Plan and UDO, and submit it to City/County Planning Director, Frank Duke.

O. Dan Clever, DOST Commission Member (August 2005) – Dan attended the meeting to advocate for Sedwick Rd bike facilities as a regional priority, in conjunction with Dave Sokal's trail proposal.

P. Dan Clever, DOST Commission Member (December 2005) – Dan presented information regarding bike-to-transit statistics from other cities/towns in the U.S., and asked the Commission to send a letter of support to TTA, as well as Senators Dole and Burr, regarding the TTA rail project. Dan also asked the Commission to research bike-to-transit opportunities to increase rail ridership.

Q. Scott Lane and Jennifer Lewis, the Louis Berger Group – Scott and Jennifer visited the Commission on several occasions to give updates on the City of Durham Pedestrian Plan.

IV. BPAC Community Activities and Actions

- A. Provided recommendations for revisions to the UDO, and conducted ongoing oversight and further revisions to process throughout the year.
- B. Reviewed 60% designs for TTA station stops for rapid transit, and submitted request to TTA for increased attention to bike/ped amenities and access in station design. Requested improvements include additional bike parking, intersection improvements for pedestrians, and allowances for bikes on trains.
- C. Reviewed the proposed changes to the NC 98 Holloway Street railroad crossing (U-4010). The Commission sent a letter to DOT to request maintenance of 14' lanes at the crossing, for bike safety, and met with NCDOT and City staff to discuss creative roadway design that addresses bicyclist needs.
- D. Presented letter to City Council regarding best design practice for incorporating bike/ped features into the Apex Street Bridge
- E. Appointed a liaison to the stakeholder group for the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Rd Feasibility Study, to make recommendations on bike/ped facilities for the roadway between Chapel Hill and Durham
- F. Conducted a bike/ped education booth at the Eno River Festival in July 2004 & 2005, Car-Free Day on September 22, 2004, Earth Day event in April 2005, Bike to Work Day event in May 2005, the SmartCommute Challenge in Sept/Oct 2005, and CenterFest event in September 2004 and October 2005.
- G. Requested a proclamation from the Durham Board of County Commissioners and Durham City Council to recognize and actively promote 2004 Car-Free Day. Commission partnered with DATA and TTA, as well as other Triangle area groups, to promote downtown Car-Free Day event in Durham. In collaboration, the City offered a 2-hour bike commuter class to City employees interested in bike commuting.
- H. Hosted welcoming event at the Armory for the first-ever East Coast Greenway (ECG) tour group, which stopped in Durham on their promotional trip from Maine to Florida
- I. Effectively publicized "DurhamBikePed" yahoo listserv to Durham citizens – membership currently at 170!
- J. Reviewed the design for new pedestrian bridge over NC-147; made recommendations and requested that the Commission be included in the design review process for this bridge.
- K. Reviewed the draft TIP Project Priority List for 2007-2013. Commission made specific recommendations for priorities and revisions.
- L. Met with CAMPO Bike/Ped Stakeholder Group to coordinate efforts with Wake County jurisdictions and ensure connectivity at boundaries.
- M. Participated in City/County organized Open Meetings Workshop to learn more about commission meeting protocol and advertising efforts
- N. Hosted November 2004 Public Forum to receive public comments on bicycle and pedestrian related issues
- O. Submitted letters of support to DCHC MPO regarding CMAQ bike/ped project proposals for Durham. CMAQ grants awarded for Morreene Rd bike/ped improvements, City of Durham bike education materials and bike parking program.
- P. BPAC members, Aaron Cain and Steve Matherly, presented bike/ped concerns at several City/County meetings regarding potential closure of the Blackwell/Corcoran and Pettigrew intersection (an at-grade crossing with the RR tracks). BPAC members

- helped voice opposition to the construction of an underground tunnel for pedestrian access.
- Q. Hosted national Safe Routes to School workshop at Fayetteville Street Elementary in April 2005.
 - R. Formed Traffic Subcommittee to gather public feedback and make suggestions to City Traffic Engineer, Phil Loziuk, on intersection improvements that benefit pedestrian access
 - S. Appointed liaison members to serve on the City of Durham Pedestrian Plan stakeholder group.
 - T. Participated in discussions with NCDOT, Duke University and Norfolk-Southern regarding Main St bridge replacement over Campus Drive. BPAC advocated for bike/ped improvements to the existing bridge structure.
 - U. Submitted letter to NCDOT regarding Mountain Creek bridge replacement project, advocating bike/ped improvements to bridge and roadway approaches to bridge.
 - V. Appointed BPAC liaison to the DOST Development Review Subcommittee and the City/County Development Review Board, as required by the newly adopted UDO.
 - W. Worked with City staff to develop bike education materials, focused on increasing bicyclist and motorist safety and promoting bike commuting.
 - X. Member, Phillip Barron, worked with ad hoc subcommittee to extend American Tobacco Trail hours to allow for bike commuter use after dark.
 - Y. Appointed liaison member to serve on the Durham County Bicycle Plan stakeholder group.
 - Z. Increased communication and coordination with the Duke University administration and Duke Bike Advocates group on bicycle education and infrastructure planning.
 - AA. Advocated for the re-stripping of Duke University Rd to add bike lanes

V. Ongoing BPAC Projects

- A. Developed format and materials for new Commission member packet that provides history, a glossary of acronyms, orientation to governmental organization, and familiarity with the mission of our organization to incoming members.
- B. Began the construction of a Commission website – www.bikewalkdurham.org. The site includes information on BPAC members and meetings, as well as general information on biking and walking in Durham and surrounding area.

VI. Goals Approved for July 2006 – June 2007

- A. Education and Outreach:
 - 1. Develop bike and pedestrian educational materials, including “Basic Bike Commuting” pamphlet, Bike Safety for Motorists brochure, bike law card and promotional bumper sticker
 - 2. Plan and execute a booth at a major Durham festival
 - 3. Host a Walkable Community Workshop to address bicycle and pedestrian safety in Durham

B. Facilities:

1. Develop a list of areas in need of a small area plan for non-vehicular transit
2. Act as a resource for neighborhoods desiring non-vehicular planning
3. Study and monitor the city's sidewalk plan
4. Study and monitor the county bicycle plan
5. Inventory future major pedestrian destinations and analyze for access

C. Planning & Policy

1. Continue recommendations on bike-ped facilities for future updates to UDO
2. Establish greater interaction with local, regional and state bike/ped agencies and organizations

D. Membership

1. Actively solicit candidates for membership to BPAC