

City of Houston Bicycle Advisory Committee



PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT



July 26, 2023

Call to Order. Chair Alejandro Perez called the meeting to order at 2:35pm.

Roll Call:

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

Ex-Officio Members:

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

- 1) **Director's Report.** David Fields gave the Director's Report.
 - **TIRZ 27 applied for funds for Waugh between W. Gray and Allen Parkway to close the gap.**
 - Commerce Street from St. Charles to Velasco will have the removal of the rail tracks in the roadbed, and it will be repaved. There will be a design for a parking protected bike lane by using striping.
 - City is working with various agencies on providing updates on when there are detours for trails.



- Ahmed Ghaly, Managing Engineer, OCE with Houston Public Works reported that Transportation Drainage Operations Department and OCE are working on updating Chapter 17. They have reviewed bike plans from around the country and are 80% done. Tentatively on Sept. 1, the update to Chapter 17 will be complete. Currently, they are focusing on a detouring plan for vehicles and pedestrians, but they recognize the issue with not including bikes. They do recognize that the bike network is expanding which is why they are researching detouring plans from around the country.

2) **Chair's Report.** Co-Chair Perez gave the Chair's Report:

- Co-Chair Perez wants the committee to find ways to bring in more funding to assist in reversing the increasing trend with cyclist fatalities.

3) **Approval of April Minutes.**

- Postponed approval of minutes to after Public Comments
- Amendment by Chair Compson to remove the last bullet point on the first page as it relates to "coffin nominations for conduct new committee chair elections."

Motion: Perez **Second:** Holzer **Vote:** Unanimous

4) **Public Comment:**

- Marian Wright - There has to be a mutual respect between bicycles and automobiles for Houston to achieve its goal of safe streets for all forms of transportation. Cyclists have a dual responsibility to abide by traffic laws and not to act in a behavior that will contribute to accidents or put them unnecessarily in harm's way. This committee should only partner with organizations that take omission. To support and encourage cyclists to abide by all laws. DUI, running red lights, running stop signs, traveling the wrong way, improper lane use, improper passing and traveling at night with proper illumination.
- Kevin Strickland - A repeat of what we talked about at the Education Committee and because this is the infrastructure. We don't even really track the number of people killed while walking. The community is fed up with the way in which the city manages the sidewalk and bike lane closures. So, whether it's a permitting, enforcement, or the detours, none of that is currently working. And it's putting us at risk. I appreciate that the city is looking at the IDM to address the detour issue, but that's after the fact. So, what's happened on was a great example. The developer has been allowed to take over the sidewalk and the bike lane and we have to fix this across the city.

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- Ed Pettit - Updates on the Columbia Tap Trail. There was a string of armed and violent assaults in May for the section of the trail in 3rd Ward which has come to an end after the arrest of three of the suspects. Unfortunately, last week there was an armed robbery in the east downtown section of the trail where Nagel intersects with the Columbia Tap near Tiny Champions Pizza. It doesn't seem to be connected to the individuals in May. Concerning that we're having safety issues on the Columbia tap and none of the promises made at the press release in have come to fruition. Not getting cooperation from Houston Public Works and refuse to adjust their jurisdiction and to work with the Parks Department to create shared management partnerships with the community. In fact, the Houston Housing Authority today received word from the Parks Department that Parks is not able to come up with a shared use maintenance agreement with the Housing Authority and so the Housing Authority will have to withdraw the funding from their HUD Choice Neighborhood Initiative grant for the Pocket Park Trujillo. BAC should step in and create clear guidelines for how these departments and agencies are conducting their community engagement with the community. We can't even get an update on the McGowan bike lane, which we've been fighting for five years for.
 - John Beale- I'm a bike rider who's native to the city and this is my first meeting here. Part of the reason that I know that we're having problems in the city, has to do with the lack of involvement of people like myself. Raising awareness of the fact that there are people on the road other than those who sit behind the wheel of a car. Most of the problem I've observed as a as a bike rider in the city is that when we are not riding a bike, we ignore the concerns of bike riders as citizens. This is not just an infrastructure problem or a political problem. It's a problem of the lack of involvement of people like myself who won't get involved to change the culture of his own city.
- 5) **Ethic Training:** Kim Mickelson, Legal Department
- Due to an emergency meeting, training will be rescheduled.
- 6) **Bike Related Components of NHHIP:** Grady Mapes, TxDOT presented.
- NHHIP remains funded remain funded in the 2023 UTP, which the Commission is to act in August.
 - The Voluntary Resolution Agreement (VRA) lifts the pause that was on NHHIP with the Federal Highway Admin. review. There were no Title 6 violations identified and TxDOT is allowed to resume all project development activities. There are commitments in the VRA that TxDOT must complete.



- Today, we are focusing on final designs in three projects within the segment 3 limits, green ring around downtown. We are working to restart public and stakeholder engagement.
 - Package 1: Drainage improvements along St. Emanuel Street to Buffalo Bayou
 - Package 2: I-69 between SH 288 and IH 45 South
 - Package 3: I-69 between Spur 527 and SH 288
 - Typical NHHIP Pedestrian Realm is: 7ft sidewalk; 5ft bike lane; 5ft buffer behind the curb; and plantings providing additional buffering. This is not uniform through the entire NHHIP corridor, but this is the typical for the cross streets, all local streets, and either crossover or under a highway facility.
 - Houston Bike Plan Connectivity: Garden bridges opportunities are the cross streets that cross over the freeway facilities.
 - Arch Bridge Crossings-Pedestrian Realm: There's some cross bridges, some cross streets over I-69 just north of the 288 interchange (Elgin, Tuam and McGowan) These will be arch bridges will have vehicle lanes, the driving lanes, and on the outside of the arches separate bike lanes and sidewalks in both directions.
 - Expanded Trails – White Oak Bayou Trails: A potential shared use path that would be constructed underneath the bridges as part of the NHHIP project.
 - Little White Oak Bayou Opportunities: Potential trails that could be put in along Little White Bayou underneath I-45. Potential trails are a high level concepts that as we get into a detailed design, we work through to understand exactly what they look like and where they can be accommodated and how. We are working towards the delivery of it and the details will be worked out during the detailed design process.
 - School Connectivity – Jensen Drive at Bruce Elementary and Stokes Road Access to Roosevelt Elementary: Enhanced pedestrian realms
 - Emancipation National Historic Trail Connectivity: TxDOT is part of the BRA that will assess federal efforts to develop the Emancipation Trail. As we go through detailed design, we'll evaluate feasibility of accommodating the links through the NHHIP limits.
- 7) **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, 7/17/23):
 - 9 bicycle fatalities, and 1 e-bike fatalities: 2 daytime, 8 nighttime
 - Of the nine, 3 vehicles were failure to stop and render aid, including the e-bike fatalities. Of those 1, one driver has been arrested and charged.
 - As of 6/30/23:
 - 216 YTD total crashes involving bicyclists.

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- Areas such as Central, North, Northeast and South Central have the highest number of crashes over 20, as well as having at least one fatal crash.
 - One intersection has had more than one crash. There were two crashes at Antoine and Victory, one minor/no injury, and one major/injury.
 - Mapping crashes, traffic deaths and serious injuries is done through data gathered from the TxDOT system and is presented in the High Injury Network Map which can be accessed via the City of Houston Vision Zero website.
 - The Vision Zero webpage has an interactive map in which citizens can self-report locations where they feel unsafe as a cyclist.
- 8) **Quarterly Updates.** Misty Staunton presented.
Ongoing bikeway projects and initiatives updates.
- **Bikeways (notable updates)**
 - City of Houston
 - a. 11th St & Michaux - N Shepherd Dr to Michaux; 11th to Usener St: Design and construction is complete is complete, ribbon cutting was on March 23rd.
 - b. Commerce St - St Charles to Velasco: design is in concept
 - c. Fondren - Braeswood to Airport: is in 30% design
 - d. Lockwood Dr - Suburban St to Crites St: is 100% in design
 - e. North Main - Cottage to Airline: is 60% in design
 - f. Polk St - Cullen to S Lockwood Dr: is 90% in design
 - Precinct 1
 - a. No significant updates given.
 - Precinct 2
 - a. No significant updates given.
 - Houston Parks Board
 - a. Stuart Park to FM Law Park: construction is complete
 - b. Scott St to Buffalo Spdwy: Complete except for area under SH288 pending TxDOT work. Detour open through Margaret Jenkins Park, west along Airport and south through Houston Sports Park
 - c. Sharpstown Trail - Sands Point to Beechnut: bidding slated to start in August
 - d. Sharpstown Trail - Beechnut to Brays Bayou Greenway: permitting in progress
 - e. Law Park Connector - Mykawa to CenterPoint: construction is 85% complete
 - TxDOT
 - a. Highway 3 (Richey St. to FM 518): 14 miles; this is a buffered bike lane. It goes all the way south to League City; design is complete;

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construction in progress

- METRO
 - a. McGowen Bikeway: design is complete; construction to begin August 2023
- TIRZ 5
 - a. Construction status complete for: MKT Improvements (Houston Ave to Shepherd); Heights (Center to IH-10); W Dallas (Dunlavy to Waugh)
- TIRZ 27
 - a. **Applied for funding for Waugh between W. Gray and Allen Pkwy**
- TXDOT
 - a. No significant updates given.
- No Parking in the Bike Lane (as of 7/25/2023)
 - 207 citations issued (+4)
 - \$12,520 collected (+\$1,190)
 - 22 completed trainings (no change)
 - No new locations added since Jan 2023's reporting
 - Top 3 locations: 9100 Galveston Rd (38); 2300 Polk (32); 900 Bagby St. (24)
 - There were no increases and no new locations.

9) Open Forum

- Committee members discussed various topics on bicycling.

10) Announcements

- Street Safety Improvement Project-North Main Street:
 - a. Wednesday, August 2, 6-7pm at Montie Beach Community Center
- Street Improvements: Flyers on how to use the new Polk and 11th street; would like feedback from BAC
- Next BAC meetings:
 - a. Infrastructure Subcommittee: August 23, 2:30-4:30pm; John B. Raia Conference Room/Microsoft Teams
 - b. Education Subcommittee: September 27, 2:30-4:30pm; John B. Raia Conference Room/Microsoft Teams
 - c. Bicycle Advisory Committee: October 25, 2:30-4:30pm; Council Chambers/Microsoft Teams

Meeting Adjourned at 4:25pm.