BAC Resolution on RM 620 and Loop 360

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) is to advise the City of Austin, and other jurisdictions, on all matters relating to the use of the bicycle;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the BAC makes the following recommendations for future improvements to RM 620 and Loop 360:

Short term recommendations:

- -Improve the dangerous intersection of Loop 360 and Wild Basin Rd due to poor sightlines and the shoulder becoming a right turn lane. It is difficult to see traffic coming from Wild Basin Rd turning on to Loop 360.
- -Do something so that traffic exiting from southbound MoPac to southbound Loop 360 will expect bicycle traffic and see bicyclists better on the Loop 360 shoulder.
- -Widen the Loop 360 shoulder northbound crossing Barton Creek.
- -Extend the shoulder or add a sidewalk/shared use path on Loop 360 eastbound towards S Lamar Blvd and Ben White Blvd.

General principals for designing both roads:

- -Design for both road cyclists and local cyclists going short distances.
- Try to have wide enough shared use paths on each side of the road (where feasible) for two way bike traffic (8 ft minimum, 12+ ft desired).
- -Have design flexibility and creativity in the shared use paths/sidewalks. See Nathan Wilkes's presentation to TXDot on preferred options on substandard widths of shared use paths/sidewalks.
- -Avoid use of curved free right turns across shared use paths and sidewalks. Use smaller angles for turning traffic, so they have to stop or slow down greatly before turning right.
- -More signage and enforcement to prevent vehicles from driving on the shoulders.
- -Connect all major destinations along the highways with all-ages/abilities bicycle facilities
- -Make the shared use paths straight (as opposed to curving/undulating) where possible to allow a higher design speed.

RM 620 recommendations:

- -Between Lakeway Blvd and Quinlan Park Rd, narrow the 14 ft median, so that 4-5 feet can be added to each shoulder.
- -Be careful when designing the transition from the shared use paths/sidewalks (two way bike traffic) north of Quinlan Park Rd and south of Lakeway Blvd to the section between them with wide shoulders only (one way bike traffic).
- -Consider a shared use path for the portion of the highway between Lakeway Blvd and Quinlan Park Rd since this is a rapidly developing area and there will likely be more neighborhoods and destinations here in the future.

Loop 360 recommendations:

- -Preserve the wide shoulders on the main lanes as well as adding shared use paths/sidewalks separated from traffic where possible.
- -Consider grade separation for bicycle traffic at exit/entrance ramps where feasible, especially if the design calls for several additional such ramps.
- -Be careful of the sightlines of intersecting streets interacting with the shoulders and any shared use paths/sidewalks.

ADOPTED April 19th, 2016

ATTEST

Thomas Thayer Chair, Bicycle Advisory Council