

## **DRAFT Minutes of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)**

**January 16, 2019**

Meeting held in

Council Chambers, Public Level, City Hall Annex

2:30 p.m.

### **Call to Order**

Chair Maya Ford called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. with a quorum present.

Maya Ford, Chair

Clark Martinson, Vice Chair

Toloria Allen

Kristine Anthony

Katrina Bayer

Oni Blair

Absent

Neil Bremner

Robin Holzer

Beth Martin

Yuhayna Mahmud

Clint McManus

Veon McReynolds

Amar Mohite

Dian Nostikasari

Doug Overman

Alejandro Perez

Ana Ramirez Huerta

Sandra Rodriguez

Mike VanDusen

Adam Williams

### **EXOFFICIO MEMBERS**

Parks & Recreation (Vacancy)

Absent

Ian Hlavacek

Jennifer Ostlind

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Maya Ford welcomed new and returning members to the first Committee meeting of the year. Planning & Development Interim Director Margaret Wallace Brown shared with the Committee that Pat Walsh had passed away last November. She stated the whole department is here to support the Committee and Jennifer will now be the Planning and Development ex-officio member of the Committee.

### **2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Director's Report was given by Assistant Director Jennifer Ostlind. Planning staff and partners are in the later stages of the Build 50 Challenge to spend over \$11 million towards the construction of

a high-comfort bikeway network. We are continuing to engage communities around the bikeways that make up a regional “spine”, keeping them abreast of any design or construction updates. The next stage will be educating new riders and motorists on how to use the new bikeways effectively. Planning staff are working with ARA on draft ordinance language for dockless shared vehicles, such as scooters and e-bikes. Staff are also finalizing the Bike Friendly Communities application renewal to maintain or improve our status as a bronze-level bike-friendly city. The application will be sent February 5, 2019. Planning is also in the beginning stages of initiating Vision Zero.

### **3. CHAIR’S REPORT**

Chair Maya Ford led the Committee in introductions. The Chair, Maya Ford, created a Year in Review handout for the Committee to highlight accomplishments during 2018. Chair Ford emphasized communication being key to success in 2019. Chair Ford also shared images of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in Spain and Italy as part of her holiday trips and how it compares to Houston bike infrastructure.

### **4. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES**

Committee action: Approve the October 10, 2018 Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting minutes.

Motion: **Holzer**

Second: **Bayer**

Vote: **Unanimous**

Abstaining: **None**

### **5. BUILD 50 CHALLENGE UPDATE**

Staff member Pete Eccles presented on an overview of the Build 50 Challenge, the regional spine network plan, and the status of bikeway implementation. Near Northside package of projects are farthest along, with all designed and Lyons nearly complete with construction. Hardy and Elysian will be next to be constructed. Engagement is more iterative and complex than shown in the handout. Eccles also highlighted some lessons learned through the rapid bikeway implementation, such as coordination with other City departments and outside agencies. Also, Planning now regularly attends design review meetings during the design process in order to better understand the design tradeoffs and better communicate these to the public and other agencies. Moving forward, Planning is working on pre-construction engagement for projects phasing into construction, considering a No Parking in the Bike Lane Ordinance and begin engaging the public for additional corridors, including Gulfton, Second Ward and Clear Lake. Staff expects BAC subcommittees to assist with all these activities. Questions were taken.

### **6. SAFER STREETS INITIATIVE UPDATE**

Houston Public Works ex-officio member Ian Hlavacek provided an update on the Safer Streets Initiative, including an overview of the history of the program, intersections studied under the Road Safety Audit (RSA), and status of the RSAs. RSA Round 2 will kick off on January 28 to study the next six intersections. Discussion ensued.

### **7. VISION ZERO DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

Staff member Lauren Grove presented an overview of Vision Zero, including what it is, how to identify the problem, and core steps to developing a Vision Zero process. A key next step is to create a data team with staff from multiple departments to collect data. Formal adoption by the Mayor is anticipated in mid-May. Committee members could consider what their agencies or communities are doing to advance the goal of eliminating roadway fatalities. Discussion ensued.

Committee action: Request staff of prepare a resolution with history of Vision Zero, definitions, what we have accomplished, the need, and that the city should adopt a holistic approach to adopt Vision Zero.

Motion: **Holzer**

Second: **Martinson**

Vote: **Unanimous**

Abstaining: **None**

## **8. BIKE MONTH (INCLUDING BIKE TO WORK AND SCHOOL DAYS) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

Staff member Melissa Beeler stated Bike to Work Day is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> this year.

Robin Holzer reminded the Committee of their work for Walk and Bike to School Day in October 2018 and announced that the next opportunity to work with school for Walk and Bike to School Day is May 8, 2019. She put out a call for partnerships with schools that are already participating in these events so that Committee members and their agencies can help make walking and biking more visible. Chair Ford offered January 31<sup>st</sup> to provide school names to staff. Committee members will start a working group to determine school partnerships and what resources they can provide schools for the event. Clint McManus requests the Committee to consider in future years to have Bike Month in April. Discussion ensued.

Ana Ramirez Huerta provided an update of Safe Routes to Schools funding and application process coming up. \$8.7 million is available for urban areas across Texas. The call will open in mid-February with preliminary applications due in April and full applications due in August 2019. Webex presentations about the application process will be on February 19 and March 7. There will be a Houston District workshop February 14.

## **9. STAFF AND COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Oath of office form must be signed by new members. Returning members must also provide an oath of office form as well. TPIA training is required for all committee members

Next Committee Meetings:

- Infrastructure Subcommittee: February 28 at 2:30pm, 611 Walker, 6<sup>th</sup> floor
- Education Subcommittee: March 14 at 2:30 at 611 Walker, 6<sup>th</sup> floor
- Quarterly Meeting: April 24 at 2:30pm at City Hall Annex Council Chambers

Important dates and announcements

- METRONext public meetings – Jan. 26 to Feb. 13
- H-GAC TIP Call for Projects public meetings – Feb. 5 (west side) and Feb. 12 (H-GAC)
  - Public comment period from Jan 16 to Feb 28
- BikeHouston People for Bikes Draft - Feb. 12
- Texas Bike Summit – Feb. 23-24
- Texas Cyclists in Suits – Feb. 25
- LAB Bike Summit – March 8-12
- Tour de Houston - March 17
- Mid Main Bike Month Party - May 2
- Walk & Bike to School Day - May 8
- Cyclo Femme - May 12
- Ride of Silence - May 15

- Bike to Work Day - May 17
- BikeHouston Bike Summit - May 17
- BikeHouston Street Fest - May 18
- Moonlight Bicycle Ramble - Oct 19

Vice Chair Martinson shared that the first round of the technical committee review of H-GAC's TIP call for projects has been completed. Of 41 active transportation projects, probably eight will be funded. Of those, two will be implemented by Westchase Management District, one by Houston Parks Board and the rest is by TxDOT. There is a question as to why active transportation projects score much more poorly than highway projects on the benefit analyses. Ped-bike is 2% of the TIP funding.

Katrina Bayer shared that the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) is meeting at 3555 Timmons Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor at 9:30am on Friday January 25. High-Capacity Transit Task Force will convene afterwards at the same location.

Yuhayna Mahmud of METRO has an off-street path from Brays Bayou to Columbia TAP under construction. METRO is also coordinating with the City of Houston on a bikeway on Leeland Street. METRONext, the transit long-range vision, is holding public meetings to gather feedback on recommendations. Meeting schedule is available at METRONEXT.org.

#### **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business brought before the Committee, Chair Maya Ford adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

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**Maya Ford**  
Chair

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**Jennifer Ostlind**  
Interim Secretary