

CITY OF AUSTIN
BICYCLE ADVISORY COUNCIL (BAC)
MEETING SUMMARY

City Hall, Staff Bull Pen
301 W. 2nd
June 18, 2013
6:00PM

PARTICIPANTS:

Allison Kaplan – BAC Chair
Tommy Eden – BAC Vice Chair
Nick Warrenchuk - BAC
Mitchell Harrison – Alt BAC

Tom Thayer – BAC
Mike Kase – BAC
Eileen Nehme – BAC
Ashley Hunter - BAC

Chris LeBlanc - BAC
Tom Wald - Alt BAC
Alan Garcia – Alt BAC
Noni Jarnagin – Alt BAC

GUESTS:

Michael Cospers

David Orr
Rich Hollenbeck

Allison Mills

STAFF PRESENT:

Nadia Barrera
Nathan Wilkes
Tara Long

Shannon Wisner
Officer Rheannon Cunningham

Chad Crager
Aleksiina Chapman
Commander Fred Fletcher

1. Introductions – Ms. Kaplan begins the meeting with introductions
2. Review and Approval of May Minutes – Ms. Hunter made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Jarnagin seconded. The minutes are approved.
3. Items from Staff –
Briefing – Vulnerable User Sting Operation and PSA – Commander Fletcher describes APDs efforts to enforce the Vulnerable User Initiative. During the initiative APD generally will write warnings and tickets for egregious violations. Well over 50% of the public have stated that they were unaware of the law. The APD will write tickets for cyclists when they see them breaking the law as well. APD also noted that it was the smaller cars that were breaking the law more often, mostly because it seemed as if they thought they could fit in the lane. Commander Fletcher stated that most of the violations took place on South Lamar. Commander Fletcher also asked the group to e-mail Officer Cunningham with any other suggestions (Rheannon.Cunningham@austintexas.gov). Mr. LeBlanc asks how long the program will last. Commander Fletcher states that it will be approximately a year and is in three phases. The first phase is educating the motorists, the second will be outreach and enforcement for cyclists, and phase three will be based on lessons learned from the first two phases. Mr. Cospers asks about the officers and how they are dressed. Officer Cunningham states that she rides her personal bike and wears her regular commute clothes. Ms. Hunter asks how many Capital Metro buses were stopped. Officer Cunningham states that they stopped more than one bus. Commander Fletcher states that everyone has been very supportive. Officer Cunningham has spoken with the Municipal Court and other interest groups to ensure that the citations would be taken appropriately at Court. Ms. Kaplan asks what would be the focus of the second phase. Commander Fletcher states that that's why they are here today – to get feedback from the group. Ms. Kaplan states that riding the wrong way seems to be a problem, however she feels as though some people were taught to ride in that way; so it seems as though that should be taken into consideration when writing tickets. Commander Fletcher states that officers use their discretion when writing tickets. Ms. Nehme asks about cars parked in bike lanes. Commander Fletcher states that cyclists can call 9-1-1 to report. Mr. Kase states that La Crosse and South 1st past Slaughter

are problems, specifically near schools. Commander Fletcher states that a good approach would be to contact the District Representative in the area with specific concerns. The discussion then ensues regarding whether or not the ordinance includes giving 3 feet to vulnerable users with or without a bicycle lane. Officer Cunningham states that she has spoken with the Municipal Court regarding the language and they are working to clarify the ordinance. Mr. Eden asks to discuss the language within the Ordinance at a future meeting. Commander Fletcher would like to learn more about what they can do for the second phase and would like to have some sort of event to discuss further. Ms. Nehme asks Commander Fletcher about enforcement of the trails and the pilot project. Commander Fletcher states that the main issue they've been addressing is the enforcement of camping; overall it seems to be a positive program.

Briefing – City of Austin Bicycle Program Website – Ms. Wisner introduces the Bicycle Program website. Ms. Wisner asks what could be included. Officer Cunningham suggests including the Vulnerable User PSA on the traffic law page. Mr. Cospoer asks about a map of bike racks. Ms. Nehme states that there is an application for phones that allows you to take a photo of a bike rack and allows crowd sources for locations of bike racks. Mr. Kase asks about links to community groups. Ms. Wisner shows where that information is on the page. Mr. Wald suggests connecting to adjacent jurisdictions (CAMPO, TXDOT). Mr. LeBlanc suggests having less on the page and having more links on the side. Mr. LeBlanc also suggests that the bike map should be more prominently portrayed. Ms. Kaplan would like to see contact information for each staff member. Mr. Cospoer asks about bike shops and repair stations. Ms. Hunter suggests that would be difficult to keep up with. Mr. Eden asks about upcoming projects. Ms. Mills suggests a “recently completed” link. Mr. Cospoer would like to see a “parking modification” link. Ms. Wisner states that in the past she has added a calendar for scheduled events. Ms. Nehme suggests including a link to 3-1-1. She also suggests some information about how and why new bike lanes are installed. Mr. Orr suggests adding the BAC link. The Austin Cycling Association and Bike Texas also should be added to the “Explore Austin’s Cycling Community” link. Mr. Jarnagin asks about specifics about bicycle laws. Mr. Eden would like to see more cool videos. Ms. Barrera would like to see links to MetroBike. Mr. Wald suggests using the text from the bike map as tool for the website. Mr. Wilkes suggests a “know your street” section or a trivia game that makes learning the laws fun. Another suggestion is to talk about sharrows.

Briefing – Bike Share – Ms. Barrera shares information about the Bike Share Program. Council will see the item to contract and negotiate with the vendor on Thursday. Ms. Barrera states that there will be two major public meetings regarding bike share station locations and four outreach opportunities at events such as Blues on the Green, the Ice Cream Festival, and First Thursday. The outreach efforts will be from July 15-August 15 and bike share stations should be on the ground before the end of the year.

- **Briefing and Possible Action**– Bluegrass Drive Bicycle Lanes – Mr. Kopper briefly discusses the parking modification process. He states that every once in a while the Bicycle Program has to make the decision about removing bike lanes when the traffic volume is low and there are low speeds. Ashton Ridge and Top Ridge are both west of Mopac and west of Loop 360. Both of these streets are less than 2000 cars a day and both are getting traffic calming. Mr. Cospoer asks if the streets are collector streets or residential streets. Mr. Kopper states that they are more like residential streets. Mr. Kopper also mentioned that the Bicycle Program is considering using a shoulder to replace the bike lanes. Mr. Cospoer would like to know if sharrows would be appropriate. Mr. Kopper states that the sharrows might look funny as the bicycle traffic is so low. Mr. Cospoer asks if the traffic calming would reduce the parking. Mr. Kopper responds that it would. Mr. Eden suggests that the group supports the staff for these two streets and Ms. Kaplan agrees as does the rest of the group. Bluegrass is a street that already has traffic calming and

has from 2,000 to 3,000 cars a day. Mr. LeBlanc asks if the point is to remove parking from a bike lane. Ms. Kaplan suggests the BAC support staff, the group supports that decision. Mr. Kase asks if a bike lane has been removed and put back. Mr. Eden stated that it has occurred.

Briefing – Bike Map – Mr. Wilkes outlines how he plans to change the coloring of the lines on the bike map to align more along the lines of the “interested but concerned” philosophy. He plans to remove the light blue color. Mr. Kase asks about how the map will distinguish between trails and green lanes. Mr. Wilkes states that the paved and unpaved lanes will still be distinguishable. Mr. Wilkes states that he would like input from the BAC by Thursday. Mr. Wilkes then asks the group if they are okay with removing the light blues from the map. In general it seems as though the group is in support of removing the light blues. Mr. Wald suggests that new green streets could have no dots, as the existing ones have dashes and dots. Mr. Wilkes agrees that is a reasonable idea. He also clarifies that the Bicycle Program will be editing the map and will present a draft in August.

4. Items from BAC – 6:40-7:50

- **Briefing and Possible Action** – 24-hour trail pilot study evaluation – Ms. Chapman discusses the data from the three trails and the three counters. There is a discussion about the after data and when the counters should go up again. Mr. LeBlanc suggests October, but Ms. Nehme is under the impression that the pilot may be complete by September. Mr. Wilkes asks who will do the evaluation. Ms. Nehme suggests that she is willing and able to do the leg work with a team and potentially produce a report available to distribute. The discussion ensues about the timeline/schedule and when an evaluation would need to be useful if Council is already making decisions about funding and departments are already putting together their budget. Staff will work with APD to find out if the 24 hour trail will be included in APD’s ’14 budget. Mr. LeBlanc would like to see more data on whether or not people are using the trail now. Ms. Nehme suggests two week windows for the next four months. Mr. Wilkes suggests staff get the park rangers to monitor the counters to enable them to stay out the from June to September. Mr. Jarnagin and Mr. Kase offer to help Ms. Nehme with the project.

Briefing- Technical Subcommittee Report on Rainey Street – The Rainey Street project is moved to next month.

5. Announcements:

- Next Technical Subcommittee Meeting June 20 regarding the cycletrack network.

6. Proposed Items From Staff for Future Meetings:

- Technical Subcommittee will report back to the BAC in July about Rainey St
- Pleasant Valley Road Diet
- Shared Lanes on 290 Expressway
- Enhancements Proposals – Traffic Signals for bicycles

7. Mr. LeBlanc motions to adjourn and Ms. Hunter seconds.