

Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday August 20, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

Austin City Hall – Room 1027 301 W. Second St. Austin, Texas

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Kathryn Flowers.

Full Members in Attendance:

Kathryn Flowers (Chair)

Tristan Heinen (Vice Chair)

Patricia Schaub

Full Members Absent:

Louis Alcorn

James Lentz

Raquel Ortega

Michelle LeBlanc

Lori Merlino

Alternate Members in Attendance:

Carol Fraser

Eryn Moris

Tom Wald

Christopher Heathcott

Curtis Rogers

Alternate Members Absent:

David Barrientos

John Koonz

Daniel Alvarado

Nils Brown

Matthew McGee

City Staff in Attendance:

Emily Smith, Austin Transportation

Pirouz Moin, Public Works

Ron Koehn, Public Works

Guests in Attendance:

Lonny Stern, Capital Metro

David Knipp

Alice Maz

Tommy Eden

Adam Greenfield

Chris Riley

1. Introductions

2. Public Communication: None

3. Approval of July 2019 Meeting Minutes: The July 16, 2019 meeting minutes were approved on a 5 - 0 vote with Alcorn, LeBlanc, Lentz, Merlino, and Ortega absent, Fraser, Heathcott, Moris, Rogers, Wald voting as full members for the purposes of the meeting, and Heinen, Fraser, and Wald not yet present

4. Traffic Fatalities Reported Since Last BAC Meeting: Patricia Schaub read aloud the names and ages of five people whose deaths due to traffic crashes on Austin streets were reported since the BAC last met as well as the locations at which the crashes occurred:

Justin Allen Smith, 43 - 300 block of N. IH 35

Daryl Wayne Anderson, Jr., 36 - 6600 block of E. Howard Ln.

Christopher Lee Forrest, 38 - 11000 FM 2222 eastbound

Derril Glen Lovelace, 54 - 1800 W. Parmer Lane

Casey Ballard, 24 - 1100 block S. IH 35 northbound

Josephine Guerra, 27 - 3505 Montopolis Drive

Felix Ybarra, 56 - 5700 S. Congress Avenue

Aamna Najam, 27 - 4500 FM 2222/Mount Bonnell Road

Matthew McDonald, 25 - 8200 N. IH 35

Cedric Benson, 36 - 4500 FM 2222/Mount Bonnell Road

Xavier Tunsun, 28 - 8700 Cameron Rd.

Douglas Joseph Vogelsass, 44 - U.S. Hwy 290 & William Cannon Dr.

Schaub noted that there had been 52 traffic fatalities in total so far in 2019 and that at this time in 2018 there had been 42.

5. **Capital Metro MetroBike Shelters update:** A presentation was made by Lonny Stern, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority. More info can be found at capmetro.org/metrobike.
6. **Recommendation regarding preventive maintenance surface treatments:** Pirouz Moin, Interim Assistant Director, and Ron Koehn, Paving Operation Engineer, Public Works Department, addressed attendee questions regarding various treatments and applications the City uses to improve the roadway surface and lifespan of streets, including seal coat. More info can be found at austintexas.gov/streetmaintenance.

Kathryn Flowers introduced draft recommendation language on behalf of James Lentz which, after debate and amendment, read as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bicycle Advisory Council recommends that Public Works

- *Work with the Active Transportation and Street Design Division of the Austin Transportation Department to research best practices in engineering literature and in peer cities to minimize the impact of seal coat treatments on people who bike and leverage street resurfacing to enhance the bicycle network;*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the BAC recommends Public Works establish a standard operating procedure to:

- *Use optimal treatments when possible to extend the life of the road surface while also accounting for the comfort of bicycle travel;*
- *Use grade 6 aggregate for seal coat on urban streets and all routes frequented by people using bicycles;*
- *Ensure streets treated with seal coat are swept again a week or two weeks after work is complete, with a focus on shoulders, bike lanes, and other places where loose aggregate tends to accumulate;*
- *Coordinate with Austin Resource Recovery to increase the frequency of maintenance sweeping on recently seal coated streets, particularly those with bike lanes;*
- *Consider only applying seal coat to the main travel lanes where appropriate, leaving the smoother shoulders and bike lanes untreated;*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the BAC recommends Public Works

- *Manage resurfacing projects to minimize the impact on the bicycle network;*
- *Place advance signage warning of upcoming surface treatments that affect the bicycle network so people who bicycle the route regularly can plan alternate routes;*
- *Coordinate with Austin Transportation Department to place temporary signage or barriers on streets after seal coating and prior to lane striping;*
- *Coordinate with ATD to communicate regularly and publicly about efforts to mitigate the adverse impacts of seal coat application on those who ride bicycles;*
- *Update the Bicycle Advisory Council on progress related to these recommendations in six months and on an annual basis to follow.*

The recommendation was approved on a 7 - 0 - 1 vote with Alcorn, LeBlanc, Lentz, Merlino, and Ortega absent, Fraser, Heathcott, Moris, Rogers, Wald voting as full members for the purposes of the meeting, and Fraser abstaining.

- 7. Recommendation regarding Speed Management Program:** Christopher Heathcott introduced draft recommendation language which, after debate and amendment, read as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the BAC recommends that City Council move forward, as quickly as possible, with fully funding a robust speed management program, as requested by the Austin Transportation Department. The BAC strongly recommends funding in the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for a speed management program director and an operating budget to implement engineering solutions, speed studies, and community outreach/education;

ANDBE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the BAC recommends that the speed management program should follow the recommendations outlined by Transportation Director Spillar in his memo to City Council dated 6/24/19;

ANDBE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the BAC supports prioritizing the protection of human life over all else when setting speed limits;

ANDBE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the BAC recommends that City Council take significant steps forward this year to achieve Austin's Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2025, by taking the initiative to lower city-wide speed limits based on data and available metrics, especially in light of recent increases in traffic fatalities;

ANDBE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the BAC recommends a speed limit of no greater than 20 mph for all City of Austin Level 1 & 2 streets (as defined in the ASMP), with the opportunity to post a lower speed limit where appropriate;

ANDBE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the BAC recommends a speed limit of no greater than 35 mph for all City of Austin Level 3 & 4 streets (as defined in the ASMP), with the opportunity to post a lower speed limit where appropriate;

ANDBE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the BAC recommends using all available tools, including low cost treatments, that can be used to retrofit streets to reflect target design speeds, including all Austin streets and roads, including transportation corridors;

ANDBE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the BAC recommends that any future bonds or capital funding include dedicated funds for design improvements to existing streets to achieve safer target speeds.

The recommendation was approved on an 8 - 0 vote with Alcorn, LeBlanc, Lentz, Merlino, and Ortega absent, Fraser, Heathcott, Moris, Rogers, Wald voting as full members for the purposes of the meeting.

- 8. Recommendation regarding electric assist pedicab and group cycles:** Kathryn Flowers introduced draft recommendation language which, after debate and amendment, read as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the BAC recommends the following amendments to City Code Chapter 13-2:

- *Permit pedicab businesses to utilize electric pedal-assist motors*
- *Permit group cycle businesses to utilize electric pedal-assist motors*
- *Establish rules governing the safe handling and use of batteries and charging equipment*
- *Evaluate pedicab operational boundaries for possible expansion*

The recommendation was approved on a 7 - 0 - 2 vote with Alcorn, LeBlanc, Lentz, Merlino, and Ortega absent, Fraser, Heathcott, Moris, Rogers, Wald voting as full members for the purposes of the meeting, and Schaub and Wald abstaining.

- 9. Updates/Announcements:** Staff liaison Emily Smith encouraged meeting attendees to submit comments on the City of Austin's FY 2019-20 Proposed Budget. Vice Chair Tristan Heinen announced that he'd accepted a new job with the Philadelphia Water Department and this would be his last BAC meeting.

- 10. Future Agendas:** No new items were discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by Chair Kathryn Flowers.