

# **Joint Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) and Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting**

**Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street,  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701, Room 1029**

## **Full Members in Attendance**

### **BAC**

Spencer Schumacher (Chair)  
Alejandro de la Vega (Vice Chair)  
Drake Hampton  
Lansing Pugh  
Chelsea Burns  
Jared Wiltshire  
Russell Taylor

### **PAC**

Chris Anderson (Chair)  
Kimberly Levinson (Vice Chair)  
Conner Vanden Hoek  
Ryan Graves  
Andrea Tyrell  
Brittany Long  
Katrina Miller  
Daniel Kavelman  
Alexander Flores

## **Alternate Members in Attendance**

### **BAC**

Chase Bryan  
Angela Weiss  
Marion Martin  
Dean Woodworth  
Kari Kuwamura  
Nicole Mwei

### **PAC**

Daniel Cadis  
Bryan Pham  
Arturo Terrazas  
Arfar Razi  
Melissa Nezamzadeh  
Vanessa Anderson  
Rebekah Kohls  
Anna McAuley  
Dayna Diven

## **Call to Order (6:00 pm)**

### **1. Roll Call**

### **2. General Communication**

Joe Garvey addressing us: Only recently became aware of BACPAC. He's involved with infrastructure management software. They have 127 different country members in their international association. Danish researchers released their paper on case studies of interurban cycling challenges and benefits. Their research is in public domain, he can access it for us.

### **3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Spencer Moves to approve, Kimberly seconds. Approved 9 - 0

#### **4. Local traffic fatalities reported since the previous meeting.**

December 7, Byron Gutierrez-Rodriguez, a passenger in a single-car crash, was killed in the 2400 block of S Cap of TX Hwy; December 9, Sara Jo G, a white female, 35, was killed in the 8500 block of I-35 Northbound; December 11, Burt Nomura, White male, died in a crash at E 7<sup>th</sup> and Red River street; also Monday, December 11, Susana Barnes, White female, a passenger in a crash, was killed in the 2700 block of East Hwy 71 westbound; December 12, Ashton Hutchison, age 32, a White male, was killed on his bicycle in a collision with two cars in the 5600 block of E Parmer Ln; December 22, pedestrian Willard Bateman was killed in the 2200 block of Airport Blvd; December 30, two men, Omar Vasquez Sanchez and an unidentified passenger, were killed in a single car crash in the 8400 block of Research Blvd southbound; January 1, 2024 an unidentified pedestrian was killed in the 6600 block of N I-35 southbound.

#### **5. Movability Briefing**

Presenter: Kate Harrington, Director of Outreach and Engagement, Movability

They're a Transportation Management Association (TMA) and they do Transportation Demand Management (TDM). They try to reduce stand-alone car trips and spread out the demand to reduce the crush of traffic. They host an annual commuter survey with the City, and track commuter behavior in partnership with Texas State Univ. They also work directly with employers, to manage parking and commuting. They have been doing mobility camps for the past year; maybe a student group, or senior citizens, to show them around. They administer Move Pass for businesses (bus passes for employees) and they buy in bulk; Go Grant program gives micro grants to local businesses for infrastructure, passes, etc. Prepare Best Workplaces for Commuters application for your organization. They do Pecha Kucha: Those are fast pitch presentations, 20 slides that rotate every 20 seconds. Movability Breakfast next week, and Movability Summit in September. Their Membership was primarily downtown businesses, but now have many in Hays and Williamson Counties too. Also, nonprofits. Chris asked what the top issues are she sees that the PAC and BAC should work on to improve mobility. Kate says help with psychology; help people understand that getting in a car isn't always the most freeing option. Dan K asks if they're tracking metrics for how their program is working; she says yes, they constantly survey to see where needle is moving. He also asks what has been particularly successful? Kate says putting together a parking cash out program and subsidized bus and metro passes for an employer was really effective after they customized it. Anna McAulay asked where their funding comes from. Kate says it's City, DAA, Membership, a contract with the City, and sponsorships. Not CAMPO though. Not CMAQ funding. Alejandro says he's seen some of their challenges; What does she think really motivates people? Like, adding parking costs? Bus passes? She says carrots; Texas doesn't allow sticks (trip reduction reqs etc.). Spencer is pleased she talked about parking cash out; Spencer asks if that would help convert private garages downtown to public ones. She says they're having ongoing conversations about that. Chelsea asks if she's done any work with UT as opposed to private employers, to get students to ride. Kate says yes, they're members and they are ramping up to do more freshman orientation events. Working with St. Eds and Huston-Tillotson too. Daniel K asks if anyone on their staff is policy-focused, because the ULI is doing some work here. Yes, Lonnie is their director. (finished 6:53)

#### **6. Overview of Local and Regional Mobility Organizations**

Presenter: Chris Anderson, PAC Chair

Chris Anderson: Spencer has created slides to show us all how the various organizations relate to each other, and who some of the regional groups are. Slides shared; shows how we on the PAC and BAC interact most with TPW (Transportation & Public Works). Spencer shows BACPAC/UTC chart: Austin City Council Mobility Committee, and the Urban Transportation Commission are the groups we connect with often and are the highest-level mobility groups in the city. We also connect with Project Connect. Spencer says the BAPAC and UTC have different strengths and weaknesses.

Mobility Committee Members: Paige Ellis (Chair), Zo Qadri, (Vice Chair), Chito Vela, Natasha Harper-Madison, and Mackenzie Kelly. UTC has 11 members, one appointed by each member of council. UTC main way to move things; their agenda is always full so it's hard to get things on their agenda and therefore before the Council. UTC is much slower though, and conflict of interest rules can cause quorum issues. Also, PAC and BAC can control their memberships; UTC can't. Daniel K says Spencer brought BAC bike parking req to UTC, and Paige Ellis liked it so much she took it up after UTC passed it. Now it's probably going into Land Code. Chris says staff liaisons play a huge role too; Natalie is liaison for PAC, BAC and UTC so that keeps us up to date. Helps us get things on our agendas. Laura: BAC created 2006, PAC in 2014. We're known as an Associated Entity. Save Muni also one. We try to meet the spirit of city ethics laws. Alejandro asks if we primarily advise staff as opposed to the council; Laura says yes. Spencer says Council really does read our recommendations. Alejandro wants to know how to be more effective; Kimberly says Council membership has an impact. Laura says pursuing change as a community, we do a good job of advisory roles. Many BACPAC members also have personal advocacy roles, but our advice helps with situational awareness and has more impact sometimes than advocacy. Kate wants to know how we interact with city initiatives like Vision Zero. Kimberly explains that we bring them here for discussions and resolutions. Spencer explains that we liaise for community, too, like the woman whose son was hit, and whose commute wasn't a Safe Route to School. Laura points out that we also are more responsive to emerging trends. Natalie says a lot of the things we're interested in are things that Mobility Committee and UTC like; Mobility Committee asked for the same presentation this month, that the BACPAC had in December. Heather (BAC) asked can we bring things like specific intersection improvements to us, like putting in fisheyes? Daniel K says to ask for a Transportation Criterion Manual update; you also can call 311. You can request a bike lane through the city 311 App. Laura says we can have a 311 presentation sometime.

## **7. TPW Grant Opportunities Briefing**

Presenter: Andrei Lubomudrov, Transportation and Public Works Department

Infrastructure and Investment in Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, offer opportunities for federal grant money TPW trying to match these programs with what the city wants to do, and see that they match with our timeline. Also need to be careful because there are real costs associated with Federal oversight. Can run costs up as much as 30% so they don't work for small amounts. Are expecting a grant for Bergstrom Spur, and the Bridge Investment Program (like Zilker bridge). Have applied for cap & stitch funds for I-35. May need to apply for a MEGA-INFRA grant. The Raise Grant for Bergstrom Spur Trail might provide a \$25 million grant if we can match with \$6 million city fund match. Also, the city is partnering with them for a mass transit enhancement grant. Asking for a \$32 million grant to reconstruct Barton Springs Road bridge, which would require an \$8 million match, and are working with Capital Delivery Services to keep to timeline. Application due in March. Construction Partnership Program to address greenhouse gas emissions and disruptions caused by I-35 reconstruction. Would help fund projects that give people alternatives. Asking a \$16 million grant, application due April 1. Should hear about Cap & Stitch grant in March. Reconnecting Communities Act funding is also a possibility in the fall if they don't get cap & stitch grant. They have received funds for e-bike expansion funds. Asked for Safe Pathways project funds too. Have received about \$35 million in 2023; \$23 million for Safe Streets for All, \$1 million to plan Cap & Stitch; \$11.3 million for expanding MetroBike fleet; received almost \$300K for ADA improvements on sidewalks and at intersections.

## **8. Updates and Announcements**

Tom Wald says TxDot has some opportunities to speak on some issues; a big one is Parmer Ln. He's head of Red Line Parkway organization and has put together a link to the TxDot Open House site. Please go comment. Alejandro says BAC doing a Crestview station ride. Spencer says UTC is doing right-of-way vacation; there will be a new connection and pedestrian beacon near Shoal Creek. Natalie says next week we'll look at Living Streets program, we'll also look at city department

restructuring, etc.

**9. Adjournment of Meeting 8:00 pm**

*The minutes were approved on this the 5 February 2024 on Council Member Anderson's motion, Council Member Levinson's second on an 8-0 vote.*

