

**DRAFT Minutes of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)
Infrastructure Subcommittee**

November 18, 2020
Meeting held virtually via
Microsoft Teams 2:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Chair Tom Compson called the meeting to order at 2:30pm.

Committee Members in Attendance

Tom Compson, Chair
Alejandro Perez, Vice Chair
Sandra Rodriguez
Lisa Graiff
Jessica Wiggins
Nick Hellyar
Judith Villarreal
Mike Van Dusen
Ana Ramirez Huerta
Juvenal Robles
Amar Mohite

Staff in Attendance

Melissa Beeler (PDD)
Sharon Moses-Burnside (PDD)
Brian Smith II (PDD)
Rayna Reid (HPW)
Katrina Bayer (HPW)

1. Chair's Report

Chair Compson revisited the 2019 Bike Friendly Communities scorecard from October BAC meeting (https://houstonbikeplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/BFC_Spring_2019_ReportCard_Houston_TX.pdf).

2. Public Comment

Justin Hicks asked the Committee to consider prioritizing extension of the Green's Bayou off-street trail along Old Humble Road to the Eastex Park & Ride. He noted it is listed as a future project on the Bike Plan map and would also connect to Brock Park.

3. Bikeway Project Updates

Staff member Melissa Beeler provided a brief update on bikeway projects in design or under construction by the City of Houston, Harris County Precinct 1, and METRO.

Committee Member Amar Mohite shared that feedback about floating bus stops is being addressed and design modifications for marking floating bus stops are being worked on to improve visibility.

Committee Member Sandra Rodriguez asked if the Gulfton bikeway work was included in these numbers. They had not been at the time of the meeting.

A meeting attendee asked if there was any way to ensure a missing sidewalk segment on 11th Street near Nicholson could be replaced with the bike lane project. Staff indicated they would look into the 11th Street design and see if it already included sidewalk gaps. If not, Staff will look into how to add this segment at the same time.

Another meeting attendee asked if bayou trails were open 24 hours for bike commute use. Houston Parks Board indicated they are supposed to be open park hours (dawn to dusk) but there are no gates that close the trails in off hours.

Committee Member VanDusen asked about the status of the Heights/MKT bridge that was recently damaged by fire. Houston Parks Board is drafting a formal update and will release soon. City staff will also follow up with HPW on bid/construction process on bike facilities that are set to link to MKT.

Committee Member VanDusen also asked about the timing on continued outreach for Patterson Street. Staff will get a firmer timeline on the next outreach event and get back to VanDusen.

4. Bikeway and Trail Crossing Safety and Environment Concerns Related to Vehicles not Yielding to Bicyclists and Pedestrians

Chair Compton led a discussion about precarious signalized bike crossings, as well as other challenging intersections for bicyclists. Although some crossings have hawk signals, drivers do not stop when flashing. Discussion included additional enforcement of the signals and installing raised crossings at these intersections. Houston Parks Board shared that they will be embarking on a trail safety audit that will provide recommendations on how to make typologies of trail crossings safer. The report should cover everywhere greenways cross roads, but you can send specific intersections to Houston Parks Board: lisag@houstonparksboard.org.

Other crossings reviewed included Shepherd/7th St and Columbia Tap at St. Charles. Speed limit reductions and biking in a crosswalk were state legislative needs that were discussed. The BAC may want to bring up the need for a letter supporting this legislation to the full Committee for January.

5. Review Draft Bikeway Workplan 2020 & 2021

Staff Member Melissa Beeler updated the Committee on progress made towards Bike Plan implementation this year and expected work in 2021. The Bikeway Maintenance Report is in draft form, expected to be complete in December and presented to the Committee in January. Staff updated the Bike Plan Network Map. It can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/HouBikeMap> and welcome feedback.

Gulfton projects were requested to be added, as well as METRO bike repair stations. Staff also indicated they were looking into other tools to add to the application to summarize mileage and other attributes. Committee members suggested looking into the City's Hackathon to get more assistance in refining the map.

Staff collected video-based bike counts for most new bikeways in October. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Bikeways@Houstontx.gov.

Street teams will be starting with No Parking in the Bike Lane materials being sent to bike shops soon. TxDOT is leading the effort.

Staff also went over the draft 2021 Work Plan with the Subcommittee, which can be viewed in the presentation slides. Discussion ensued over e-bike and e-scooter safety and legislative concerns. Committee Member Jessica Wiggins requested a presentation on the I-45 expansion at the January 2021 BAC meeting to understand how it may affect people on bikes. Committee members were urged to prioritize the list and think about where they would like Staff to focus. This can be part of further discussion in January.

6. Announcements

Amar Mohite announced that Houston BCycle is about to launch the first wave of e-bikes:

<https://www.houstonbicycle.com/electric-bikes>

Jessica Wiggins announced that the East End Bike Plan is getting ready to launch. The first stakeholder meeting takes place November 19, followed by an outdoor community event December 5 from 11am-1pm at several locations in the East End. Flyers will be coming out soon contact Jessica (jwiggins@trafficengineers.com) for more information.

Vice Chair Perez announced that the UHD Bike Club will ride with SGA Friday, November 20, at 6pm. State Rep. Morales will be in attendance.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business brought before the Committee, Chair Compson adjourned the meeting at 4:33pm.