

DRAFT Minutes of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

April 22, 2020

Meeting held virtually

via Microsoft Teams

2:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Chair Maya Ford called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

Maya Ford, Chair

Clark Martinson, Vice Chair

Toloria Allen

Kristine Anthony-Miller

Oni Blair

Neil Bremner

Absent

Tom Compson

Lisa Graiff

Robin Holzer

Beth Martin

Yuhayna Mahmud

Absent

Veon McReynolds

Amar Mohite

Alejandro Perez

Ana Ramirez Huerta

Sandra Rodriguez

Mike VanDusen

Judith Villareal

Absent

Jessica Wiggins

Adam Williams

EXOFFICIO MEMBERS

Ian Hlavacek

David Fields

Juvenal Robles

1. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was given by Assistant Director David Fields. Fields reported that the City of Houston is still open during the COVID-19 pandemic and bikeway projects are continuing as best they can. The Vision Zero action plan is scheduled to release in September 2020: Fields stated social media campaigning will begin this spring with two public campaigns scheduled for May-June and July-August. In reference to the NHHIP, Planning & Development is assisting the Mayor's Office in drafting a letter to TxDOT that will address the city's concerns and goals regarding the project.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Maya Ford provided the Chair's Report. Chair Ford brought to attention increased bicycle usage during the COVID-19 pandemic. Chair Ford said that safety should be of most importance and

asked committee members to think about how increased usage can be used to build momentum in public interest in bicycle infrastructure projects and public education.

3. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

Committee action: Approve the January 22, 2020 Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting minutes.

Motion: **Martinson** Second: **Blair** Vote: **Unanimous** Abstaining: **None**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Adjusting to the virtual conditions in which the meeting was being held, public comment was invited after approval of the minutes and after each subsequent agenda item. No public comments were given nor submitted to be read into the record.

5. PRESENTATION OF BIKEHOUSTON'S BIKE FRIENDLY DRIVERS PROGRAM

Dr. Inge Ford, Education Director at Bike Houston, presented to the Committee on BikeHouston's Bike Friendly Drivers Program which teaches auto drivers how to avoid crashes with cyclists and pedestrians. Her presentation covered the program's history, mission, and activities. Dr. Ford's presentation is available on Planning & Development's website and more information on the program can be found at <https://bikehouston.org/bicyclefriendlydriver/>. BikeHouston is also working with the State driver's education program to see how this could fit in as well. Discussion after the presentation centered around the program's current collaboration with the Houston Police Department and additional partnerships.

6. UPDATE ON BIKEWAYS IN DESIGN AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Staff Member Melissa Beeler gave an update on Build 50 projects. Near Northside projects complete: Lyons, Hardy/Elysian, Downtown Connector, Kelley. Third Ward projects complete: Hutchins, Cleburne. Third Ward projects under construction: Austin/La Branch (striping complete, curbs and flex posts installed), Gray (stalled due to adjacent building being under construction, now that it is complete construction of the bikeway has continued), Polk Street and Cullen (have been contracted out and construction has started at intersection of Polk St and Emancipation Avenue). CIP Funded Projects—Acres Home, Patterson, 11th, N Main, Quitman—completed engagement for concept and design and going into construction design phases. Southeast/MLK is planned and added to the website as of today.

It was requested to supply information on bikeway projects led by or with the contribution of METRO, Parks & Recreation, or others. This will give a more cohesive picture of Houston's bike infrastructure network. Planning & Development has the data and will work on converting it to a form accessible to the Committee.

7. UPDATE ON MAYOR'S COVID-19 ACCELERATED BIKEWAY PROJECTS

Assistant Director Fields shared an update from the Mayor's office, stating the city is looking strategically at what bikeway projects can be completed amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Less traffic due to social distancing and more available crews could accelerate projects. Using the Houston Bike Plan, Planning & Development is working with Public Works to determine what infrastructure projects are feasible to complete with current funding and time available. Fields stated the Committee should be prepared to receive a priority list of projects and pilots as soon as it's completed. Discussion ensued. Many were appreciative of the City's forward-thinking approach and offered support by way of providing recommendations, sharing with the public, and assistance in evaluating pilots.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Ford announced that the City of Houston released its Climate Action Plan. The plan can be found here: <http://greenhoustontx.gov/climateactionplan/>.

Ian Hlavacek gave an update on the Brazos Bridge Project. Improvements to improve the safety at the crossing of Smith and Bagby streets was incorporated in the project in lieu of the change to maintain the bridge. Construction will begin with the replacement of the bridge deck, followed by the pedestrian improvements underneath. The project is planned to be completed January 2021.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the Committee, Chair Maya Ford adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

Maya Ford
Chair

David Fields
Executive Secretary