

Minutes of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

October 23, 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 2:38 p.m. with a quorum present.

Maya Ford, Chair

Clark Martinson, Vice Chair

Toloria Allen

Kristine Anthony Absent

Katrina Bayer Absent

Oni Blair Absent

Neil Bremner

Robin Holzer

Beth Martin

Yuhayna Mahmud

Veon McReynolds Absent

Amar Mohite

Alejandro Perez

Ana Ramirez Huerta

Sandra Rodriguez Absent

Mike VanDusen

Adam Williams

EXOFFICIO MEMBERS

Ian Hlavacek

Jennifer Ostlind

Juvenal Robles

1. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was given by Assistant Director Jennifer Ostlind. Ostlind reported that Planning & Development will meet with Maria Irshad of Park Houston/ARA to discuss the direction BAC has provided in terms of a No Parking in the Bike Lane ordinance and internal policy. We look forward to working closely with ARA on this and develop the policies in a timely manner.

Vision Zero Executive Committee held its first meeting on Tuesday, October 15th, convening City Department directors and agency leaders to discuss coordination and collaboration needed for a Vision Zero strategy. At this meeting, the Executive Committee was charged with designating members for the Vision Zero Task Force and subcommittees of the Task Force, including the Data and Communications Subcommittees. The Task Force and Subcommittees will consist of street safety experts and advocates from across the Houston region who will recommend action items for the Executive Committee to pursue and implement. If you would like to suggest members to serve on the Task Force and/or Subcommittees, please reach out to Transportation Planning staff.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Maya Ford and Vice Chair Clark Martinson provided the Chair's Report. Chair Ford asked the chamber to join her in a moment of silence for people on bicycles who succumbed to fatal injuries or were killed in traffic crashes. Vice Chair Martinson shared what can be done during election season for bicycle advocacy. BikeHouston gathered names of candidates running for election earlier this summer and asked questions related to transportation, bikes and vulnerable road users. BikeHouston has prepared infographics of candidates' responses. BikeHouston is also hosting Bike to Vote events leading up to November 5th for bicyclists to ride to the polls together. Houston BCycle is also providing free rides on November 5th.

3. APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

Committee action: Approve the July 24, 2019 Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting minutes.

Motion: **Holzer**

Second: **Mahmud**

Vote: **Unanimous**

Abstaining: **None**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was invited after approval of the minutes and again at the end of the meeting.

David Dick said he witnessed the 1998 Bike Plan during which inferior, dangerous bike lanes were implemented. He has explored the new protected bike lanes and is disappointed in the quality of the bike lanes. He said that debris has accumulated in the lanes to the point where he must bike outside of them anyway in many parts. A car almost hit him head-on on Lyons Avenue because they were veering into the bike lane. Dick is willing to forgo extra bike lanes for proper maintenance of existing bike lanes. He said Denver has purchased a smaller street sweeper for bike lanes. He said Houston's lanes have debris, broken glass and parked cars in them. He also said parking protected bike lanes create conflicts at every intersection. He sees Austin, Hardy, and Elysian dangerous for him.

Justin Doak, resident of the Near Northside, moved to Houston in April of 2018. He said that Houston is the easiest city he has ever biked in, after living in Washington DC, Pittsburgh and Austin. He said the bikeability has sold him on Houston.

5. BUILD 50 CHALLENGE UPDATE

Staff member Melissa Beeler shared a brief update of construction in progress for Harris County Precinct 1 projects and progress towards City of Houston CIP-funded bike projects. Discussion ensued regarding future bikeway funding.

6. BIKEWAY MAINTENANCE PLANS

Vice Chair Clark Martinson led a discussion to brainstorm what maintenance may look like after bikeway projects under construction are turned over to the City of Houston. Ideas discussed included asking HPW to find dedicated funding for bikeway maintenance, coordinating with TIRZs and management districts on a maintenance schedule and measurement of success, and considering an "Adopt a Bikeway" strategy to invite residents and businesses to assist in keeping bikeways clean.

7. PRESENTATION ON HOUSTON BIKE PLAN BIENNIAL REPORT

Staff member Melissa Beeler presented preliminary data, maps and recommended strategies in the Bike Plan Biennial Report. Discussion ensued. Draft presentation can be found online at www.houstonbikeplan.org/bac.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth Martin encouraged everyone to try the e-bikes available at select BCycle stations. There are five e-bikes in the system.

Alejandro Perez announced UHD Bike Club is hosting their first social ride October 23 at 6:30pm. He also announced Tour de Northside, taking place November 9 in Near Northside with 3-, 5-, and 7-mile routes. It is a great event for those new to riding.

BikeHouston recently hosted their Moonlight Ramble. Their next major event will be the Bike Summit in Spring 2020. Vice Chair Martinson is considering doing a ½ day or full day workshop during the event.

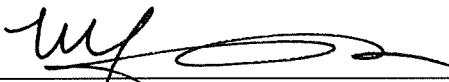
Early voting is underway through November 2. Go to Harrisvotes.org to find an early voting location. Election Day is November 5. BCycle will offer free rides on November 5. METRO will offer free rides October 26 and November 5.

The City of Houston will begin planning for Bike to Work Day and Bike Month in May 2020. Please contact us with any suggestions on how you'd like the City to celebrate.

Beth Martin announced Houston Bike Share's Corporate Sponsorship program as a way companies can subsidize bike share for their employees. Contact Henry Morris to learn more: hmorris@houstonbikeshare.org.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the Committee, Chair Maya Ford adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.



Maya Ford
Chair



Jennifer Ostlind
Executive Secretary

