

Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

December 1, 2016

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

NDS Conference Room, 2nd Floor City Hall

Meeting Participants

Carl Schwarz

Chris Gist

Frank Deviney

Stephen Bach

Eberhard Jehle

Jake Fox

Scott Paisley

Sam Chrisinger

Ruth Stornetta

Amanda Poncy

Lance Stewart

Meeting Agenda

Snow Removal Updates and Market St. Repaving (Lance Stewart, Director of Public Service)

Lance provided a summary of last year's snow removal process and lessons learned. He asked for feedback on a methodology for prioritizing snow routes in the future. He suggested that speed of traffic might be a higher priority than bicycle volumes. For example, there might only be a handful of people riding in the bike lane on 5th, but because the speed is 45 mph, it might be more of a priority than a roadway with higher bicycle volumes (such as West Main). Bicyclists could more safely travel with vehicles on streets with lower speeds than on a road with 45 mph traffic. No specific suggestions were provided, but Lance encouraged the group to send him any comments.

The group discussed some of the challenges with plowing/hauling snow and the need for additional locations to deposit snow once it is plowed/hailed. For example, when plowing a bike lane next to a sidewalk there is no place to put the snow, except for the sidewalk which is not a desired location.

There is a concern that snow removal still heavily focuses on vehicles and the question was raised – why doesn't snow removal focus on pedestrians FIRST since they are generally the first users of the road? Lance emphasized the importance of emergency response access, noting the 16-17 life threatening emergencies that were responded to in last year's big snow.

One member asked if there was a list of sidewalks that are routinely problematic. Lance noted that there is not, but suggested it would be a good idea to create a list.

Lance also brought up the concerns raised by citizens last year with respect to the snow removal ordinance. During last year's snow, city council received a number of complaints both from people who felt that the 24 hours provided in the ordinance is not enough time and from those who were disappointed in property owner's efforts to fulfill their obligation to remove snow

on sidewalks fronting their property. Council was briefed on the issue in October and may be considering changes to the ordinance in the future. Lance described how the ordinance was changed in 2010 to increase the time from 12 to 24 hours, no longer make it a criminal offense and to have NDS provide enforcement. Currently NDS only has 3 property maintenance inspectors and no vehicles with 4 wheel drive. He asked for thoughts on establishing a clear method of enforcement (where do you enforce first?). Ruth suggested establishing a priority area where there's a bigger consequence for not shoveling. Eberhard suggested more coordination with the neighborhood associations on assisting with high priority routes. This approach was taken last year, and while some neighborhoods are willing to help, others are unhappy to be asked to help.

Jake raised the question about whether snow will be removed from trails. Lance noted that staffing is an issue. Parks has requested additional staff in the last couple of CIP requests, but it has not been funded.

Lance reminded the group to provide thoughts on revising the ordinance to provide additional time for snow removal and a method for prioritizing removal/enforcement.

Scott made a motion to keep the ordinance as is (NOT extend the time from 24 hours), but provide flexibility to the city manager to extend enforcement. 6 voted in favor (Ruth, Chris, Frank, Scott, Carl, Jake). 2 abstain (Stephen and Eberhard).

In addition, the group was in favor of more resources for reporting and snow removal.

Jake asked about whether public works vehicles were equipped with side guards and proximity sensors to protect pedestrians and people on bikes. Lance will look into it.

Lance noted that Market St. will be paved in May. In advance of the paving, curb ramps and possibly curb extensions will be installed. Amanda asked for feedback about the bike lane for one block between 1st and 2nd. The group agreed that it would be more beneficial to continue the bike lane on the south side of the road. They were not+ concerned about the transition to shared lane markings for one block. Scott suggested that this corridor be considered with green bike lanes and super sharrows.

Update on City-Wide Education Efforts

Amanda provided an update on current educational initiatives (see attached). The group discussed the following additions:

- Low hanging fruit – property tax bills; facebook posts via Community Bikes and Bike UVA.
- Other opportunities – Bike 101 course, windshield surveys, more flyering, welcome packets for businesses (partner with economic development, Chamber of Commerce); Accident reporting via bike shops and handlebar outreach.

Bike Boxes Redux

Amanda explained some of the potential issues with the installing the bike boxes at this time. There are some unknowns with regard to timing of future utility projects and West Main Streetscape that might make the bike boxes not last as long as they could. The group agreed that West Main bike boxes are a priority.

Policy Items for Council Consideration

Scott raised the issue of Vision Zero at the last PLACE meeting and they expressed wariness about taking on another extensive planning effort on the heels of Streets that Work. STW is given a lot of weight with regard to code changes, but what appears to be missing from the efforts is enforcement. Amanda described a future city effort to examine bicycle and pedestrian crashes in an effort to assist future enforcement/education activities. Scott expressed concern about data gaps as bicycle and pedestrian crashes often go unreported. The group discussed opportunities to coordinate with bike shops to collect additional crash data and encourage reporting. Other ideas included handlebar hangtags, PSA's, collecting emergency room data, and partnerships with the Free Clinic. Scott agreed to start a campaign to collect information about unreported crashes.

Update on Code Audit – post 11/30 meeting.

City Council, Planning Commission and PLACE met on 11/30 to discuss the process moving forward with the code audit and standards and design manual. Carl is interested in creating a subcommittee to focus on this task. He thought Peter might also have an interest. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

Discuss Subcommittee meetings – monthly vs bimonthly.

Tabled until next meeting.

Chris Gist reminded the committee that Ragged Mountain will be discussed at City Council on Monday. He encouraged individuals and the committee to write council in support of the multi-use option (Option E).

The next meeting will be in January and representatives from the Bike Ambassadors will be present. The group will also discuss the idea of forming subcommittees and incorporating those meetings into the annual schedule. Carl would like to discuss the code audit.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 14, 3:00PM: APBP Webinar, "Tips to Demystify Traffic Analysis", Water St. Center
- Dec. 16, 9:00AM: SHSP Traffic Safety Roadshow, VTRC Auditorium, 530 Edgemont Rd.
** Registration Required. <http://sgiz.mobi/s3/6feaaf277563>
- January 5, 5:00PM: Next BPAC meeting, NDS Conference Room

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