



CITY OF COLUMBIA
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
July 20, 2020
4:30 PM

Virtual meeting using conferencing technology
Columbia, SC

EMILY BEASLEY • PAMELA BYNOE-REED • SUSAN J. FORREST • CHRISTINA GALARDI
FRITZ HAMER • CHASE KEIBLER • GEORGE KOKOLIS • BETSY NEWMAN • CHARLES ZACHARY PIPPIN • RIP
SANDERS
RACHEL THOMASON-JOHN • BARTON WALRATH • CYNTHIA WATSON • CHRYS ZOURAS

In attendance: Barton Walwrath, Chrys Zouras, Fritz Hamer, Emily Beasley, Susan Forrest, Rip Sanders, Zach Pippin, Christina Galardi, Betsy Newman, Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Rachel Thomason-John

Absent: Chase Keibler, George Kokolis, Cynthia Watson

Staff present: John Fellows, Shane Shaughnessy, Leigh DeForth

Community members present: Elizabeth Marks

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walrath called the meeting to order at 4:33pm.

II. REGULAR AGENDA

a. Minutes:

- [Approve June 8, 2020](#)

Rip Sanders made a motion to approve to approve the minutes as submitted, and Zach Pippin seconded the motion.

Susan Forest moved to accept the agenda as submitted, and Rip Sanders seconded the motion.

Betsy Newman joined the meeting at 4:35pm.

b. Updates:

- Report from Co Chairs – Watson and Walrath

Chairman Walrath reviewed the status on the letter to Mayor & Council (sent June 24th) on adaptive strategies, inclusive of: endorsement of pop-up bike lanes in the change.org petition, and removal of push buttons in high-contact areas. The latter topic went from City Council to David Brewer (City Traffic Engineer), and Mr. Brewer responded that Main Street would already qualify, but there are others that he would look into possibly covering. BPAC had suggested removing push buttons from the circuitry so that walk buttons automatically run, however this is still under consideration.

SCDOT road safety audit update – BPAC is trying to get a copy of the road safety audit regarding Harden through the Five Points, and Gervais through the Vista, as referenced by the news media and has just been or is just about to be released.

- City Planning Update – Fellows

Mr. Fellows noted that some subcommittees had been meeting, but members of those subcommittees that had not met should work to coordinate a meeting amongst themselves. He noted that virtual meetings will continue through at least August, and likely September. Planning & Senior staff have had some conversations re: the change.org petition, some demonstration equipment has been ordered at this point, and is available for City Council to review, and they are considering the installation of one to three permanent bike boulevards as well.

Pamela Bynoe-Reed and Rachel Thomason-John joined the meeting at 4:45pm.

Mr. Fellows noted that the County may have some funding for some of these bike boulevards. One route could potentially be fully funded by the County, but the other two routes would require some additional funding to what was designated through the Penny Tax Referendum. He indicated there has been some discussion between the City and County on how an interlocal agreement might be reached to move these bike boulevards forward.

Mr. Fellows noted that he had heard back from City administration regarding bike month, and activities which could be held with proper social distancing and face masks could be considered, but generally to submit activities for review and approval BPAC should be prepared to provide a brief summary of the activity.

Mr. Fellows indicated that the marketing & education outreach program had kicked off, however had been paused in July to wait for the funding to be transferred from last year's budget into this year's budget. Some of the first steps with the program would include outreach to BPAC members and the forming of a small committee.

Mr. Fellows indicated that bike operations started again in June with Blue Bike, but while ridership is lower than last year, this decrease in ridership was similar to last year's tapering of ridership in June and July (as folks leave town).

Mr. Fellows noted that as all City positions that were vacant as of March 28, 2020 were unfunded in the 2020-2021 budget to reflect the decrease in revenue for the coming year, the bicycle pedestrian planner position will remain vacant for this coming fiscal year.

He indicated that per SCDOT the first phase of the Millwood resurfacing and restriping should be completed by September 30, 2020.

Mr. Fellows reviewed pending bike projects. For the Calhoun Street bike lanes, the City has secured CTC funding. They have received a verbal agreement from the Penny, but the intergovernmental agreement is not yet in place – the same document that is circulating for the bike boulevards referenced earlier includes Calhoun funding as well. Once the funding is secured, a public meeting will be held to discuss the next steps for implementation and schedule. He noted that since the last BPAC meeting, City staff had met with the Robert Mills neighborhood, and Mr. Brewer had provided for some additional measures in response to their concerns. He further noted that Mr. Shaughnessy would be providing more detailed illustrative drawings in the future to more clearly reflect the nuanced design along the roadway, instead of simply providing a typical section. Mr. Fellows noted that once Calhoun was underway, the

City would likely follow with Washington & Marion bike facilities, as they had been waiting on public meetings for these facilities.

Mr. Fellows indicated that the South Main plans were at 100%, and that they are finalizing some utility work, and it appears that groundbreaking will be sometime this Fall. He noted that the Greene Street bridge was currently under construction and moving along on scheduled. He indicated that the Gills Creek maintenance and security agreement had been approved, and the County was moving forward with securing easement agreements, which will allow them to finalize the design and construction.

Chairman Walrath asked if there were any additional updates on the SCDOT – bike/ped safety action plan. Mr. Fellows indicated he had reached out to SCDOT and received a response on Friday with contact information for the project manager, and that he would be following up this week with an email to ask about how BPAC might be able to participate. Ms. Thomason-John asked if they might wish to coordinate with other BPACs around the state. Mr. Fellows agreed to find out more information and pass that along to BPAC members.

Chairman Walrath also asked for updates on bike friendly and walk friendly applications. Mr. Fellows indicated that bike friendly and walk friendly (WFC) applications were still in process. Ms. DeForth reviewed the discussion held with the WFC reviewers and the choice on the type of application to be submitted.

Mr. Fellows noted that SCDOT will be rebuilding the bridge on Blossom between Huger and Gadsden that goes over the railroad and the Innovista Trail. He indicated that SCDOT would be holding some public meetings and would likely release information in the near future regarding those meetings, and that BPAC members could sign up for notification of public input opportunities on the SCDOT website. He also indicated that SCDOT is in the preliminary design stages for the bridge on Elmwood by Gadsden and Wayne, and that there would likely be meetings on these as well.

Ms. Galardi asked how BPAC might be engaged in the Alta Education & Marketing program, and Mr. Fellows indicated there would be ample opportunity for BPAC, as well as other stakeholders such as neighborhood leaders, advocates, and the COMET.

c. Outreach Projects

• Open Streets – Galardi

Ms. Galardi reviewed the status of Open Streets and request to City administration, and indicated that City administration was hesitant to encourage people to gather in groups. At this time, the subcommittee will not continue planning an open streets event, but will instead work towards activities that will accommodate safe social distancing, such as the bike month efforts Mr. Fellows had mentioned.

• Bike Month – Fall of 2020 – Outreach Committee

The committee discussed bike to work day. Ms. Galardi asked if the group that volunteered previously would like to continue to reconvene, noting that this was a bit of a project initiative as well as an outreach effort. Mr. Pippin discussed the potential of asynchronous bike rides. Ms. Galardi noted that Ms. Beasley, Mr. Hamer, Ms. Thomason-John, and Mr. Zouras had volunteered to work on bike month events with earlier bike month planning, and offered to reach back out regarding planning for the Fall.

• Bike and Pedestrian Counts Fall 2020 – Shaughnessy

Mr. Fellows indicated that City administration had approved moving forward with bike/ped coats in September, and that counters will have to wear a mask. Mr. Shaughnessy noted that this will likely be the 2nd and 3rd weeks of September, but that more information would be released shortly. He and Mr. Fellows noted that volunteers are critical to success of this effort.

d. Strategic Planning

- Discussion of how BPAC can be relevant in the COVID-19 and Post COVID-19 period.

Chairman noted that this agenda item was a carry-over from the letter sent June 24th. Chairman Walrath noted that as each subcommittee meets, this would be a question that would be helpful to address.

- Summary and Discussion by each Committee with regard to Goals for 2020.

As the meeting was drawing to a close, and only some of the subcommittees had been able to meet, this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were in attendance at this point in the meeting, Ms. Marsh having departed the meeting earlier.

V. ADJOURN

Mr. Sanders made a motion to adjourn, which Ms. Thomason-John seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:32pm.