

Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) Calendar Year 2006 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: Dan Clever

Vice-chair: Tim Griffin

Treasurer: Diane Daniel

III. Presentations Made to BPAC for Discussion

- A. Kevin Primus, Primus First Realty (January 2006)** – presented project ideas for a “Safer Routes” to Duke campus program and resource guide to help students and staff understand the bike and pedestrian environment in neighborhoods near the campus.
- B. Janet Barbato, Friends of the Eno (January 2006)** – discussed the organization’s request for funding priority of the Eno River greenway and associated bridgework, as well as the Lower Warren Creek greenway (which would connect the existing north-south greenway north of Horton Rd to the Eno Park).
- C. Beth Timson, Durham Parks & Recreation Department (February 2006)** – made a presentation to the commission regarding proposed revisions to City ordinances for skateboarding and bicycling.

- D. Bob Jentsch, Durham Planning Commission (February 2006)** – discussed proposed revisions to the Durham Comprehensive Plan and UDO which would require developers to illustrate bike/ped connectivity in site plans, development plans, and subdivision plans and asked the Commission to support these changes.
- E. Scott Lane and Jennifer Lewis, Louis Berger Group, Inc (March 2006)** – presented the DurhamWalks Pedestrian Plan to the commission and provided background on the planning process, and laid out the project, program and policy recommendations of the Plan.
- F. Iona Hauser, Stewart Engineering (April 2006)** – made a presentation on the NC-147 Pedestrian Bridge project.
- G. Cherri Smith, Durham Parks and Recreation Department (April 2006)** – gave the commission a brief update on the progress of the Eno River Greenway bridge project and trail work.
- H. Kathleen Snyder, Durham Planning Department and Ellen Beckmann, Durham Transportation Division (June 2006)** – discussed a recommendation from the Commission to encourage DATA and TTA to give free bus rides on Ozone Action Days. Ellen Beckmann explained that she is working on a Greenhouse Gas Plan for Durham, and that such an initiative might fit in nicely with the set of recommended actions within the Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Kathleen Snyder spoke to her role as staff liaison to the City/County Environmental Affairs Board, and noted that the board had discussed this matter previously and supports the idea, and she mentioned that BPAC may want to work jointly with the EAB to approach local transit agencies on this issue.
- I. Jim Gadidis, Durham Resident (August 2006)** – as a frequent biker on Morreene road, he appreciates the recent repair/resurfacing work, but is concerned that the road was not made wider to accommodate bike lanes. This is unfortunate as this roadway is scheduled for bike lanes in the future. For future repaving, would like to see roads widened when necessary and bike lanes striped. Thick edge lines can still present problems for cyclists when they are wet.
- J. Lieutenant Leroy Williams, Durham Police Department, and Sergeant Stokes Barnes, Durham County Sheriff's Department (August 2006)** – as liaisons to the BPAC, both officers offered their assistance in helping with bike/pedestrian education and enforcement issues, and suggested that BPAC come up with ideas for campaigns, so that the officers could then present BPAC's request to the Police Chief and Sheriff for direction.
- K. Brian Bergeler, Greenways, Inc. (September 2006)** – provided an overview of the status of the Durham Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan.
- L. Wesley Parham (September 2006)** – provided background information and answered questions about the proposed Duke Pedestrian Plan that has been presented to the Development Review Board.
- M. Nancy Gallman, Hillside High School Teacher (October 2006)** - stated that the school notices around Hillside are inadequate. She said there are old signs, signs that have been painted, and sight distance problems, and that there is no warning southbound on Fayetteville Street.

- N. **Dr. Jonathan Sheline, Legacy Center (October 2006)** – solicited ideas for a project that could be accomplished in a short period of time. He stated that the organization would like to select a project and do fund raising.
- O. **Mark Ahrendsen, Durham Transportation Division (November 2006)** – provided a presentation on the Alston Avenue widening project by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).
- P. **Dan Love, Durham Citizen (December 2006)** – provided a map and aerial photographs of three areas in west Durham, near Duke University, that he considers hazardous for bicycle safety. He has experienced near head-on collisions with vehicles in one particular intersection, i.e., Hillsborough Road and 15th Street, and requested that these three areas be reviewed for design changes.

IV. BPAC Community Activities and Actions

- A. Provided recommendations for revisions to the UDO, and conducted ongoing oversight throughout the year.
- B. Conducted a bike-ped education booth at the Eno River Festival in July 2006, Car-Free Day in September 2006, Earth Day event in April 2006, the SmartCommute Challenge in Sept/Oct 2006, and CenterFest in October 2006.
- C. Sponsored a Bike to Work Day breakfast event in May 2006.
- D. Reviewed the proposed design of the Alston Avenue widening project. The Commission sent a letter to DOT requesting modifications to the design.
- E. Publicized “DurhamBikePed” yahoo listserv to Durham citizens.
- F. Reviewed the design for new pedestrian bridge over NC-147.
- G. Met with CAMPO Bike/Ped Stakeholder Group, the Chapel Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission, and the Carrboro Transportation Advisory Board to coordinate efforts with neighboring jurisdictions and ensure connectivity at boundaries.
- H. Hosted two Walkable Communities workshops to address bicycle and pedestrian safety in Durham.
- I. Participated in the development of the DurhamWalks! Pedestrian Plan and the Durham Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan.
- J. 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.
- K. Appointed BPAC liaison to the DOST Development Review Subcommittee and the City/County Development Review Board, as required by the newly adopted UDO.
- L. Worked with staff to develop bike and pedestrian educational materials, including “Basic Bike Commuting” pamphlet, Bike Safety for Motorists brochure, bike law card and promotional bumper sticker focused on increasing bicyclist and motorist safety and promoting bike commuting.
- M. Advocated for transportation-related Ozone Awareness Activities, including fare-free transit on Ozone Action Days.
- N. Increased communication and coordination with the Duke University administration and Duke Bike Advocates group on bicycle education and infrastructure planning.

- O. 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.
- P. Maintained 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.
- Q. Solicited candidates for membership to BPAC and liaisons to BPAC from the Police Department and Sheriff’s Department.
- R. Prepared and presented an annual report to the Durham City Council.
- S. Wrote a letter to NCDOT advocating for the creation of a Traffic Safety Hotline.
- T. Reviewed proposed locations for bike racks on public property in Durham.
- U. Advocated for additional facilities in Durham, including the completion of the American Tobacco Trail and Third Fork Creek Trail.
- V. Participated in community discussions of bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns, including the Broad-Perry intersection and Jordan High School area.

V. Focus Areas for 2007

1. Update the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance)

Action items:

- Identify and outline transportation discrepancies
- Propose an amendment to correct UDO accordingly

2. Support the budget item for a new bike/ped staff position

Action items:

- Send letter to city manager (copy to City Council) that details the need for the position
- Have an advocate at the appropriate budget meeting
- Identify other public forums
- Request support from other committees, such as DOST and Parks and Rec and in return write a letter of support for proposed sustainable position
- Rally the public
- Get a timetable from Dale detailing procedural deadlines for the budget item

3. Internal organization

Action items:

- Have internal ad hoc committee in place by April 17
- Members should volunteer for committees based on their interests. Committees: executive, bike plan, pedestrian plan, communications
- Propose committees by May 21

4. Expand BPAC influence, including community outreach, board liaisons, involvement of other agencies

Action items:

- Annual joint meetings with other agencies
- Biker breakfast for Bike to Work Week
- Attend organizational meeting of statewide cycling advocacy group (summer 2007)
- Interaction with NC Department of Transportation
- Attendance at other advocacy group meetings
- Regular reporting on activity of other regional groups