

Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

August 4th, 2016

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

NDS Conference Room, 2nd floor City Hall

Meeting Participants

Stephen Bach

Frank Deviney

Jake Fox

Eberhard Jehle

Peter Krebs

Kevin McDermott (observing)

Peter Ohlms

Amanda Poncy

Carl Schwarz

Ruth Stornetta

Items for Action or Follow-up

- Too many to summarize. See especially 5:15, Goals section.

Meeting Agenda

~~6:55 pm~~ 5:00 Bike/Pedestrian Monitor updates

Peter Krebs reported about the new Bike and Pedestrian counters. All counter data has been downloaded in the last two weeks:

- West Main Bike Counters (May, 2015 – August 2016)
- Emmet Street Pedestrian Counters (August, 2016)
- Pedestrian Bridge from CHS to McIntire Park (July, August, 2016)
- Riverview Park (Summer, 2016)
- Pedestrian Ramp from Pavillion to Belmont Bridge (Summer, 2016)

Detailed reports (daily and hourly data) are on the web site (<http://www.charlottesville.org/departments-and-services/departments-h-z/neighborhood-development-services/transportation/bicycle-and-pedestrian/data>).

Some key points from findings and discussion:

- Pedestrian counters only count pedestrians; bike counters only count bikes. We would have to put both on a single site to differentiate between the two modes.
- West Main bike commuters continue to travel west in the morning and east in the afternoon/evening.
- Noticeable increases on West Main when school is back in session, but the commuting pattern is there all year, suggesting full-year employment at UVA drives bike traffic.

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- Very large increase on Emmet Street when students return with huge spikes for events at JPJ Arena.
- Significant jump at CHS counter when school back in session, indicating that students (and/or staff) use that bridge for commuting
- Riverview Trail is more of a recreational than commuter trail. Traffic spikes in mid/morning and evening, plus weekends.

Eberhard noted that the bike counter tubes need to be taped. This will be done next week.

Amanda announced that the permanent counters will be in place on West Main. We are considering other locations for a second one. We had considered Preston but there are technical reasons why that may not work. Yet Preston is a high-traffic, high priority route.

~~5:00 pm~~ 5:10 Introductions, Welcome of New Officers

Amanda announced that through e-mail voting, Carl and Jake were unanimously elected co-presidents. [She has the actual votes on file.]

Amanda introduced Albemarle County's new transportation planner, Kevin McDermott. He has been there a month. The County's main focus is getting funding from the state for transportation in general, which generally includes bike/ped too. He's thinking about Avon, connectivity around Cale. There are sidewalks planned for Ivy too.

Ruth asked about connectivity between Morven and the Saunders trail. That section of 53 (Morven all the way to Route 20) is extraordinarily dangerous and should be bypassed by cyclists.

Peter K responded that is actually the subject of his Masters Thesis (Bike/Ped connectivity from Charlottesville to Monticello) and that it will dovetail with a Morven plan in the works to connect to Monticello. He (Peter) will include BPAC as a key stakeholder and report progress as it happens.

Peter O asked about connectivity with the Crozet Tunnel and eventual bike access all the way to the Shenandoah Valley. Kevin responded that there will be a new intersection at 151 and 250 (a roundabout) with focus on functionality and safety for cyclists.

Eberhard mentioned the entry roads—especially sharrows on 250 and that the speeds are excessive for a shared road, and that informal options for cyclists (like turn lanes) are not safe [EN: that's how the runner was killed].

Kevin responded that there's a study about 250 West, working with VDOT on safety improvements—abilities for additional shoulder width. Eberhard asked about narrowing travel lanes, which he's guessing are 14' or larger. Kevin said

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that with the volume and size of vehicles it would be difficult to get that through.

His contact info is on the web—under the Community Development section.
(<http://www.albemarle.org/departments.asp?department=cdd>)

~~5:10 pm~~ 5:25 Safe Routes to School Update

Amanda's team is working through the final stages of the Coordinator listing. She will forward that to the group to forward to their networks. It's 20 hours / week; a one-year temporary position.

In the meantime, Amanda and Peter K are working to get the word out to schools about Walk to School Day. They're reaching out to PE Teachers about a student travel tally project that will be uploaded to the national counting program.

~~5:15 pm~~ 5:30 Vision and Goals Brainstorming

Jake introduced a re-visitation of goals from a February, 2015 BPAC planning session.

Amanda went through the topics one-by-one.

Sidewalk Closure Policy

Amanda: It has languished for lack of a traffic engineer. Now the new Traffic Engineer and his new assistant are working on those.

Clear Concise Rules of the Road

That will be folded into safety and communication

Cleaning and Maintenance

Jake: Public Works needs to do better. West Main has gravel from construction. The best reporting channel for now are to call 970-3182 or follow the "report a problem" link on the web. Ruth mentioned that there were holes and plates around the Uncommon project—that's an issue for Building Inspectors/Property Inspectors.

Peter O mentioned that the Assistant Traffic Engineer normally handles construction-related traffic issues.

This question needs to stay on the priority list.

Frank asked how to get people to report stuff. Carl said that gets back to the

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Communications issue. Eberhard mentioned sending periodic emails to networks sharing out who to contact.

Amanda mentioned there may be some likelihood of a 311 system potentially coming soon. Peter K asked that the RFP specifically call for the ability to track the topic of calls so the City can see what types of service need improvement.

Document Crosswalk Process and Implementation

No resolution but we hope for better with an engineering staff in place; Eberhard says it should remain on the agenda—maintenance process.

Traffic Light Timing

No progress to date.

Ruth: It's very discouraging to push the button and have nothing happen. She also mentioned that lights that change for no reason encourage create cynicism. There is no citizen consensus on which approach to pushbuttons (on demand or timed); in fact it is contentious.

With many issues related to push buttons, it needs to stay on the list.

Steven and several others mentioned meeting with the Traffic Engineer, maybe a survey about which signals need to be readdressed.

Peter O requested coordination with VDOT, whose light protocols are different and it would be good to have consistency.

Bike signals would be a good addition/safety improvement.

Good and Bad Sidewalk Examples

Carl mentioned the Neighborhood Leadership Institute as a source of labor.

Better Pedestrian Outreach, More Communication

Recruit more Pedestrians for BPAC? Amanda mentioned that working more closely with ADA will bring more people in

Better Willingness to Engage/Negotiate with the Railroads

The City won't even ask them for anything; this remains an area for improvement.

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Coordination with County

Amanda pointed out that Kevin is at the meeting. Memoranda of understanding are being crafted between the City and County with respect to coordination on specific issues like transportation. There will be a meeting in October.

Eberhard asked about the implications for Bike/Ped issues at the City/County interface. Amanda said that the MOUs are not detailed; they're mostly broad language. Kevin said the real coordination happens at the MPO level.

Eberhard countered that the MPO works at a very long-range level. Kevin replied that everything that gets done starts in the MPO plan. Everything on the County priority list comes out of the MPO.

Peter O said that the TJPDC is going to be revising their Bike/Ped plan. Hopefully we'll be hearing from Will Cockrell soon. Ruth mentioned that she is willing to be on their [TJPDC] citizen advisory group. She clarified that that would include liaising between the TJPDC and BPAC.

Add County bike commuter member to BPAC

We have some.

There followed much discussion about the John Warner Parkway and lack of maintenance of the bike lane, specifically weed control.

Process to Improve reporting accidents

Amanda said that the police still don't have a really good way of reporting. Ruth pointed out that it is essential because we have no data to know where problems are. There needs to be a place and a way to report.

Make bus stops more accessible

No substantive discussion.

Document Progress

No substantive discussion.

Remove cobbles at 3rd and Water

Done.

Revisit Priority List

Mostly Done.

Implement Way Finding

Ruth will study. BPAC likes including distance/time.

Record and prioritize lane drops and hills

This is reflected on climbing lane additions and Claudia's bike/ped map is a resource to record/communicate those locations.

Do another Walk/Bike/Play event

One is being planned but the date is unclear. There should be a BPAC presence.

New Item from Frank

The city has a goal of reducing single occupancy vehicle trips down to 50%. He would like to increase the amount of bike parking to help with that goal.

Peter O would like more bike parking on Corner.

Frank would like to recruit more businesses into the Bike Friendly Business League, in which the City and County each only have one example.

The Downtown Business Alliance was mentioned as a place to start.k

There was much discussion of protected and covered bike parking and access to or creation of public showers for bike commuters. City recreation centers are one example or inclusion in a future parking garage, plus desire to have showers in more buildings in UVA

~~5:45 pm~~ **6:20 Safety/Communication**

Tabled. It can be added to Sept 22 meeting.

~~6:00 pm~~ **6:21 Upcoming Joint BPAC/ADA Meeting (Sept 22, replaces October BPAC meeting)**

BPAC and ADA will identify shared goals and ways to collaborate. Lance Stewart is chair of ADA, with Jim Herndon. Jake and Carl will co-preside with them along with Amanda.

BPAC brainstormed ideas for collaboration:

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- Jake: various kinds of barriers to pedestrians: weeds and cracks.
- Ruth: sidewalk ramps
- Pete O: Construction barriers
- Amanda: Snow removal
- Jake: Stair bannister interfering with rails for bikes.
- BPAC: Focus on stairs connecting Albemarle to Preston, Garrett and the Transit Center
- Amanda: Safety, especially in crosswalks. Jake right on red, visibility issues.
- Jake, Stephen: Many opportunities for improvements around grounds (opportunities via Grounds Improvement Funds).

~~6:15 pm~~ **6:30 Paving List (if available by then)**

It has not been finalized but Amanda previewed a few items.

BPAC would prefer extra space – 5 + 1’

Uphill climbing lane on 4th

There’s concern about the loss of the “sneak lane” nearest the [Lewis and Clark] statue. There’s no reason to have the ped access around the statue – should remove to provide extra space.

The sidewalk is not accessible because of the signal pole.

~~6:25 pm~~ **6:40 Code Audit (More Information forthcoming in 9/6 Council Meeting)**

Topics will be assigned via email.

~~6:30 pm~~ **6:40 Back to School Bash Recap**

Kids drew maps of their routes to school. It was a great engagement opportunity.

~~6:40 pm~~ **6:45 Liaison Reports**

- PLACE (Scott Paisley, Representative)
Not present.
- Streets that Work (Eberhard Jehle, Representative)
It is in hiatus until the City Council adopts a plan. They meet on September 7.
- Board of Architectural Review(Carl Schwarz)
They’re weighing the visual impact of in-street flashing crosswalk lights versus rapid

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high-visibility beacons.

- Transit Advisory Board & Tree Commission (Lena Seville)
Not present.

6:50 pm Discussion: Role of Liaisons

Highlights:

- Let BPAC know when new information is available.
- Highlight portions of the materials that pertain to the group.
- Inform the group of any deadlines for responses.
- Collect input from BPAC and provide to the Steering Committee, Task Force, etc.
- If you are unable to attend a meeting, inform the group immediately so that a replacement can be found. If possible, have a back-up representative who is familiar with the project to provide continuity. Provide background materials, agenda, etc.
- Is it worth discussing whether to provide a limit to number of meetings missed? It seems excessive given the limited numbers of people.

6:55 pm Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)

Peter O reported that it is being updated now 2017-2021. There is a section on bike/ped strategies and actions. He's not sure what BPAC's role would be, but this is a chance to interface with VDOT and state and educate people who cycle and who drive on shared roadways—actions related to educational materials, helmet safety. Peter O has a list and he is going to look into getting the committee a draft.

Upcoming events

September 22, 5-6 PM Joint BPAC/ADA Meeting (City Hall)
Oct 1, 9AM-12PM: Walk/Bike/Play JPA (*tentative date*)
Oct 5: Walk to School Day
~~Oct 6:~~ No October BPAC Meeting