

CITY OF AUSTIN
BICYCLE ADVISORY COUNCIL (BAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

City Hall
302 W. 2nd Street
AUSTIN, TX 78704

February 16, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Chris LeBlanc – BAC Chair
Jason Abels – BAC Vice Chair
Tommy Eden – BAC
Leslie Luciano – BAC
Richard Faidley – BAC
Sheila Molina – BAC

Mike Kase – BAC
Abe Dashner – Alt BAC
Elliot McFadden – Alt BAC
Zachary Stern – Alt BAC
Derek Hansen – Alt BAC
Denise Shaw – Alt BAC

John Bartle – Alt BAC
Tom Wald – Alt BAC
Tom Thayer – Alt BAC
Jacob Calhoun – Alt BAC
Myndi Swanson – Alt BAC

STAFF PRESENT:

Annick Beaudet

Sgt. David Walker
Nadia Barrera

Neil Kopper

GUESTS:

Michael Cospers – Citizen

Council Member Chris Riley
Katie Brown – Citizen

Richard Hollenbak - LOBV
Eileen Schaubert

1. Introductions –

Mr. Abels starts the meeting with introductions.

2. Review and Approval of January Minutes –

Minutes pass without dissent.

3. Items from BAC –

- **Briefing from Ali Mozdbar** – Mr. Mozdbar and Mr. Bell give a presentation regarding bike detection at signalized intersections. Mr. Faidley asks how the signal is timed for pedestrians. Mr. Mozdbar responds that it is 3.5 feet/second. Mr. Faidley asks about signals on or near TXDOT facilities. Mr. Mozdbar responds that the City maintains all signals on the City's right of way. Ms. Kaplan asks for examples of where each type of detection tool is located. Mr. Mozdbar responds that at MLK and Red River, 26th and Red River, and 45th and Lamar there are video cameras used for detection. These cameras are white in color as opposed to the red-light cameras. There are also thermal detectors, but those do not work as well in the field as the Signal Program hoped. Sgt. Walker asks about adjusting the loop to detect bicycles. Mr. Mozdbar responds that if the detection loops are made to be too sensitive, they may pick up vehicles from adjacent lanes, but they are working on finding the perfect threshold. The Signal Program is also looking at hybrid detections, or video + induction loops for bicycles. The video can be sent back to make adjustments in real time. Another option would be push buttons on the curb within a cyclist's reach. Sgt. Walker states that the intersection at 35th and Jefferson seems to be a signal detection challenge for many cyclists.

*After this meeting, CM Riley asked for a follow-up meeting for staff to discuss in more detail.

- **Briefing from Sgt. Walker** – Sgt. Walker distributes the statistics prepared by APD. He notes that there is an 80% change in many of the numbers, and this may be attributed to new staff, or the change in APD policy that encourages giving warnings for first time offenses. Ms. Beaudet then gives an

update regarding 4th Street and Sabine stating that APD has been working with Austin Energy to illuminate the intersection and the bikeway.

4. Items from Staff –

- **Briefing – Capital Improvement Projects**

- Mr. Crager updates the group on the Downtown Bicycle Boulevard. He lets the group know about the bridge over Shoal Creek at 3rd Street and that the project will also include closing the gap at Shoal Creek Trail. Finally, the bicycle improvements on Nueces will not begin until the reconstruction of the roadway is complete, some time in 2013.
- Mr. Crager then updates the group on the Upper Boggy Creek trail. This project should be begin construction in January 2013 and be complete by September of 2013. The City is currently working with CapMetro for the final environmental review and coordination. Mr. Sanford asks about the improvements south of the MLK Station. Mr. Crager responds that the Urban Trail Program is aware of the need for improvements to the existing trail, and is actively searching for funding to make the improvements.
- Mr. Crager then states that the Lake Austin bicycle lanes are nearing completion. Mr. Abels asks about if the sidewalk is the bicycle lane. Mr. Crager responds that the markings will be going down soon to clarify that it is.
- Mr. Crager then updates on the Mopac Bicycle Bridge, beginning with the background and the need for the project. The Barton Creek piece will be built by TXDOT, and the City will be coordinating with them throughout the project. TXDOT will go to bid in September 2013. The 360 piece will separate bicycles and pedestrians from motor vehicle traffic and take them over 360 and will go to bid in early 2014 and be complete by the end of 2015. Mr. Cosper asks how high the bridge will be. Mr. Crager responds that it will be about 70' tall. Mr. Kase asks about heading onto 360 from the turn around. Mr. Crager responds that advanced cyclists will have to take the lane with the cars, and beginner cyclists can execute a box-left turn.
- Mr. Crager also lets the group know that the connection at Congress and Cesar Chavez to the Roy and Ann Butler Lake Trail will be complete by summer, 2012.
- Mr. Wilkes updates the group on the Lavaca/Cesar Chavez improvements. This includes a bicycle lane on Lavaca up to 3rd Street. Mr. Riley asks about prohibiting rights on red and including a bike box to pull into when the cyclists exists the trail. Mr. Wilkes responds that APD had no reports of bike/ped collisions at that location. However, another improvement would be moving the crosswalks back. After we have sought approvals, a funding and construction conversation will occur. Ms. Beaudet states that her goal is to have this implemented by the end of the fiscal year.
- Mr. Wilkes also updates the group on the signs installed at the Johnson Creek Trail at Lake Austin Blvd. Mr. Eden states that the signs are not up yet. Mr. Wilkes also states that the Bicycle Program is working with TXDOT to seek approval for signage within the Johnson Creek Trail.
- **Discussion: Potential Locations for Colored Bicycle Lanes – delayed until future meeting**
- **Follow-Up from Last Meeting – Red Bud Rehabilitation – delayed until next meeting**
- Mr. Demling asks about defective bike racks. Ms. Beaudet states that City went with a low-bidder and they have not been able to meet the standards of the City. She estimates that within six weeks we will be installing bicycle racks again. She also announces that this program may no longer continue due to the fact that the City no

longer has the resources to continue the program. Mr. Kase asks if the staff is administrative or if they simply install bike racks. Ms. Beaudet responds that they actually do install bike racks. Ms. Kaplan asks about the funding for bike racks. Ms. Beaudet responds that the funding for the racks was bond funding, but the funding for the staff was administrative. Ms. Beaudet also states that there is potential for partnering with the parking enterprise. Mr. Wald states that he has had a volunteer ask to install bicycle racks, but since the City installs them for free, they could not get businesses to pay for installation. However, now that the City may not be installing them, there may be an opportunity there.

5. Announcements/Adjourn –

- Sgt. Walker states that he spoke with the municipal court and that there was an instance when someone got a ticket for running a red light because the light didn't change. If you think this is going to be a problem, please continue to report these signals.
- Mr. Abels announces the Major Taylor event – there is a Thursday and Saturday event