

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

**December 16, 2020**

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

**Call to Order**

Chair Tom Compson called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

Tom Compson, Chair  
Alejandro Perez, Vice Chair  
Kristine Anthony-Miller  
Robin Holzer  
Zion Escobar

Susan Jaworski, representing H-GAC  
Matt DeLeon representing TxDOT

Planning & Development Staff: Sharon Moses Burnside, Melissa Beeler, Brian Smith  
Public Works Staff: Rayna Reid

**1. Chair's Report**

Chair Compson announced there were four new League of American Bicyclists cycling instructors in Houston. Vice Chair Alejandro Perez is one of them. Chair Compson congratulated Staff Member Melissa Beeler for her third anniversary at the City of Houston. Houston Parks Board has hired a consultant to do a safety audit of all existing greenways and Bayou greenway trails. The audit, to be completed by Summer 2021, focusses on where trails cross streets. The City of Houston will also help with city-owned/maintained trail crossings. Chair Compson also spoke of the efforts to introduce and pass state legislation to allow bicyclists to have the right of way in a crosswalk. BikeTexas drafted a bill in 2019 but was not introduced. Another bill will be drafted for this legislative cycle in hopes to be submitted in the 2021 legislative session.

Some discussion ensued regarding the proposed bill. Vice Chair Perez added that perhaps state legislation should take the fact that bicyclists are considered vehicles and how to better define a bicyclist to give them full rights to a crosswalk. Committee Member Robin Holzer added that this is our only chance to pass this legislation for the next two years, and that the BAC needs to advocate at a state level as well, not just expect BikeTexas to advocate on bicyclists' behalf.

**2. Public Comment**

Joe Cutrufo, Executive Director of BikeHouston, noted that Houston's transportation community is very active. He is working with the board of BikeHouston on a vision for the next year and beyond. If you are not already a member of BikeHouston, you can become one at [www.bikehouston.org](http://www.bikehouston.org).

**3. Update on No Parking in the Bike Lane Ordinance Outreach**

Staff member Melissa Beeler updated the Committee on the progress made towards their recommendations for a citywide ordinance, city employee/contractor policy, traffic detour plan, and addressing event parking in the Lamar Cycletrack. The Bicycle Friendly Drivers Course is being updated by ARA/ParkHouston to include ordinance language. It is expected to complete

and available to the public by January 14, 2021, 90 days after ordinance adoption by City Council, at which time citations will be in effect for parking in a bike lane. Committee members added it would be helpful to consider other languages for the educational materials beyond English and Spanish.

#### **4. Follow-Up on Bike Theft Outreach and Education Strategy**

Staff Member Melissa Beeler led a discussion following up on the October agenda item regarding bike theft outreach and awareness. Corporal Bowen's suggestions were listed in the presentation and a discussion ensued on how to get these points out to the public, aside from social media and online efforts. Committee members shared that currently some bike shops keep a database by serial number of sales and are currently building education modules to roll out.

Next steps on bike theft includes:

- Adding stickers or signage with a QR code to bike racks, starting with strategic locations (TxDOT to assist);
- Research whether an ordinance requiring bike theft signs (similar to auto parking signs) should be passed, similar to Dallas;
- Consider development code revisions, looking at site plan review of bike racks and overall requirements for parking reductions through the Planning Department's Livable Places Initiative; and
- Finding out where secure bike parking structures are located at METRO transit centers, park & rides, and other stops.

#### **5. 2020 and 2021 Draft Workplan and Prioritization**

Staff member Melissa Beeler gave an overview of the 2020 and 2021 projects implementing the Houston Bike Plan. Committee members will assist in finding a school district representative to work either on subcommittees or be recommended for appointment to the full Committee. TxDOT can also share some existing bike safety education materials with the Committee if interested.

Committee Members raised the issue of equity when addressing e-bike speed on trails, and that penalties need to be proportionate to penalties of speeding vehicles and the risk. Committee members also briefly discussed the TIP process and the need to ensure the City can submit a competitive application.

#### **8. Announcements**

The [Vision Zero Action Plan](#) has been released. You can watch the replay of the Mayor's press conference announcing the Plan here: <https://houstontx.swagit.com/play/12172020-522>.

Remember to share your ideas in the [East End Bike Plan survey and map](#). Online tools are available until the first week of January.

City of Houston bikeway engagement: Staff will be holding an [11th Street design meeting](#) December 16 at 6:30pm. Staff will hold a [Patterson/Jackson Hill design meeting](#) on January 14. Meeting details TBD.

2021 BAC meeting dates can be found here: <https://houstonbikeplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BAC-Meeting-Schedule-2021.pdf>

TxDOT has [Lyft codes for New Years Eve](#) to reduce drunk driving.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business brought before the Committee, Tom Compson adjourned the meeting at 4:12pm.

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