



MINUTES
Bicycle Advisory Council Meeting Agenda
September 15th, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.
301 W. 2nd Street City Hall, Staff Bull Pen, Room 1029

PARTICIPANTS:

Christopher Stanton – BAC Chair	Chris LeBlanc - BAC
Tom Thayer – BAC Vice Chair	Sophia Benner – BAC
David Orr – BAC	Tom Wald – Alt BAC
Sam Day-Woodruff - Alt BAC	Stanton Truxillo – Alt BAC
Rebecca Brenneman – Alt BAC	Tommy Eden – BAC
Mike Kase – BAC	

GUESTS:

John Woodley	Michael Cospers
Zach Hollandsworth	Patricia Schaub
Pete Wall	Miller Nutter
Adam Gregory	Thomas Butler
Rich Hollenbeck	Hillary Anderson
Sounthaly Outhavong	Mike Sledge
Gonzalo Camacho	

STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Dierenfield, ATD	Marissa Monroy, ATD
Officer Mitchell, APD	Richard McHale, ARR
LeAnn Ishcomber, PARD	Nadia Barrera, PWD
Rob Grotty, PWD	De'Anne Williams, PARD

- 1. Introductions – 6:00 to 6:05**
- 2. Citizen Communication – 6:05 to 6:15**

Mike Kase, Resident: Showed a picture of a blocked bike lane along S. Lamar, near the intersection of Threadgill and Gibson, (there was a no parking sign in place). Mr. Kase hopes the City will examine this situation and make improvements.

3. Review and Approval of August Minutes – 6:15 to 6:20

Tom Thayer moved to approve. David Orr seconded. Minutes approved with one correction on page two, line two - change "motor vehicles" (line 2) to moving vehicle.

4. Items from BAC – 6:20 to 7:50

- Discussion and Possible Action: Electric Bicycles on Trails, Facilitator Chris LeBlanc

Mr. LeBlanc related information that the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) considers electric bikes as a motor vehicle, so they are not allowed on urban trails.

Tom Wald had previously proposed a motion that e-bikes should be given the same permissions as regular bikes.

LeAnn Ishcomber, Park Ranger Program Manager for the City of Austin, Department of Parks and Recreation (PARC) explained that PARC developed a working group with APD and other departments to discuss the code regarding restrictions of a motor vehicle in a park. The group met in August, after staff became aware of the issue.

Ms. Ishcomber explained that there are certain trails/parks where there are concerns between regular bicyclists and pedestrians, notwithstanding e-bikes. There are also concerns about the speed limit of e-bikes. A park rule is in place (not a city ordinance) that the speed limit of a hike/bike trail is not to exceed 10 mph. PARC also has other concerns about vendors for e-vehicles (segways, e-bikes, etc) being present at park, when there is not any City staff to regulate this issue. PARC's biggest concern is that this could become a major safety issue. Ms. Ishcomber clarified that everything that is an ADA-vehicle is excluded from this rule.

Group discussion centered around the need to better define what an electronic bicycle is and where they are permitted. Further clarification was provided as to which areas are considered trails and which are considered right-of-way. For example, the Boardwalk, Roberta Crenshaw bridge and the Pfluger bridge are both considered right-of-way.

Tom moved to continue discussion at a Technical Sub-Committee. If members are interested in chairing the sub-committee, they can notify Christopher Stanton or Laura Dierenfield through email.

Discussion and Possible Action: **Non-Bicycle Mobility Devices & ADA Access**, Facilitator: Christopher Stanton

Mr. Stanton explained that in the course of launching a project where seniors will be riding adult trikes, he discovered that many people use assisted mobility devices in bike lanes instead of sidewalks. Many of these people explained that the sidewalks are uneven and that it is easier on the devices and the people who use them to ride these vehicles in bike lanes. Mr. Stanton said he does not have a problem with this situation, but would like a clear stance from the City on this issue.

Mike Kase said he also does not have a problem with this situation, but wants to make sure users of the bike lane travel in the right direction.

Hillary Anderson is also supportive of Mr. Stanton's stance on this issue.

Laura Dierenfield, with ATD, explained that the Sidewalk Master Plan is underway and that it would probably be beneficial to have the Sidewalk Master Plan officials present.

- Discussion and Possible Action: **Maintenance Budgeting**, Facilitator: David Orr

Mr. Orr showed a presentation reviewing his idea for maintenance budgeting. It included four main aspects: 1) striping, 2) sweeping, 3) trimming; and 4) mowing the edges of the urban trail network.

Rob Grotty, Public Works Department

Mr. Grotty explained that budget concerns are a big issue when it comes to maintenance. An in-house crew of 8 people is responsible for maintaining rights of ways all over the City. He explained how often he mows/trims in different areas. None of the mowing is in on a regular maintenance schedule, but PWD is interested in contracting that work out. Mr. Grotty also explained that per City code, residents are also responsible for certain maintenance. Sometimes, the City leaves door hangers notifying property owners they need to trim back bushes.

BAC members expressed concern that there is not enough money in the maintenance schedule. Mike Kase wants a more proactive approach to maintenance. Hillary Anderson gave thanks to City staff for their work.

Mr. Gonzalo Camacho suggested there's not an actual bicycle maintenance program that exists in any city. Mr. Camacho suggested the City of Austin implement one.

Tommy Eden will put together a list of hot spots.

Richard McHale, Division Manager, Litter Abatement with Austin Resource Recovery (ARR)

Mr. McHale explained the maintenance schedule for City crews when it comes to sweeping. In total, ARR sweeps 600 tons of debris and covers 52,000 miles of streets annually. They rely heavily on 311 requests. He explained that the City is investing in two sweepers for protected bike lanes, one of which will be parked downtown. The sweeper will have to be transported through a trailer. ARR will be working with code compliance to take care of hot spots. The City does not sweep in the UT area, state highways, or county highways. PWD does have a sweeping crew, but they mainly deal with resurfacing projects. Mr. McHale also explained that ARR is looking at the policy of placement of trash/recycling carts, because sometimes they are on sidewalks, other times in bike lanes, and other times in the middle of the street.

Mike Kase proposed a resolution: "The BAC recommends budgets be allocated for all existing bicycle infrastructures based upon best practices. The BAC also recommends that as new bicycle infrastructure is developed, budget monies be allocated for maintenance."

Laura Dierenfield, with ATD, explained that she was very encouraged by the discussion and looks to work more closely with other departments in developing a proactive approach to maintenance, but cautioned the solution will not happen overnight.

The BAC asked that staff come back with a response in six months.

Discussion and Possible Action: **Resolution on Mobility 35,**
Facilitator: Tom Wald

Tom Wald explained his resolution on proposed improvements to I-35. Resolution was distributed electronically. Mr. Wald led the group through a discussion on the resolution of the draft and its detailed nature. Mike Kase moved to pass the resolution. Tom Thayer seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Items from Staff – 7:30 to 7:50

- Formation of a Membership and Nomination Subcommittee

Ms. Dierenfield explained that per the BAC bylaws, a membership and nomination subcommittee must be formed in preparation for the annual elections. Ms. Brenneman, Mr. Thayer and Ms. Benner agreed to serve on the Subcommittee.

- Announcement: Apply to become a BAC Member

Ms. Dierenfield encouraged the audience to submit their applications to become a BAC member and to share the information with others who may be interested.

6. Announcements/Adjourn – 7:50 – 8:00

Ms. Dierenfield shared that there will be a public meeting on Shady Lane on Thursday at 6pm at Allan Elementary School, 4900 Gonzales Street.