

CITY OF AUSTIN
BICYCLE ADVISORY COUNCIL (BAC)
MEETING SUMMARY

City Hall, Staff Bull Pen, Room 1029
301 W 2nd Street
December 16, 2014
6:00 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS:

Christopher Stanton – BAC Chair
Tom Thayer – BAC Vice Chair
Erin Katribe – BAC
Tommy Eden – BAC
David Orr – BAC

Mike Kase – BAC
Sophia Benner – BAC
Jeanie Donovan – BAC
Pete Wall – Alt BAC
Samuel Day-Woodruff – Alt BAC
Tomasita Louviere-Ligons – BAC

Kathryn Flowers – Alt BAC
Rebecca Brenneman – Alt BAC
Stanton Truxillo – Alt BAC
Nicole Ortega – Alt BAC
Larry Murphy – Alt BAC

GUESTS:

John Woodley
Michael Sledge
Sounthaly Outhavong

Patricia Schaub
Joel Meyer
Michael Rigby
Malcolm Yeatts

Chris Riley
Christian Malanka

STAFF PRESENT:

Aleksiina Chapman
Doug Ballew - A/TC Health Dept. (Injury
Prevention Prog.)

Laura Dierenfield
Nathan Wilkes
Nadia Barrera

Marissa Monroy
Neil Kopper
Robert Anderson – PAC

1. Introductions – Mr. Stanton begins the meeting with introductions. Ms. Flowers and Ms. Brenneman will serve as voting members.

Councilmember Riley thanks the BAC for their dedication to cycling. He encourages the BAC to continue looking out for bike issues, to speak out about them, and to continue bringing them to the attention of City Council and the whole community. Councilmember Riley encourages the BAC to keep up with CAMPO. The decisions that are made in CAMPO have a huge impact on what happens in the City. The city couldn't do what they are doing without the guidance and support of the BAC. Mr. Kase thanks Councilmember Riley for his years of service.

2. Review and Approval of September Minutes – **Mr. Thayer moves to approve the minutes with amendments. Mr. Truxillo seconds. No dissent. The minutes are approved.**

3. Items from BAC/Staff –

Briefing: Bicycle Program Year in Review 2014 – Neil Kopper

Mr. Kopper introduces the bicycle program year in review. A few years ago the BAC asked that the city staff come once a year to review projects that have happened in the past year. Mr. Kopper is going to highlight a few projects where City of Austin staff has pushed further to

make improved bicycle lanes. On St. Johns, rather than doing a standard lane reduction of 4 lanes to 3 lanes, 4 lanes were reduced to 2 lanes with turn bays opening up at intersections. The BAC also asked to report on the barriers that have been completed. A few of the streets that have been called out as barriers have been completed this year. The majority of the bicycle program's work is opportunistic. The streets in Austin get resurfaced every year and the existing stripes get covered. When the stripes get put back it's essentially free to put the stripes back in new places and this list is followed very closely. The bicycle program is also starting to work more closely with schools. Near Hart Elementary there was a new bridge that was put in and we partnered with the school to put in a protected bicycle lane. We are working to put in buffered bicycle lanes, protected bicycle lanes, and improving bicycle lanes to make them better whenever possible. In a couple years we won't have the same opportunities as we do now because all the streets will have been resurfaced. Just by following street maintenance the low hanging fruit will be all gone. When projects are implemented following street resurfacing, if a project touches the number of lanes on a street or changes parking we start a public process and talk to stakeholders in the area. There are often good conversations between people who want the bicycle lanes and people who don't want the bicycle lanes. Mr. Stanton says that often at open houses only people who are against a project will show up and it seems like the majority of the feedback is negative. Mr. Kase asks if we have a master list of projects for next year. Mr. Kopper superimposes the bicycle plan and the resurfacing list to generate a list of projects. Ms. Louviere-Lignons asks about a projected completion date for the list that we do have. The list that Mr. Kopper has is all scheduled for the upcoming fiscal year. The bicycle master plan is a floating list. Mr. Eden thinks that the bicycle lane implementation is great and that it seems to be getting better all the time. A few years ago there wasn't anybody who was doing this. Mr. Truxillo likes that we are using such a common sense approach by following street resurfacing. In the past we've had criticism because of disjointed bicycle lanes but it's slowly becoming a network. Mr. Woodley asks if the upcoming lists will be published. Mr. Kopper says that it's not a list that has been vetted with the public. Redd Street is being resurfaced currently. Redd Street probably doesn't have an opportunity because we would have to restrict parking on both sides of the street. Mr. Murphy points out that Redd Street ties many destinations in that area together.

Briefing and Possible Action: BAC Purpose:

- City Bicycle Program and BAC Relationship – Neil Kopper

In the past, City staff and the Bicycle Advisory Council have enjoyed a positive and productive relationship. City staff can work as a liaison between the BAC and other organizations or entities. City staff uses the BAC as a sounding board for good directions forward for bicycling in Austin. An example is moving towards protected bicycle lanes. There are some tradeoffs with implementing protected bike lanes and having a discussion with the BAC provides a good context for these conversations. The BAC can give feedback both from high level concepts to more detailed oriented conversations. If there is something on the street that the BAC wants to talk about more you can ask city staff to discuss it in more detail at the BAC meeting. Everyone is also always welcome to call staff at any point to talk through a project one on one. Mr. Orr

says that there are times that there could be a tighter feedback loop between what the BAC asks for and what is installed in the field. Mr. Orr would like there to be a purposeful process of reporting back to the BAC. Mr. Kase clarifies that some vocabulary needs to be clarified. Ms. Louviere-Lignons asks if there is a spreadsheet which outlines the BAC action and what the result of the action is. Staff will maintain a list which shows BAC recommendations and resulting action. Mr. Truxillo requests that the year in review be presented to the UTC.

- BAC Role – Christopher Stanton

The BAC has been elected to represent the bicycling community in Austin. The BAC works with the City but there is no requirement that the BAC come to an agreement with City staff in all scenarios. The BAC is a body where conflicting ideas within the bicycle community can be discussed. Mr. Stanton asks if people want to talk about what they think their role could be for the BAC. The idea for tonight is to understand what we are hoping to. Mr. Eden likes to look at the details of infrastructure. Many times the people who are designing bicycle facilities overlook something. Mr. Eden wants bikeways to be installed on major routes. Mr. Kase says that the BAC appealed to him because of the name. It is an advisory council which is a distinction from an advocacy group. Mr. Kase likes that this body works on very specific tasks. Ms. Katribe likes the more hands on, practical aspects of the BAC. Ms. Katribe hasn't been a transportation cyclist for that long and feels like she is in a transition phase and still remembers what it was like to be a beginner cyclist. Mr. Kase thinks that city council thinks of the BAC with more objectivity because the BAC is not an advocacy organization. Mr. Stanton says that the BAC is not just an engineering oversight group. There are lots of opportunities to work outside the realm of infrastructure. City bicycle staff members are not the only staff members that the BAC can interact with. Mr. Orr thinks that one issue that drew him to the BAC is advocacy for the lowest common denominator. The attitude of the bicycle program and the BAC have grown to have more emphasis on the 8 to 80 network and the BAC has had more emphasis on getting more people on bikes. The biggest factor getting people bicycling is more people bicycling and the more people on bikes, the safer everyone is. Ms. Donovan asks if there are ways that the BAC solicits membership and participation. This year there was a lot of footwork done to get new members into the BAC. Mr. Thayer says that part of why the BAC should be a diverse group is so that the membership can bring ideas from each member's own bicycle networks. Mr. Murphy says that the relationship is clear between city staff and the BAC but where Mr. Orr was talking about the 8 to 80 – has the BAC considered reaching out the AISD to involve them in the conversation about the 8 to 80 bicycle facilities. The state and the county should be included as well in connecting bicycle facilities beyond the city. Ms. Louviere-Lignons wants to comment that since she's been here she has served to bring back information from the BAC to the rest of the bicycling community and she has been taking what she learns at the BAC and bringing it back to her community and letting them know that they are concerned about it for them to come back here. It is important that we also feed back information to the rest of the bicycling community and promoting the work that the BAC does. Ms. Brenneman asks about how to direct issues. Mr. Wilkes says that 311 is the best tool for routing issues. The city is reactive and the city doesn't know what's going on in the field and for these types of issues, 311 is the way to go. Ms. Brenneman says that she lives in northwest Austin and the demographics

are starting to change and she feel like there is a general unawareness of how people interact with the city. Mr. Truxillo says that 311 works very quickly. Mr. Stanton adds that if there is a risk of injury they will react more quickly.

Briefing: BAC History – Nathan Wilkes

Mr. Wilkes has been with the City for 7 years and for the deep history of the bike program, Mr. Eden knows a lot. The BAC was first started around 1998. Mr. Eden says that there was a bicycle coordinator in 1994 that first started the BAC. Mr. Warring started an interagency BAC around 94-98. When Annick Beaudet came on in 2006, she re-invigorated the BAC as a citizen group. This is the current incarnation of the BAC. The BAC is a bit of a confusing body when you try to compare it to other boards and commissions. The BAC is the central voice of how we get advice from the bicycle community. At the BAC you will get used to the fact that you don't have vast resources at your disposal, it's mostly your time and thoughts. You may feel like you are advocates here but the real advocates are the ones who have large resources. City staff are not advocates either. The BAC has an in between role where they can advise city staff and they can also advise city council. If the BAC is going to make any policy decisions, staff will not be involved. City staff takes recommendations from the BAC very seriously and would like to build a trusting relationship with the BAC. There is a three legged stool analogy for effectiveness made up of: city staff, the policy realm and the advocacy relationship. There are some things which city staff is very good at but there are other things where the BAC is the more suitable body. One of the biggest developments in the past three years is the conversation surrounding all ages and abilities bicycle networks. The most recently adopted bicycle master plan includes the framework and feasibility of a network of routes that people can use to get throughout the city. It includes getting people on short trips, getting people to transit. City staff has already made a commitment that city staff will bring all protected bicycle lane designs. Mr. Wilkes says that the infrastructure work is something that has been talked about heavily in the past but the bike plan outlines the breadth of what council has instructed us to follow. It includes not only infrastructure but also enforcement, encouragement, and education.

Briefing: BAC Bylaws Review – Christopher Stanton

Mr. Stanton begins by asking if there are any specific questions about the bylaws. Mr. Stanton points out the section of the bylaws on consensus voting (Article IV Section 2). Mr. Wald had mentioned that at one point in the past votes were taken consensus based from the whole room, rather than only the voting members. Mr. Wall says that the idea behind asking the whole room to vote is that if anybody takes the time to come to the meeting then their voice should have some official resonance. If somebody comes to the meeting to be completely in opposition then step two and three can happen in a more formalized fashion. Through the process of a longer discussion usually you can arrive to consensus by discussing whatever it was what that caused the person to dissent in the first place. Mr. Kase recalls a resolution to council where he was the sole dissenting voice because he felt that the wording was not strong enough. Mr. Stanton asks if we want to go back to the format where the whole room can dissent. Mr. Kase says that in the interest in time, only items going to council should happen in

this format. Mr. Orr says that the president could use discretion when deciding to move to a more formal discussion. The only difference between step 1 and 2 is that step 2 has a stack. Steps 1 and 2 are both trying to go after consensus. Mr. Eden thinks that it would be interesting to ask the whole room if there is any dissent, rather than just the voting members. Mr. Truxillo says the procedure works pretty well for trying to get things done. In the informal discussion, it's important to clarify that everyone understands what is being discussed. Mr. Kase has found that step 1 never really happens. Mr. Kase thinks there could be a bylaw change since in practical terms anyone who is at the meeting can be added to the stack to offer insight. Mr. Wilkes says that in general, some kind of organic consensus comes out. In the past, Annick Beaudet urged that there be a vote backup if necessary. Ms. Beaudet was concerned that if there were policy decisions that this group could make decisions in a timely manner. If the spirit is that everyone in the room is heard and that their empathized with then it's effectively full room consensus. Ms. Louviere-Lignons asks what has been decided on the consensus based decision making. Ms. Louviere-Lignons has read the bylaws and she still finds them unclear. Mr. Stanton understands that there is a lot of interpretation of the bylaws left up to the chair. Mr. Stanton says that usually the discussion is formalized to stay on time. When there is a topic that the BAC would like to make a statement on, the BAC can make a motion, which requires a second. Once there is a second, there is a discussion on the proposed motion and when the discussion closes there is a vote. Sometimes formalized voting happens when the presenting body would like a resolution and time is limited. Mr. Kase asks if it would be advisable or if there's an interest to have a subcommittee formed to review the bylaws. Ms. Louviere-Lignons asks who decided these bylaws in the first place. Mr. Eden says that it was a discussion among the whole group and there were many compromises. Some people wanted to do strictly consensus and some people wanted to do strictly Roberts rules. Mr. Kase authored article 4 and 6. Mr. Kase asks if we've grown to a point where we need to look at re-writing the bylaws for the BAC. Mr. Orr thinks that this would be a subject for a full retreat. Mr. Eden says that we could also have a discussion on the google group. Mr. Stanton says that changes or recommendations to change the bylaws shouldn't happen at this meeting. Mr. Truxillo says that the current discussion clarified many of his questions on the proceeding of the meeting. Ms. Louviere-Lignons thinks that we should revisit this in a few months. Mr. Wall says that one of the reasons that consensus based decision making was introduced was because the BAC wanted to involve people who didn't know Roberts rules from the public. Having consensus the initial goal simplifies proceedings: have a discussion, see if everyone agrees, and move forward from there. Mr. Wilkes says that sometimes the vote is taken out of context. When the chair asks if there is dissent and nobody replies, that is consensus based decision making. Ms. Louviere-Lignons would like to re-visit this topic in March.

Briefing and Possible Action: Bicycle Program 2015 Goals – Laura Dierenfield

Ms. Dierenfield says that on the eve of this election that we should commit to talking about bicycling to people who are not here and that we listen to all the voices in this space. Ms. Dierenfield is the new program manager for the Active Transportation Division. The goal of the Austin Transportation Department is to help move people throughout the city- not just cars- but people, which is a shift from how we've thought about transportation in the past. From Mr.

Kopper's presentation we can see that the folks at the bicycle program are very talented and Austin is known all over the country for this movement. It's important that we continue to fuel this work through funding and through support from the advocates in our community. In 2015, the active transportation department is going to grow its portfolio of education and encouragement work. Ms. Dierenfield came from a non-profit, advocacy background and she believes that it is important to resource these groups to help them make change in the city. Finally, the integration of active transportation throughout the city and making sure that other departments are either turning to us for design guidance or that they are cultivating their own bicycle experts in their own divisions. The more people ride the more there will be a demand for facilities. In a past state of address Ms. Beaudet was celebrating a mode split of 2% in the central city and now we are over 5%. As an American city built on moving cars, starting to chip away at that split of transportation is very exciting.

Briefing and Possible Action: Urban Trails Program 2015 Goals – Nadia Barrera

In 2014, the Urban Trails Master Plan passed which prioritized which trails they will be working on and it also spells out that the trails criteria manual be written. Ms. Barrera gives a background on the Southern Walnut Creek Trail which was built in 2014. In 2015, way finding is going to be improved for the trail system. The Shoal Creek Trail, the LAB, and Guerrero Park will all be looked at for way finding. The trails program is going to be purchasing trail counters. The trail criteria manual will be a design manual for how the city constructs trails. Ms. Barrera is looking for a policy direction to incentivize developers to build trails when they redevelop a lot. Violet Crown is in the design/permitting phase. It will almost all be built by early 2016. Country Club Creek Trail had an open house last week. This trail is not funded for construction but they are actively looking for funding. The Mopac bike and pedestrian bridge should be done by December 2015. The YBC trail preliminary engineering is being kicked off. It will connect from ACC Pinnacle to the end of the Mopac bridge. All trails are going to be paved and 12' wide is the standard for these trails.

4. Announcements/Adjourn – 7:45 – 8:00

Mr. Anderson says that last month city council created a vision zero task force. In terms of the bicycling representation: Preston Tyree, Laura Shefram, Tom Wald, Bonnie Lister, Laura Dierenfield, Francis Reilly and two members of the PAC are also active bicyclists. Mr. Anderson would like to remind the BAC that there is a land development revision underway and they have decided on a design approach. The consultants will be coming up with a draft code this year. There were joint PAC/BAC recommendations that were submitted and it is important to stay on top of this so that the codes can result in more walkable and bikeable environments.

Mr. Kase asks about a bond item which included looking at the Manchaca corridor and he would like a briefing from city staff on where this item is at and also what kinds of plans in general there are for north south corridors, south of Ben White.

Mr. Orr says that the technical subcommittee meeting for door zone markings is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13th from 6 pm to 8 pm at One Texas Center.

Yellow Bike Project is having a 10% off sale on all refurbished bikes.

Mr. Woodley asks if we can get a microphone for next meeting.

Mr. Thayer moves to adjourn. Mr. Kase seconds. Meeting adjourns.