



**Bicycle Advisory Council  
Meeting Summary  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.  
301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street City Hall Room 1027**

**BAC PARTICIPANTS:**

Tom Thayer, BAC Chair  
Sophia Benner, BAC Vice Chair  
David Orr, BAC  
Miller Nuttle, BAC  
Tommy Eden, BAC  
Mike Sledge, BAC

Patricia Schaub, BAC Alt.  
Pete Wall, BAC Alt.  
Tom Wald, BAC Alt.  
Kathryn Flowers, BAC Alt.  
Stanton Truxillo, BAC Alt.  
Samuel Day-Woodruff, BAC Alt.

**GUESTS:**

John Woodley,  
advocate for disability access  
Jon Brewer  
Kelsey Brewer  
Richard Manes

Melissa Hurst, CTRMA  
Victor Vargas, TxDOT  
Andrew Wasp  
Robert Crump  
Malcom Yeatts, EROC Contact Team

**STAFF:**

Laura Dierenfield, Austin Transportation Department  
Emily Smith, Austin Transportation Department

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Tom Thayer.

**1. Introductions**

**2. Citizen Communication**

- Richard Manes - shared ideas for improving cycling infrastructure in south Austin. Staff encouraged Mr. Manes to send his specific questions to the Active Transportation staff for follow up.

**3. Review and Approval of April Meeting Notes**

David Orr motioned to approve the minutes from the BAC's April meeting. Mike Sledge seconded. Meeting Summary unanimously approved.

#### 4. Items from BAC:

- **South Congress TxDOT construction update – Discussion and Possible Action**

Victor Vargas, TxDOT Area Engineer, gave a presentation on the status of three sections of South Congress Avenue that TxDOT maintains and operates. One section, Foremost Drive to Slaughter Lane, was constructed several years ago with no current projects anticipated. Another section, Little Texas to Foremost Drive, is currently under construction, with anticipated completion in summer 2016. Another section, Williamson Creek to Little Texas, was resurfaced and re-stripped in the summer of 2015. The presentation can be found here:

[https://austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards\\_commissions/meetings/110\\_1.htm](https://austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/110_1.htm)

The following BAC discussion focused on how TxDOT can better collaborate with the City of Austin to ensure safe accommodation of cyclists as part of all future TxDOT construction and maintenance projects along important corridors in the city. BAC members requested that TxDOT staff work proactively with City staff to ensure alignment of TxDOT projects with the 2014 Austin Bicycle Master Plan. BAC members also requested that TxDOT staff work with City staff to explore street treatments, such as green conflict markings, that could improve the visibility and safety of bike lanes on South Congress at points where the bike lanes narrow and/or run parallel to guard rails.

**No action taken.** Staff will follow up directly with TxDOT on coordination opportunities.

- **Ordinance amending City Code to modify existing speed zones on segments of East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard – Discussion and Possible Action**

Lee Austin, Austin Transportation Department Area Traffic Engineer, provided information on how speed limits are set per Texas law and answered questions about the subject Council agenda item which was deferred for future Council action pending further analysis.

In order to modify or alter the existing speed limit of a street, Texas law requires that a traffic engineering investigation be performed. An investigation of East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard between Airport Boulevard and J.J. Seabrook Drive is currently underway by the Traffic Engineering Division of the Austin Transportation Department.

Members of the BAC expressed their concern with the width of East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and its lack of stop signs and lights, as well as with the lack of data regarding pedestrian and bicycle activity considered in engineering studies used to determine speed limits.

**No action taken.**

- **183N Mobility Project update – Discussion and Possible Action**

Dee Anne Heath, Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and Andy Atlas, CP&Y presented updates on the 183 North Mobility Project, including proposed bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Heather Ashley-Nguyen, TxDOT and Mahendran Thivakaran, TxDOT were also in attendance. The presentation can be found here:

[https://austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards\\_commissions/meetings/110\\_1.htm](https://austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/110_1.htm)

The 183 North Mobility Project recently received environmental clearance from TxDOT. The next step in the project development process is for the project to move into final design, and then construction. CTMRA is working with TxDOT and other regional transportation partners to identify potential funding sources. As a result of public comments received during the Public Hearing, the project team added a third segment of shared use path (SUP) in the vicinity of Barrington Way to the project design. CTRMA is also beginning conversations with CAMPO to develop a plan to make improvements to the parallel facilities of Jollyville Road and Pond Springs Road bike lanes.

The following BAC discussion focused on addressing the need for long-term bicycle and pedestrian safety and connectivity along the 183 North corridor.

**Action taken:** BAC member David Orr will work with city staff to arrange a technical subcommittee meeting on this topic in the next 30-60 days.

## 5. Items from Staff:

- **2016 Sidewalk Master Plan & ADA Transition Plan Update – Discussion and Possible Action**

John Eastman, Public Works Department, gave a presentation on the Sidewalk Master Plan & ADA Transition Plan Update, which included the background of the update, the goals of the plan, key recommendations for existing sidewalks (including vegetative barrier removal and commercial driveway assessments), key recommendations for new sidewalks (including a shared space pilot project and revisions to city code), an estimated budget summary, a comparison of past performance and future targets, outcomes, and resources for providing feedback. The Public Works Department is visiting several boards and commissions and will incorporate feedback into an appendix to the plan before bringing the adoption draft before City Council. The presentation can be found here: [https://austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards\\_commissions/meetings/110\\_1.htm](https://austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/110_1.htm)

Language for a recommendation to City Council in support of the adoption and implementation of the 2016 Update to the Sidewalk Master Plan/ADA Transition Plan was presented.

**Action taken:** The resolution passed unanimously on David Orr's motion and Miller Nuttle's second with the following amendments:

- Add the language "Whereas, the BAC recognizes the co-benefits of dedicated walking and bicycling infrastructure"
- Add the language "Whereas, an interconnected network of sidewalks would make Austin a more equitable place to live"

The resolution can be found here:

[https://austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards\\_commissions/meetings/110\\_1.htm](https://austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/110_1.htm)

## 6. Future Items/Announcements/Adjourn

- Future agenda items:
  - Roy Guerrero Trail Repair Update
  - Mobility 35 projects
  - Ghisallo Cycling Initiative - Community First Project
  - East 6th Street Improvement Project
  - 183 North Mobility Project (subcommittee meeting)
  - TxDOT projects (periodic subcommittee meetings)

Meeting was adjourned without objection at 8:38pm by the BAC Chair.