

**Houston Bike Plan
Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) - Meeting # 2
Wednesday, July 8, 2015
611 Walker, 6th Floor, Raia Conference Room**



Attendees:

BAC Members:

Mary Blitzer (Bike Houston)	Michael Payne (Bike Houston) <i>via phone</i>
Carra Moroni for Stephen Williams (COH – HHD)	Patrick Walsh (COH – P&D)
Lt. Chaves & Sgt. Peña (COH – HPD)	Ana Ramirez Huerta (TxDOT)
Anita Hollmann for Jeff Weatherford (COH – PWE)	Lisa Lin (COH – Sustainability)
Yuhayna McCoy (COH – HPARD)	Sue Page (Alief Independent School District)
Jason Morgan (METRO)	Will Rub (Houston B-cycle)
Roksan Okan-Vick & Chip Place (HPB)	Matt Starr (Neighborhood Centers)
Clark Martinson (Energy Corridor MD)	Lonnie Hoogeboom (DTMD)
Steve Parker (SN Alliance)	Cedric Douglas (Neighborhood Rep.)
Kelly Porter, Chelsea St. Louis, Andrew Pompeii (H-GAC)	

City Council:

Melissa Arredondo (CM Costello)	Cody Miller (CM Gonzales)
Alpa Patel (CM Stardig)	

City Planning and Development (P&D) Staff:

Cathy Halka	Amar Mohite
Matthew Seubert	

Consultant Team:

Geoff Carleton (TEI)	Shaida Libhart (TEI)
James Llamas (TEI)	Alex Weinheimer (TEI)
Tara Mather (Asakura Robinson)	Bonnie Wang (ARC)
Zakcq Lockrem (Asakura Robinson)	Mandi Chappa (Morris)
Amy Westermeyer (Morris)	

1) Welcome and Introductions

Patrick Walsh, Director of the Planning & Development Department (P&D), welcomed BAC participants. Director Walsh explained that the current focus will be on goals, and that the focus on programs, facilities and tools will follow later. He urged BAC members to provide input.

2) Bike Plan Presentation

a) Update on public involvement and comments to date

Cathy Halka (P&D), Project Manager, reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives, and provided an update on the project timeline. She summarized outreach efforts to date, highlighting the extensive public participation at public meetings, events, and online. She presented a map displaying the number of online surveys completed by zip code. She asked BAC members for ideas for additional outreach, and mentioned that a 'meeting in a box' is available for HOAs, civic organizations, and other community events. Ms. Halka explained that preliminary results of the public outreach indicate that the public wants improved safety, education, and enforcement for cyclists, as well as improved infrastructure and maintenance of bicycle facilities, better access and connectivity, and benefits to health and wellness.

b) BAC meeting activities

Geoff Carleton (TEI) continued the presentation by explaining that the Plan's vision could be thought of as an aspirational end state. Goals, which are tangible objectives, have been drafted using public feedback as a basis and will be reviewed by the BAC today. Metrics help measure success, while strategies help with goal delivery.

Mr. Carleton then presented the draft bike plan vision and goals for a 10-year plan horizon. He said that the City could aim to improve its ranking from the League of American Cyclists from its current bronze level to a gold level within ten years. The League's Bike Friendly Community rankings allow each city to define success by what works best for each city. For example, Houston scores well on bicycle education. Overall, however, Houston currently scores below average partly because of many gaps in its network and its low mode share of bicycling.

Mr. Carleton provided an overview of metrics, which measure if a strategy is working over time. He provided an example of access metrics, and displayed a table showing how Houston compares to peer cities and that it lags peers on various metrics.

3) Goals and Metrics Group Exercise

Mr. Carleton reviewed the draft goals spreadsheet for review by the BAC and explained the instructions for the group exercise. Each small group was to have a note taker and presenter. Council staff were invited to join. The five small groups then had their individual discussions concerning the draft goals, measures and targets. At the end of the exercise, the presenter from each table presented their tables' comments, which Mr. Carleton transcribed to large paper sheets on the wall. The comments and transcriptions are summarized as follows:

a) *Improve Safety*

Goal as presented: Increased safety for bicyclists of all abilities through improved facilities and enforcement.

Comments: Add ...all ages and abilities through improved facilities, awareness and enforcement. What is meant by enforcement? Balance enforcement and education. There is concern with visibility of cyclists. Review symbol for this goal.

Suggested metrics/comments:

- Number of schools teaching bike education (or number of third grade classes teaching bike safety)
- Driver's education regarding bicycling (e.g. question on driver's test)
- Education: how to use the street
- Adult education rates
- Crash metrics normalized over time
- Incapacitating injuries (versus non-incapacitating)
- Measure speed of facility (e.g. percent of facilities on streets with speed limits <30 mph)
- Measure well-lit facilities
- Density of safe intersections
- Comments: Not all police stops result in a citation, so it is an imperfect measure. How to measure and understand crash data.

b) *Increase Access*

Goal as presented: Access to a city-wide, well-connected network of comfortable bike facilities, from neighborhoods, jobs, and activity centers.

Comments: Focus on equity. Include schools, transit centers, parks, libraries, commercial areas along with activity centers. Look at multimodal network. Remove 'city-wide,' include partners.

Suggested metrics/comments:

- Travel distance versus crow-flies distance
- Look at ¼ mile distance in dense areas
- Number of schools directly connected to facilities
- Number of transit stops directly connected to facilities
- Access to parks, schools, libraries
- Equity across city
- Continuity of facilities
- Bike intersection density (look at nodes)

Comment on target: Target could be higher than 50%.

c) *Increase Ridership*

Goal as presented: Adopted policies and programs that encourage more people to bike and promote healthy, active transportation options.

Comments: Add adopted and applied policies and programs... Who is meant by people – are there targets for different types of people?

Suggested metrics/comments:

- Measure activity linked to bike use
- Training programs – bike office challenge
- Bike friendly businesses
- Link different types of people to goal (women, children, people of color)
- Wayfinding – maps (hardcopy), apps (online), signs (on-street)
- B-cycle checkout
- Number/share of short trips (three miles or less) near home
- New ride trips
- Access to bike shops, bike share stations (and repair classes)
- Bike purchases
- Household access/number of households with bikes
- Bike parking spaces at transit centers
- Number of organized group rides

Comment: It is hard to measure physical activity, or ‘active people.’

d) *Develop and Maintain facilities*

Goal as presented: Programs to develop and maintain the city’s bicycle network including both bikeways and end-of-trip facilities while coordinating to create a regional bikeway network.

Comments: Reword as: Programs to develop and maintain and increase the city’s bicycle network and program... Define end-of-trip – what are the facilities needed at origins and destinations? Reduce low-comfort facilities that provide disservice/false sense of safety – upgrade them or relocate elsewhere. Regional is too nebulous.

Suggested metrics/comments:

- Bike rack counts, bike lockers and showers
- Number of new miles of facilities
- Percentage increase in quality facilities
- Amount of investment
- Number of intersections with pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure
- Number of bike friendly businesses
- Number of projects (e.g. Management Districts submitting requests to build facilities)

- Percentage of local funding versus grant funding
- Letters of support/adoption from super-neighborhoods and others
- Percent of bike plan implemented

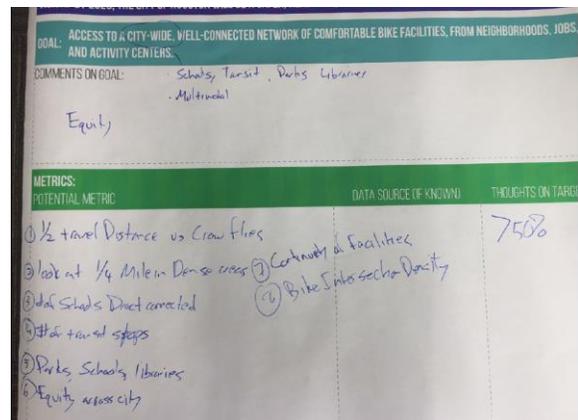
Overall comment: End vision statement with a period. Start each goal with an infinitive.

4) Wrap Up/Next Steps

- Mr. Martinson notified the BAC that TxDOT may be changing deadlines for project submittals.
- Documents used by the BAC will be posted to the project website when they are ready to be viewed by the public.
- The Bike City group exercise was delayed until the next BAC meeting.
- **Next BAC Meeting: Wednesday September 9, 3-5 pm.** Details will be provided.



BAC Meeting #2, July 8, 2015



Feedback from goal exercise recorded during BAC Meeting #2

Minutes Prepared by: Matthew Seubert