

Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

October 3, 2019

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

NDS Conference Room

Members in Attendance:

Carl Schwarz

Peter Krebs

Kevin Cox

Navarre Bartz

Cort Hammond

Kyle Rodland

Will Hill

Tray Biasioli

Mike Smith

Brian Cameron

Lena Seville

Amanda Poncy

Garrison Grow

Nelson

Action Items:

- Set a date for the first Walking Tour.
- Stay engaged with CIP Development Process – next meeting is 11/14 at CitySpace.
- Review project updates for Barracks/Emmet and Fontaine Ave. Participate in Barracks/Emmet project survey by 10/18.
- Attend Motherload Screening on 10/19 at Vinegar Hill Theater
- Volunteer and/or attend Tom Tom Community Mixer on 11/1, 5-8PM at Ix.

Dockless Mobility – Amanda Poncy

Amanda Poncy presented empirical findings on the usage of e-scooters in Charlottesville and asked the committee for feedback as the City seeks to create permanent regulations to allow e-scooters to operate in Charlottesville.

- Amanda provided highlights from the presentation to City Council on June 17, 2019 and updated the committee on legislation passed during the 2019 General Assembly that allows scooter companies carte blanche permission to operate in the absence of local regulation. Staff will be recommending that the City adopts a permanent program to provide some structure around the use of scooters in Charlottesville.
- Usage Rates
 - Well over 200,000 rides completed with 30,000 unique riders
 - 50% travel through UVa areas
 - 5pm and onwards are the busiest times of day
 - Several emergency room visits resulting from scooter injuries
- Survey Feedback
 - Scooters are replacing many modes of transportation, including driving and walking
 - About half of survey respondents use scooters for commuting
 - 75% of respondents want scooter service to continue
- A discussion ensued about potential strategies for managing issues with e-scooters, including unlawful riding/parking, safety, and rider education
 - The committee reviewed several potential recommendations, including enforcement via ticketing, placement of signs to encourage scooters to ride in the street, and to educate riders about safe parking strategies.

Walking tours – Carl Schwarz and Kevin Cox

Carl and Kevin led a discussion about making walking more accessible and desirable via outreach activities

- Kevin and Carl proposed that sponsoring walks to work and guiding walking tours would make walking more desirable by increasing safety/perceived safety and familiarity with routes to work
- There were several potential partnerships suggested, including:
 - The UVA Hospital
 - RMC Ambassadors
 - Parking and Transportation
- Next steps were detailed, including setting a date for the first tour and identifying high-need areas

Project Updates

Follow-up on SADM Work Session

Carl Schwartz provided an update on the SADM Work Session on 9/30/19 and changes that were incorporated based on BPAC feedback

Intersections are defined broadly and include bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure

- Minimum block length was replaced with features and qualities
- The comment period will end on October 4th. Hundreds of comments were received and reviewed. Most of the BPAC comments were incorporated as proposed.
- This is not yet a finalized proposal

Follow-up from Budget Work Session

Peter Krebs attended City Council's first budget work session held on September 12th and shared highlights from the session

No new budget categories will be added

- It is important for BPAC to stay involved in the budget development process this year

Downtown Mall Crossings Update from PLACE

Navarre Bartz attended the September PLACE meeting where the Downtown Mall Crossings were discussed. PLACE agreed that they want to keep the Mall Crossings open.

Barracks-Emmett Intersection Improvements Project

A public open house was held on October 2 at Walker Upper Elementary to get feedback on the Barracks-Emmett Intersection Project. The project includes improvements at the Barracks-Emmett Intersection as well as bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Barracks Road between Emmett at Buckingham Road. Navarre Bartz shared an overview of what was shown at the meeting.

- There are several options being considered, including:
 - A buffer strip with a 10-foot-wide shared path. Lamp posts would take 2 feet of this width.
 - A shared path with no buffer strip
 - Climbing bicycle lane with separate 5-6' wide sidewalk

- Protected climbing bicycle lane with separate 5-6' wide sidewalk
- All option descriptions are available at <http://www.barracksemmetimprovements.com>

Fontaine Steering Committee Update

Cort Hammond shared an overview of the current state of the Fontaine Streetscape project and the recent decisions of the Fontaine Steering Committee. The project includes bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Fontaine Avenue.

- www.fontainestreetscape.com has images of potential side street crossings
- Raised driveway crossings were ruled out

Bicycle and Pedestrian Awareness Month Tactical Urbanism

- The tactical urbanism project was a huge success! It involved placing cones in between a bike lane and street to create a temporary protected bike lane.
- Images are available on the bikeped Facebook page
- NBC29 did a story on the demonstration that can be found here: <https://www.nbc29.com/story/41093672/cones-separating-lanes-on-belmont-bridge-resemble-new-design>

JPA Pedestrian Improvement Survey Results – Amanda Poncy and Garrison Grow

Amanda Poncy and Garrison Grow reviewed feedback from neighborhood stakeholders on preferences for pedestrian infrastructure along Jefferson Park Avenue based on in-person and online surveys conducted from September 1st to September 8th, 2019.

- A plurality (37%) of respondents felt more comfortable with temporary curb extensions at Stribling and Cleveland
- Stribling was the most in-demand project, though many respondents wanted changes at Stribling, Cleveland, and Raymond simultaneously
- Respondents were mostly daily users (64%) and long-term residents (55% over 5 years)

New Business

Monticello Road Demonstration

BPAC designed and implemented a tactical urbanism demonstration from September 23rd to September 25th. It involved outlining bike lanes along Belmont Bridge with orange traffic cones.

- There will be a demonstration for one hour on the morning of October 5th to determine feasibility of changes to Monticello Road, Graves Street, and Levy Avenue
- It will test if large vehicles can make a right turn off of Monticello onto Levy

Motherload film

There will be a showing of Motherload on Saturday, October 19th at 3pm in Vinegar Hill

- This film is about a woman who travelled only by cargo bike after having children
- It emphasizes the advantages of biking over driving
- There will be a show and tell for people who own cargo bikes

Future Agenda Items

- Downtown Pedestrian Safety Project
- Bicycle Friendly Community Report Card (follow-up)
- Branded bike racks
- Wayfinding
- Discussion with Police

Upcoming Events

- 11/1: Tom Tom Community Mixer Tabling Opportunity, IX Arts Park, 5-8PM
- 11/14: Council Work Session on CIP, City Space, 6PM
- 11/26: PC Work Session on CIP, NDS Conference Room, 5PM