

DRAFT Minutes of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

July 22, 2020

Meeting held virtually via
Microsoft Teams 2:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Chair Maya Ford called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. with a quorum present.

Maya Ford, Chair
Clark Martinson, Vice Chair
Toloria Allen
Kristine Anthony-Miller
Oni Blair
Neil Bremner
Tom Compson
Lisa Graiff
Robin Holzer
Beth Martin
Yuhayna Mahmud
Veon McReynolds
Amar Mohite
Alejandro Perez
Ana Ramirez Huerta
Sandra Rodriguez
Mike VanDusen
Judith Villareal
Jessica Wiggins
Adam Williams

EXOFFICIO MEMBERS

Ian Hlavacek, PE
David Fields, AICP
Juvenal Robles
Represented by Sharon Moses-Burnside, JD
Absent

1. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Filling in for David Fields, the Director's Report was given by Sharon Moses-Burnside. Moses-Burnside reported that the No Parking in Bike Lanes draft ordinance is now available for public comment with an August 15th submittal deadline. The draft ordinance and comment details can be found at www.houstontx.gov/parking.

Final public meetings for Complete Communities are taking place. The remaining meetings include the following:

1. Fort Bend Houston- July 22 at 6pm
2. Magnolia Park – July 29 at 6pm
3. Alief/Westwood – July 30 at 6pm

Moses-Burnside urged and reminded everyone to complete the 2020 Census. Fill out the Census online at <https://my2020census.gov/>. To complete the questionnaire by phone, call 844-330-2020.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Maya Ford provided the Chair's Report. Chair Ford announced the July 22 meeting will be her final BAC meeting as she is stepping out of the Chair position. Chair Ford reflected on her time in the Chair role and successes such as the Build 50 Challenge and Safe Streets, along with a reminder of work that still needs to be done. The Chair thanked Planning & Development Department staff and members of the BAC. Chair Ford recommend Committee leadership serve no longer than two or three years.

3. APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

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

Motion: **Holzer**

Second: **Mahmud**

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 again at the end of the meeting. Submit comments to bac@houstontx.gov by 2:00pm for public comment to be read into the record. Two written public comments were submitted prior to the meeting. The submitted written comments can be found online at: <https://houstonbikeplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Public-Comments-Combined.pdf>.

Bryan Dotson wrote in and staff member Melissa Beeler read the email into the records. The comment provided feedback and problems with bicycle infrastructure on Mathewson Lane and sharrows implemented on Memorial Drive in west Houston. Dotson noted that these projects can no longer be changed and provided feedback to the city in hopes that future bike infrastructure design does not put cyclist in a legally ambiguous position. Dotson provided pictures, observation, and alternatives for consideration. Staff member Melissa Beeler provided feedback that these projects were likely designed long ago but constructed recently due to funding availability. Since its original design, City engineering design standards have changed. It was concluded that the BAC should be made aware and have larger detailed conversations on similar projects and their impact on the Bike Plan. The conversation will be addressed at the next BAC Infrastructure meeting. Committee member Robin Holzer requested identification of other CIP projects in design or that have received construction funding.

Bridget Lois Jensen wrote in with a comment regarding Agenda Item 6 - Presentation on Crashes Involving Cyclists in 2020. Jensen expressed concern over recent fatalities and bike accidents (including her own) that can be attributed to seams. Jensen suggested that the implementation of painted warnings on streets approaching tricky seams would be helpful and could be applied based on the tracking of bike accident data. Committee members acknowledged similar concerns on dangerous seams along with the need for construction and the possibility of funding for smaller improvements such as warning signs.

Committee member Oni Blair flagged issues with 311 service reporting, tracking, and equity. Ian Hlavacek suggested the Committee work with Houston Public Works on a project to address 311 issues. There was consensus to discuss 311 issues and the prioritization of maintenance and capital projects at the next BAC Infrastructure Subcommittee meeting.

It was also suggested to add these safety concerns to the Vision Zero the mapping tool:

<https://www.letstalkhouston.org/vision-zero/maps/vision-zero-map-tool>. Committee members expressed

interest in providing Vision Zero recommendations at the next infrastructure meeting or holding a special meeting to provide comments for the Vision Zero Action Plan.

Jim Honey stated that City Council discussed provisioning for sweeping downtown streets with the management district during the City Council meeting on July 22. Honey encouraged the BAC and Bike Houston to engage in this discussion to push for bike lanes to be swept as well downtown. Planning & Development staff shared that they are also standing up a small work group to address bikeway maintenance. An update on the workgroup will be provided at the August infrastructure meeting.

5. UPDATES TO BAC ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Staff member Melissa Beeler provided an overview and updates on the Draft Bicycle Advisory Committee Administrative Procedures. The procedures are meant to support the governance and administration of the Committee, pursuant to Sec. 33-408 – Rules, Regulations and Bylaws of the Bicycle Advisory Committee. The ordinance establishing the Committee has been integrated into this document. The BAC discussed the draft procedures giving much consideration to member resignation, selection appointment, and term and attendance sections. The BAC intends to vote on the Draft Bicycle Advisory Committee Administrative Procedures at the October BAC meeting.

6. PRESENTATION BY COMMANDER KRISTINE ANTHONY-MILLER ON CRASHES INVOLVING BICYCLISTS IN 2020

Commander Anthony-Miller presented on crashes involving bicyclist in 2020. HPD reported four fatalities which is a decrease compared to last year's nine. Commander Anthony-Miller stated COVID-19 may have contributed to reduced vehicular and bike traffic. 178 total crashes involving a pedalcyclist as one of the units were reported. Commander Anthony-Miller also provided an overview of major vs. minor crash statistics and supplied the names of people who have lost their lives this year while bicycling in Houston. Committee member Judith Villarreal asked to compare data between HPD and Houston Ghost Bike, as some bike fatalities may have gone unreported.

7. PRESENTATION BY TIRZ 5 ON SHEPHERD/DURHAM BIKEWAY DESIGN

Sherry Weesner of TIRZ 5 presented updates on the Shepherd Durham & Selected Cross Street Reconstruction Project. The roadway construction project between 6th street and 610 loop North will include bike and pedestrian facilities, storm water drainage systems, curb and gutter section, streetlights, sidewalks, and landscaping. The Shepherd/Durham project will also feed into the BRT project. Phase 1 design is slated to be finished by mid-2021. Phase 2 design will start in 2021 with design construction projected for 2023.

8. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR NOMINATIONS AND APPROVAL

Committee action: Recommend Tom Compson and Alejandro Perez as nominees for Chair to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Motion: **VanDusen**

Second: **Villarreal**

Vote: **Unanimous**

Abstaining: **None**

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The BAC thanked Chair Maya Ford and Vice Chair Clark Martinson for their leadership and presented them with a gift of bike lights.

Due to time, Bikeway Project Updates and City Bike Registry Idea were not discussed. Staff member Melissa Beeler stated she would provide an informational email after the meeting regarding items the Committee did not have time to hear, along with next meeting dates.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the Committee, Chair Maya Ford adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Maya Ford
Chair

David Fields
Executive Secretary

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