

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

September 23, 2020

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

Call to Order

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

Tom Compson
Sandra Rodriguez
Kristine Anthony-Miller
Jessica Wiggins
Veon McReynolds
Oni Blair
Robin Holzer
Juvenal Robles

Henry Morris representing Houston BCycle
Matt DeLeon and Ricky Cardenas representing TxDOT

Planning & Development Staff: Sharon Moses Burnside, Melissa Beeler
Public Works Staff: Katrina Bayer

1. Chair's Report

Since the Chair has not yet been appointed by the Mayor and City Council, Staff member Melissa Beeler asked if there was a member of the Committee who would be willing to facilitate. Committee Member Tom Compson facilitated the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Bert Magh spoke about a bike path north of Gus Wortham golf course that is overgrown by weeds and requires maintenance. He reported twice to 311 and both reports were closed with no results. It has been unclear who is responsible to maintain this particular segment of the trail. He is seeking help from the BAC to elevate the issue and get it resolved. Parks & Recreation representative Juvenal Robles said he is checking with other HPARD members to try to identify who is responsible for maintaining the section that is not currently maintained. Committee Member Veon McReynolds also brought up overgrown trees and debris on the trail between the bayou and Capitol Street. Robles will check into that portion of trail, since HPARD does maintain that section.

Compson addressed the Committee about a recent online article that detailed a robbery of a bicyclist on the Buffalo Bayou trail east of downtown on Sunday. Compson asked for Houston Police Representative Commander Kristine Anthony's perspective on the article. She was not familiar with the article or situation. Compson will follow up with the article via email.

McReynolds addressed the Committee about the new Polk Street bike lane, currently under construction. The "floating bus stops" are elevated concrete barriers in the direct path of the bike lane, and the bike lane continues behind the bus stop adjacent to the sidewalk, and then returns back to the street. McReynolds says if you don't turn, you will ruin your bike and injure yourself. The concrete pads are not visible enough at night and his friend has already damaged his bike.

There is nothing on the lane/pad to indicate you cannot go straight. McReynolds recommended that lanes under construction should not look open if it is still under construction. He also recommended that safety improvements should be put in first before striping or other construction of the lane. BAC members discussed that an education piece is missing here. Signage for construction or other signage to indicate how to use a bike lane with a floating bus stop should be included as part of the scope of construction or at the time of a traffic control plan. Planning & Development Representative Sharon Moses-Burnside said she will look into the issue.

3. No Parking in Bike Lane Ordinance Update and Flyer

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 Committee provided comments on a flyer created by TxDOT for use to educate the public about the new ordinance. Members noted that emphasizing the need to protect and value life was the main reason for this ordinance, and that the intention of the ordinance is to make our streets safer for all road users. The ordinance is expected to go to City Council September 30, 2020.

4. Bike to Wherever Day & Bike Safety/Education Resources

Staff member Melissa Beeler discussed the purpose and scope of the City's Bike to Wherever Day efforts and desire to continue bike safety and education efforts after the event takes place on Tuesday.

5. Creating a Texas Bike Law Quiz Inspired by Michigan Bike Quiz: www.bikequiz.org

Tom Compson discussed the benefits of creating a quiz on Texas bike laws to educate drivers and bicyclists modeled off the 15-minute Michigan Bike Quiz. He has reached out to BikeHouston and Bike Texas about the possibility of creating a quiz and is awaiting reply.

8. Announcements

Complete the Census by September 30! Go to www.my2020census.gov to complete the short survey today.

Bike to Work Day was rescheduled to September 22 nationally due to COVID. The City of Houston has launch Bike to Wherever Day to virtually encourage folks to ride to wherever and share bike safety and riding tips. Please participate on social media with #BTWD2020 and #IBikeHTX to send in pictures on where you bike that day or other riding tips and experiences you have along the way. For more information see www.houstonbikeplan.org/btwd2020

Next Meetings of the BAC through end of 2020 are the following:

- BAC 10/21
- Infrastructure Subcommittee 11/18
- Education Subcommittee 12/16

Committee should give Staff feedback on the meeting time, as we are considering moving to later in the afternoon (4-6pm) to better accommodate schedules and the public.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business brought before the Committee, Tom Compson adjourned the meeting at 4:07pm.