

Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

(Bicycle Focused Meeting)

February 5, 2015

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

NDS Conference Room, 2nd floor City Hall

Meeting Participants

Alex McGhee

Jim Self

Stephen Bach

Carl Schwartz

Eberhard Jehle

Ruth Stornetta

Lena Seville

Chris Gist

Scott Paisley

Susan Elliott

Jake Fox

Amanda Poncy

Meeting Notes

Goal Setting 2015 (Jake Fox)

The group participated in a round robin discussion of goals for the upcoming year. The following list represents the items that were discussed and are grouped by category.

Policy

- Develop a sidewalk closure policy (include signage and other procedures, consider neighbors, public input as part of the process, detour, fines for violations, fee structure, what are the standards for closure, checklist for developers, oversight and enforcement) (Alex McGhee)
- Clear, concise rules of the road (agree upon by council and police), what will the police enforce (Carl Schwartz)

- Sweeping/maintenance policies (in university area Thursday, lots of glass in bike lanes, could frats/sororities adopt a street? Coordinate street sweeping with recycling) (Jake Fox)
- Document crosswalk process, timing of implementation (Lena Seville)
- Traffic light timing (Ruth Stornetta)

Process

- Conduct field review of good/bad sidewalk examples (Lena Seville)
- Establish more open communication among people with walkability issues. Better mechanism, forum for these issues (ie. Seattle streets measure that had previously been shut down. Table compared two measures by using different language "people, not cyclists, pedestrians") (Jim Self)
- Establish a City representative to challenge the railroad and Dominion Power (Carl Schwartz)
- Continued coordination with County and UVA (new architect, and communications person) (Jake Fox)
- Recruit bike commuter from county to serve on Committee (Carl Schwartz)
- Establish and communicate a process to improve reporting of accidents (Scott Paisley)
- Make bus stops pedestrian accessible – better coordination between CAT and Bike/Ped (Alex McGhee)
- Document progress (Jake Fox)

Projects

- Remove cobblestones at 3rd and Water removed (Stephen Bach)
- Revisit priority list from 2 years ago. Implement physical improvement on major corridors, (West Main Street, Emmett, Park, Ridge, East High). Move toward first cycle-track (Preston Ave – maybe consider a stretch

- between BP to Forest, Bodos to Washington), 5th Street SW, Emmett (Eberhard Jehle)
- Get everything connected (Chris Gist)
 - Implement wayfinding and focus on transitions from city to county (Scott Paisley)
 - Pass the bike/ped master plan update (Ruth Stornetta)
 - Pass bike/ped master plan update (Susan Elliott)
 - Record and prioritize intersections where bike lanes drop and hills exist as they create stressful environments, (Susan Elliott)
 - Do another Bike/Walk/Play Event in another area of the City (Jake Fox)
 - Implement wayfinding (define the routes, details of the wayfinding) (Ruth Stornetta)
 - Shared picture book on google drive with google map – can link to Chris Gists' www.cvillebikereport.org (Susan Elliott)
 - More connection and conversation with people in County on major corridors (i.e Avon) (Lena Seville)
 - Agenda items – add 2-4 specific engagement activities for the year (Susan Elliott)

Susan noted that this is a long list and raised the question of how the group will move these forward. She suggested developing subcommittees to tackle individual issues.

Park Street Repaving – Design Review

The group reviewed a draft of the re-paving plan for Park Street, which includes shared lane markings per the current recommendations included in the Bike/Ped Plan. Below are the comments received:

- Concern about too many signs in the sidewalk and placement
- The question was raised about how to lower speeds on Park Street. Are speed bumps an option? What will be impact of the opening of the parkway? With less traffic will speeds increase?
- Can an all-way stop be provided somewhere?
- Are bike cut-throughs on the bulbouts a possibility? Parking is often used so cut-throughs may not be possible.
- Can we put SLOW, 25mph in the road with pavement markings?
- Sheet 7 – look at the merge areas on the south side of bypass
- There is concern about spending the money and psychology on a project that may not have a great increase in cyclists. Don't want this to trigger a pushback to other bike efforts.
- The bike markings are for the people who choose to use this route and sharrows provide a connection to the high school.
- We can't fix the problem that people perceive on Park Street. The parkway is supposed to take traffic off this road and this should be a slow, residential street and this design does reflect that as a future condition
- Enhance crosswalks
- Likes the climbing between Watson and Davis.
- Do we have before/after traffic numbers for Park Street (pre/post interchange construction)?

Rugby Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

Design details can be found at www.charlottesville.org/rugbyave

- Concern about the crossing at Westwood.
- Did they consider a mid-block crossing?
- Remove left turn lane and widen the median for bigger pedestrian refuge.
- Consider a lighted crosswalk.
- Consider a stop sign at the off ramp – 3 or 4 way stop
- Consider closing off Westwood and Sherwood access to Rugby Ave?

BPAC Code Audit/Streets that Work Rep Redux

Council did not accept the committee's previous nomination to this working group. Eberhard volunteered and the group seconded his nomination. He will have to submit an application to Council.

Mayor's Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets

The committee thinks it's a good idea to support this challenge. BPAC should write a letter asking Council to accept the challenge and include Charlottesville on the list of participating communities. It's important for all of Council to sign on. Jake will draft the letter.

More info can be found here: <http://www.dot.gov/mayors-challenge>

West Main Street update

The committee sent a letter in support of the West Main Street project earlier this month. A new letter writing campaign was undertaken by the Mid-Town Merchants. There is a desire to get a WMS steering committee meeting before the next PLACE meeting. There is a need to have more people express support for the plan. There was a suggestion to create a sample draft letter with key points so that a larger group of people can more easily send it to Council.

Bent Creek/ 5th Street Station (Scott Paisley)

Scott suggested inviting Rex Linville to a future meeting, but little else was discussed.

JPA/JPA/Emmet Repaving – Design Review

Due to time constraints, the group did not review.

Trail Updates (Chris Gensic)

Chris was unable to attend this meeting. We will reschedule.

Upcoming events

Feb 18, 3-4PM: APBP Webinar “New Tools for Estimating Walking and Bicycling Demand”

February 26, 5-8PM (City Hall, NDS Conference Room): Bike/Ped MASTER PLAN Committee Meeting

March 5 5-7PM: Bike/Ped Advisory Committee Meeting (ped)

Mar 18, 3-4PM: APBP Webinar “Pedestrian and Bicycle Counting Programs”

April 2 5-7PM: Bike/Ped Advisory Committee Meeting (bike/ped)

Apr 15: 3-4PM: APBP Webinar “Legal Rights and Issues for Peds/Bikes”

May 7: Bike/Ped Advisory Committee Meeting (bike)

May 20 Law Enforcement Strategies to Improve Safety for Peds and Bikes

June 4: Bike/Ped Advisory Committee Meeting (ped)

Jun 17 First Mile / Last Mile Connections to Transit

July 16 5-7PM: Bike/Ped Advisory Committee Meeting (bike/ped)

Aug 6 5-7PM: Bike/Ped Advisory Committee Meeting (bike)

Sept 10 5-7PM: Bike/Ped Advisory Committee Meeting (ped)

Oct 1 5-7PM: Bike/Ped Advisory Committee Meeting (bike/ped)

Nov 5 5-7PM: Bike/Ped Advisory Committee Meeting (bike)

Dec 3 5-7PM: Bike/Ped Advisory Committee Meeting (ped)