

City of Houston Bicycle Advisory Committee



PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT



April 26, 2022

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

Roll Call:

Tom Compson, Chair (P)
Alejandro Perez, Vice Chair (P)
Tracy Alexander (P)
Leah Chambers (P)
Adam J. Williams (P)
Carl B. Salazar (P)
Com. Kristine Anthony-Miller (A)
Joe Cutrufo (A)
Lisa Graiff (P)
Trevor Reichman (P)
Jessica Wiggins (A)
Yuhayna Mahmud (P)
Nick Hellyar (A)
Ben Drews (P)
Amar Mohite (P)
Mike VanDusen (P)
Ana Ramirez Huerta (A)
Nikki Knight (A)
Robin Holzer (P)
Veon McReynolds (P)

Ex-Officio Members:

David Fields (A)
Ian Hlavacek (P)
Juvenal Robles (P)

- 1) **Director's Report.** Brandon Mosley in for David Fields gave the Director's Report.
 - Welcome two new BAC members, Ben Drews and Joe Cutrufo.
 - Reminded the committee members that we have ethics training with the Legal Department in July. We also plan to take an updated picture of the committee.
 - Legal is working on the notary form and is working on the issues.
 - Today we will have coffin nominations for conduct new committee chair elections.



- We are reporting that 222 City of Houston employees have taken the bicycle friendly driver training and watched the Sidetrack documentary.
- 2) **Chair's Report.** Chair Compson gave the Chair's Report:
- Chair Compson welcomes the new BAC members.
 - Chair wanted to remind everyone that when Mayor Turner was first elected, he promised a paradigm shift in addressing transportation needs in Houston. There's been a lot of change in the last 10 years; and is hopeful that the next mayor will continue the momentum to making us a gold level bicycle friendly community.
- 3) **Approval of October Minutes.**
Motion: Compson **Second:** McReynolds **Vote:** Unanimous
- 4) **Public Comment:**
- Marian Wright - Y'all have managed to have people on the Bike Advisory Board that are all really like minded and y'all are not listening to the other side. The only way that this is going to go forward is if everybody listens to each other and learns from the other side. There are the bike lanes that we have on 11th right now. They're supposed to have vertical posts. Most of them have been knocked down. There's no green leading to it. Are you all going to go back and do anything with the armadillos or other things that you'll nail see maybe wasn't the best design. Any updates on the street cleaners? People are putting their trash cans in the middle of the bike lanes. Can we inform people on 11th street that the trash cans can be put on the sidewalk. Maybe putting that message on the water bill.
 - Matt Tetlow- Thank you guys for all the hard work you do. I rode my bike to work here today, downtown, 85% along safe, high comfort bikeways, Buffalo Bayou and Lamar. The other 15% will be Patterson when it's done and I'm really looking forward to seeing that go forward. I'm seeing more and more people week after week starting to use this infrastructure. I was on 11th St. four times this previous weekend I counted 28 cyclists. So, it is getting used and becoming more useful, I expect that to grow.
The second comment
many of us choose to live in these neighborhoods and places in Houston that we love because it gives us great access to nearby amenities. Buffalo Bayou, White Oak Bayou, Memorial Park downtown. I really wanted to pass on the message that I hear from many, many people that safe, convenient, easy connections to amenities that are close by. Spring Branch Trail and these Gray MKT build outs, those are fantastic spines too, and we all love and use them. But safe neighborhood connections

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- and access are something that there's a desperate desire for in the community. And really makes day-to-day life better for people.
- Christina Rotenberg - Total paradigm shift and how people are moving around the heights, largely because of the 11th St. project. I mean just this morning and the past week I've seen people stop, make eye contact, wave at each other. So, you know, it's small changes. I know especially the new stopping for bike and pedestrian signs are being rolled out first in the heights and then they're going to be along the Columbia Tap Trail, those in the safety improvements. Things are changing up with the Houston bike share program, and although we don't know what it's going to look like, I think we can all agree that bike share needs to be part of our multimodal system. The orange netting on trails, we had a really sobering, horrific wakeup call with the fatality on White Oak Bayou and since then we've seen the orange netting. Let's figure out what regulations and standards look like so that we don't have fatalities or injuries in the future.
 - Kevin Strickland - I'm so glad to see Joe Cutrufo, it makes sense for him to be on BAC. Could you be mindful of not both sides saying wildly asymmetrical positions? I'm president of the greater Heights Super Neighborhood Council on the Houston Galveston Area Council Pedestrian Bike subcommittee and Founder of a group in the Heights that stood up for the 11th St. Safety Improvement Project, which for those of us who use it. It's been, I think, successful. I'm here today to follow along with what Christina was talking about with the orange netting. There are two problems. The IDM doesn't address any specific requirements. For these detours, the contractors use whatever is expedient but not the safest. When you look at where some of the remote bike paths, that netting is used pretty much everywhere. Matt Ledvina died 5 weeks ago, because of the orange netting. This is not acceptable because, and we never found out what entity put the netting back. I'm asking anybody who has any pull with the city, county, Houston Parks Board, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, or Harris County Flood Control District, to engage contractors' enterprises to ask your contractors to stop using the orange netting. Second problem is the detours that are provided are terrible. Just sticking up a detour sign and sending somebody on to a road with no protected bike, is not a detour. I brought this up a year and a half ago with Houston Parks Board and Harris County Flood Control District and still not much has changed then. It's going to be a horror if somebody else is injured or killed as a result, the cities opening itself up to a lot of liability for that.
 - Simon Newton - I live in Montrose, the 72-inch water line. construction that has been ongoing on Hawthorne, east of Montrose Pedestrians and



cyclists are basically an afterthought and poorly treated by this construction project. Passages are regularly closed to cyclists and pedestrians, but not to vehicles. When you attempt to walk into areas where there's no signage telling you not to go, construction workers and others yell at you, telling you that shouldn't be there and you need to find another way to get around, and there's no signage to indicate this. Earlier there is a critical need to address the design manual for detours for pedestrians and cyclists in Houston. Would be great if you could contact the people doing this ongoing 72-inch water line project to discuss this with them and work on it because it's inappropriate asking someone to walk 15 minutes other way to get around the construction when they're allowing.

- Daniel Seehausen- Last few years I lived in Denver, CO. I was born and raised in Houston, TX, but I cycled to work on my E bike every day in Denver. Kudos to y'all for all the hard work in this committee to make that possible in Houston, and I'm so glad to hear from other people that it is possible for them. I noticed in Denver most of my route was on a neighborhood street. not on a bike trail, a separated bike trail, or anything like that. But what made me feel safe was that Denver lowered their speed limits if they were unposted to 20 miles an hour and they did not have lane markers on the street. Those two things together, plus a lot of other traffic calming measures really helped. And that could be a very quick way to take away work from construction. Don't lay down lane markers, make drivers a little more confused, a little more nervous, make everything a little slower, you know? And those are the kinds of things that I noticed as being helpful to make bike paths in a way that is natural and still lets cars through. But you could have that multimodal traffic where I never felt endangered. From the cars on my route.

5) **Livable Places:** Suvidha Bandi presented.

- Purpose of livable Places Action Committee is to create opportunities within our housing development regulations to encourage housing variety and affordability. And thinking about encouraging, uh, multimodal transportation options.
- Showed 4 different types of single-family development: Second Dwelling Unit; Multi-Unit Residential; Narrow Lot Development; Courtyard-Style Development.
- Right-Sizing Parking Minimums, by reducing parking minimums near transit and bikeways. Also, modified market-based parking near transit.
- If you are interested to speak in support or in opposition, please make sure to come to the Planning Commission on April 27th, which is tomorrow at 2:30 PM.



- 6) **Post-Appraisals of Memorial and Kirkwood Projects:** Brian Dotson presented.
- 2022 Memorial Drive Sidepaths: fire hydrants removed from sidewalk; curb cut lip design; hard/sharp guardrails support can be better.
 - 2022 S. Kirkwood Sidepaths: recommend street reconstruction scope include logical connections for ped/bike infrastructure.
- 7) **Love To Ride:** Nicole Masters presented.
- Love to Ride - Comprehensive program that provides tools to riders and data to partners, enabling program managers and planners to achieve mode shift and measure their impact.
 - Bike The Gulf - Bike month challenge from May 1 to the 31st.
 - How to Support Love to Ride – Go to resources page on lovetoride.net/bikethegulf to join. Also spread the word.
- 8) **Election of 2023-2024 BAC Chairs**
- Tom Compson self-nominated for Chair; was second and voted in unanimously.
 - Alejandro Perez self-nominated for Co-Chair; and voted in unanimously.
 - Joe Cutrufo nominated by Alejandro Perez for Infrastructure Chair, was second and voted in unanimously.
 - Robin Holzer nominated by Joe Cutrufo for Infrastructure Co-Chair, she respectively declined.
 - Jessica Wiggins nominated by Veon McReynolds for Education Chair; second by Robin Holzer, Robin indicated that Jessica confirmed her willingness to serve, voted in unanimously.
 - Leah Chambers nominated by Robin Holzer for Education Co-Chair; was second and voted in unanimously.
- 9) **Bikeway Fatalities and Serious Injuries: End of the Year Report and Year to Date Report.** Brandon Mosley presented for Commander Kristine Anthony Miller. Updated statistics on traffic crashes involving bicyclists.
- 2023 Fatality Report (as of Mon, 4/11/23):
 - 7 bicycle fatalities: 2 daytime, 5 nighttime
 - Of the seven, 3 vehicles were failure to stop and render aid. Of those 3, one driver has been arrested and charged.
 - As of 3/31/23:
 - 104 YTD total crashes involving bicyclists.
 - Areas such as Central, North, Northeast and South Central have the highest number of crashes, as well as having at least one fatal crash.
 - There have been no intersections that have had multiple crashes.



- 10) **Quarterly Updates.** Misty Staunton presented Ongoing bikeway projects and initiatives updates.
- Bikeways (notable updates)
 - City of Houston
 - a. Lawndale St.-Telephone Forest Hill Blvd: design is complete, ribbon cutting was on March 23rd.
 - b. Larkin-TC Jester to Deterring: design is 90% complete.
 - c. W Alabama-Buffalo Speedway to Wesleyan is in progress.
 - d. Lamar-Bagby to off street trail connection: concept is complete, design work will begin winter of 2023.
 - Precinct 1
 - a. Southeast/MLK: the design is ongoing.
 - b. El Rio-El Camino: ongoing and estimated to be completed May 2023
 - c. Trail Fondren Diversion Channel, Trail to Keegan's Bayou, and the Deussen Parkway are complete.
 - d. Midtown-Tuam bikeway is ongoing.
 - Precinct 2
 - a. No significant updates given.
 - Houston Parks Board
 - a. Austin to McKee via Commerce St. and Elysian Viaduct: in progress.
 - b. Glenbrook Park to I45 & Reveille Park to Telephone Road is complete.
 - c. FM Law Park to MLK is in progress and anticipating completion in the Spring.
 - d. Braeburn Glen to Eldridge is in progress, issues with CenterPoint and TXDOT, est. completion end of 2023.
 - e. Mesa Dr to Banting St is complete.
 - f. Law Park Connector - Mykawa to CenterPoint is under construction.
 - METRO
 - a. Permits for McGowen (Scott to Main) bikeway, construction starting this summer.
 - TIRZ 5
 - a. MKT Improvements (Houston Ave to Termination) made significant progress, waiting for striping and signage. Management Districts
 - b. W Dallas (Tirrel to Dunlavy) is in progress.

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- TIRZ 15
 - a. Bastrop Trail (Polk to Bell) expected to start construction in FY24.
 - b. Columbia Tap (St Charles – Ennis) and Walker (Emancipation to St Emanuel): both expected to start construction FY23-24.
- TXDOT
 - a. No significant updates given.
- No Parking in the Bike Lane (as of 4/13/2023)
 - 204 citations issued (+19)
 - \$14,065 collected (+\$1,545)
 - 22 completed trainings (no change)
- 11) **Open Forum**
 - Committee members discussed various topics on bicycling.
- 12) **Announcements**
 - Bike Summit:
 - a. Monday, May 22, 8pm at Axelrad: Screening of The Street Project
 - b. Tuesday, May 23 at Match Midtown: Charlie Thomas of Bike Law
 - c. Wednesday, May 24 at St. Arnold: Bike Summit
 - GORBA:
 - a. May 6-7 at Brazos Park: Sugar Land Classic
 - b. Saturday, May 20, 10am at Burroughs Park: Precinct 3 Bike-A-Palooza
 - City of Houston
 - a. Friday, May 19: Bike To Work Day
 - Next BAC meetings:
 - a. Infrastructure Subcommittee: May 24, 2:30-4:30pm;
John B. Raia Conference Room/Microsoft Teams
 - b. Education Subcommittee: June 28, 2:30-4:30pm;
John B. Raia Conference Room/Microsoft Teams
 - c. Bicycle Advisory Committee: July 26, 2:30-4:30pm;
Council Chambers/Microsoft Teams

Meeting Adjourned at 4:25pm.