

Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

February 2, 2017

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

NDS Conference Room, 2nd Floor City Hall

Meeting Participants

Carl Schwarz

Eberhard Jehle

Chris Gist

Stephen Bach

Peter Ohlms

Scott Paisley

Jake Fox

Lena Seville

Dave Stackhouse

Frank Deviney

Brian Carr

Erin Robartes

Amanda Poncy

Action Items:

- BPAC will write a letter to Brennen Duncan regarding unrestricted parking on 900 E. High Street
- Next agenda will include time to brainstorm a list of topics for a meeting with the traffic engineer

Meeting Agenda

Erin Robartes, UVA Researcher, "VIRGINIA AUTOMOBILE & BICYCLE CRASH SAFETY ANALYSIS"

Erin Robartes, a Master's candidate in civil engineering at UVA, presented her research on state-wide bicycle crashes. The research included police reported crashes only, but there is agreement that bicycle and pedestrian crashes are under-reported. Some of the research findings include:

- Bike fatalities are not decreasing at the same rate as all traffic fatalities.
- Drinking while biking/driving influences the severity of injury
- Higher auto and biking speeds influence severity of crash
- Larger vehicles impacted severe injury risk/fatality
- Horizontal curves and vertical grades influence severity of crash.
- Divided and one way roads w/ and w/o median had positive impact on safety.

The results of the research have prompted additional investigation into whether biking under the influence laws affect safety. She explained that driving under the influence laws only apply to bicyclists if they are defined as a motor vehicle (in state/city code). Some states have more specific laws for bicycling under the influence. Her team is looking into whether those laws have an impact on safety.

Additionally, Erin described an upcoming research project concerning bicyclists perception of safety. The committee reviewed a draft survey instrument and provided the following feedback:

- Suggest copying questions from Georgia Tech research project (Peter to provide)
- Is the sample just for people riding bikes or all people? Consider moving those bike only questions to the end of the survey.
- People using lights day and night

- Add: drivers are aggressive/hostile toward me.
- Include questions about following the rules of the road to gauge whether they are lawful riders or lawless.
- The option to choose “employed or student” excludes people who are retired
- Add: Have you ever been in an accident on your bicycle?
- Consider a question about electric bikes/Ubikes.

The plan is to deploy the survey in the next few months, but the exact method is undefined. It will be available in written form and online. BPAC members offered to help distribute via social media/online networks. There was a suggestion to consider a mobile friendly version, as well.

Response to Pedestrian Crashes

The group discussed the recent pedestrian crashes near the University and whether or not it is appropriate for BPAC to issue statements in response to crashes (for example, safety tips, encouraging crash reporting, etc).

Lena asked if the group had been briefed about the numbers/locations of crashes recently. Amanda shared preliminary results of bicycle and pedestrian crash data that was provided by the police department. The data set includes all traffic collisions that occurred between 2012-2016. Of the more than 3,700 motor vehicle collisions that occurred in Charlottesville during this time period:

- 4 percent involved pedestrians(150 collisions);
- 2 percent involved bicyclists (93 collisions);
- Nearly 50% of pedestrian collisions occur between 2 and 8 p.m.
- Bicycle collisions also occur more often in the afternoon, but are more evenly distributed between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Sept-November are the highest crash months for people walking/biking

Members of the group asked if/how crashes are reported when they take place in parking lots, if it's possible to know if crashes happen in marked vs. unmarked crosswalks, and whether citations were issued. Amanda explained that engineering staff is working on getting access to the crash reports, which should provide some additional data.

There was additional discussion about comparing the crash data with medical records. Specifically, there is a new billing system for insurance that specifically categorizes injuries from bicycle accidents (ICD-10). Jake offered to follow-up.

East High Street Recommendation

The group discussed the recent email chain regarding the possible change to parking on 900 E. High from 2 hour to unrestricted, all day parking. The group agreed that unrestricted parking was not consistent with the Bike/Ped plan, SIA or Streets that Work and will send a letter to Brennan Duncan, City Traffic Engineer, to express disapproval of the change.

The group agreed to invite Brennan to a future meeting to discuss common interests and ways to work together. The next meeting will set aside time to brainstorm topics to discuss.

Subcommittees

Group members signed up for subcommittees as follows:

Network

Connectivity – Dave, Frank, Stephen, Scott
Wayfinding/BMUFL Signage - Jake, Ruth, Eberhard
Code Audit - Carl, Eberhard, Peter, Lena
Sidewalk Impediments (ADA, Pedestrian) – Jake, Peter, Carl

Safety

Vision Zero - Dave, Scott, Lena
Accident Reporting – Peter, Chris
Traffic Safety Education - Chris

Evaluate

Vision Zero - Dave, Scott, Lena
Accident Reporting – Peter, Chris
Traffic Safety Education - Chris

Culture – Carl, Jake

Bike Month - Chris G., Scott
Tom Tom - Carl
Traffic Safety Education - Chris

Educate

Vision Zero - Dave, Scott, Lena
Accident Reporting – Peter, Chris
Traffic Safety Education - Chris

Health

Vision Zero - Dave, Scott, Lena

There were questions/concerns about the grouping of subcommittees under the umbrella goals outlined in the plan, but it was generally agreed that the emphasis was the subtopic (i.e. Connectivity, Code Audit, Vision Zero, etc), NOT the overarching goal (i.e Network, Safety, Evaluate, Culture, etc.). Every effort will be made to schedule subcommittee topics to avoid member conflicts.

Upcoming Events

February 8, 6:30PM: 10th and Page Pedestrian Improvements, NDS Conference Room
February 21, 5:30PM: Belmont Bridge Steering Committee Meeting, City Space
February 28, 11:30: BAR Worksession, West Main Street
March 2, 5:00PM: Next BPAC meeting, NDS Conference Room