

CITY OF AUSTIN
BICYCLE ADVISORY COUNCIL (BAC)
MEETING SUMMARY

City Hall
301 W. 2nd Street
AUSTIN, TX 78704
April 19, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Chris LeBlanc – BAC Chair
Jason Abels – BAC Vice Chair
Tommy Eden – BAC
Ellen Gibbs - BAC
Richard Faidley – BAC

Mike Kase – BAC
Allison Kaplan - BAC
Elliot McFadden – Alt BAC
Zachary Stern – Alt BAC
John Bartle – Alt BAC

Myndi Swanson – Alt BAC
Tom Wald – Alt BAC
Tom Thayer – Alt BAC

STAFF PRESENT:

Chad Crager

Nadia Barrera
Aaron Speyer

Neil Kopper

GUESTS:

Michael Cosper
Julian Massago
Jeseth Delgado
Sharron Wood
Christopher Stanton

Nathan Rodriguez
Cooksel Guzey
Jacob Valentine
Ramon Martinez

Richard Hollenbeck
Andy Carter
Gregory Iles
Samantha Haby

1. Introductions –

Mr. Abels starts the meeting with introductions.

2. Review and Approval of February Minutes –

Mr. Abels makes a motion to approve the minutes with changes and Mr. Bartle seconds. The minutes pass without dissent.

3. Items from BAC –

Briefing : Red Bud Rehabilitation – Mr. Crager announces that this project is part of the proposed 2012 Bond Election. Interested parties can get involved by contacting the Bond Election Advisory Task Force.

4. Items from Staff –

- **Presentation: UT Civil Engineering Class** – Three groups from the UT Civil Engineering Class presented proposed improvements to the Shoal Creek Trail near 31st Street and Lamar. Please contact staff for copies of their presentations and final papers.
- **Briefing: Shoal Creek Trail Update** – Mr. Crager states that the trail will be open by June 30th, but in July 2013 it will be closed again for two years. Also signs on the detour have QR codes for navigation with a smart phone. Mr. Abels asks about the cut-through at the Seaholm Development. Mr. Crager responds that it will be the next project. He also states that fixing the gap at 5th Street and the bridge over Shoal Creek should be complete by 2014. Mr. Hollenbeck asks about the signal at 5th and Rio Grande. Mr. Crager says the signal will be installed summer 2012.
- **Discussion: Detours** - Mr. Crager states that if a detour is needed, NCD will require a traffic control plan and the contractor will be required to coordinate with NCD. Mr. Crager also states that the peninsula at Lady Bird Lake on the trail will be closed and that there will be prior

notification before the closure of the trail. Mr. Cosper would like to know about notifications and would prefer an e-mail, especially to neighborhood groups. Mr. Eden suggests that since this is a 2-year detour, the City should narrow Cesar Chavez to allow for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Mr. Martinez commends PARD for their excellent outreach regarding trail closures and detours through their use of Facebook.

- **Briefing: Green Water Treatment Plan** – Mr. Crager states that Seaholm Drive will provide the same connections as Shoal Creek Trail connections. Mr. Faidley asks if this will be a public street. Mr. Crager responds that it will and that the Bowie underpass will begin construction in 2014. Mr. LeBlanc states that West Avenue will punch through to Cesar Chavez. Mr. Crager notes that Seaholm Drive will feel more like 2nd Street. Mr. Wald asks if there will be bicycle lanes. Mr. Crager responds that the design is not complete. Mr. LeBlanc states that the west side is a bad transition, will there be any improvements? Mr. Crager states that we are constrained by the Right of Way and that there will be a bike barn at the library, there will be as many parking spots for bikes as there will be for cars. 2nd Street will be a “festival street” area with no curbs, but bollards every 10 feet. Mr. Hollenbeck and Mr. Martinez agree that 2nd Street is a horrible street for bicycles. Mr. Crager states that the design follows the Great Streets design standards. Mr. Martinez says that it is a bicycle failure. Mr. Wald states that 3rd Street will be the bicycle priority street for downtown per the Downtown Austin Plan. Mr. Martinez says that it feels as if cars will saturate the Seaholm Redevelopment and the City should focus more on restriction of cars to these areas. Mr. Stern states that there has to be incremental changes; once citizens are used to the LAB, they may realize that bicycles need more space and should be a priority. Mr. Stanton asks about the distance from the hotels to the convention center. Mr. Stanton states that it can't be more than one mile, and that is a ridiculous distance to drive. Mr. Wald suggests that the group contact the DAA and Council if they would like to see changes to the Downtown Austin Plan for improved bicycle facilities on 2nd Street. Mr. LeBlanc asks when Seaholm Drive will be complete. Mr. Crager says it will be done by July 2013. Mr. Eden asks about delaying the trail closure until the road is finished. Mr. Crager says that might be difficult as they are two separate projects.
- **Announcement: Green Lanes Project** – Mr. Crager introduces the Green Lane Project and lets the group know that representatives from the Green Lane Project will be in town the following week. Their main job will be to help the City overcome obstacles to installing cycletracks. Mr. Abels asks about what a cycletrack is. Mr. Crager explains that it is a physically separated bikeway. He states that the big part of the award is a study tour for four participants. We will give updates when he learns more. Mr. Faidley asks who the Green Lane Project is. Mr. Crager responds that it is the Bikes Belong Foundation.

5. Announcements/Adjourn –

- Mr. Martinez asks what to do about businesses that don't provide sufficient bicycle parking. Mr. Wald states that the LOBV was working with staff to implement a study, but needs someone to spearhead the project. Mr. LeBlanc states that installation of bike racks is generally on a complaint basis. Mr. Martinez would like more information on how to get more bicycle parking installed around the city.
- May is Bike Month there will be breakfasts, events, happy hours, websites, Austin Bright Cyclists and more. Checkout biketoworkaustion.org for more info.