

APPROVED Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2015

The City of Raleigh Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission met on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, 421 Fayetteville Street, Suite 203, Raleigh, NC, with the following members present:

Commission Members:

Mike Dayton, Chair
Amy Simes, Vice Chair
Evan Brigham
Dan Howe
Paul Nevill
Seth Palmer
Aaron Peeler
Alan Wiggs

Staff:

Eric Lamb, Transportation Planning Manager
Jennifer Baldwin, Bike/Ped Coordinator
Amanda Driscoll, Administrative Support
Trisha Hasch, City Planning
Kenneth Withrow, CAMPO Senior Transportation Planner
Ken Dunn, Design/Construction Division

Absent:

Dr. Linda Butler
Harry Johnson

I. Introductions

Mr. Dayton called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nevill requested several corrections to the minutes. Under “Public Comments,” Mr. Nevill requested that the portion referring to “Hillsborough Street” instead read “Town edge/Midlakes area.” He also requested that under the staff report that his comments regarding the Bent Creek and Honeycutt Trails refer specifically to lighting in the tunnels. His amendments were received without objection. Mr. Dayton moved for approval of the December 15th meeting minutes as amended, which was properly seconded by Mr. Peeler and approved by unanimous voice vote.

III. Public Comments

Mr. Joe Johnson thanked the City for the new pedestrian signals and crosswalks that were recently installed at the intersection of Wake Forest Road and Old Wake Forest Road.

Mr. Will Hooker requested that the City could improve the attractiveness of its greenway system by adding native, food-producing plants along its greenways. He suggested that bushes, such as blueberries and blackberries, should be considered.

Mr. Wiggs arrived at the meeting at 6:15pm.

IV. Special Presentations

Downtown Plan Update: Ms. Trisha Hasch provided an update on the City’s Downtown Plan Update. She indicated that bicycle and pedestrian connectivity was identified as a high priority during the public involvement process, which has been reflected in the draft plan. Proposed concepts include the Dix-Devereaux and Chavis-Oakwood greenway corridors, a potential cycletrack on West Street, and a Downtown “Cultural Trail” bike loop. Mr. Nevill suggested that the Commission should pay special attention to the development of West Street as a bike/ped facility as the area continues to develop. Ms. Baldwin indicated that additional details on the possible



development of a downtown loop would occur in the bicycle plan, and that their development may not technically be what we traditionally consider as “greenways”.

Mr. Peeler inquired about plans for Hillsborough Street within downtown. Ms. Baldwin reminded the Commission of the City’s upcoming bicycle marking project and road diet along Hillsborough Street. Mr. Brigham commented on the need for improved walkability from Glenwood South into the downtown core. Ms. Hasch indicated that the draft plan will be posted soon for public comment.

V. Staff Reports

Project Spotlight – Wilmington Street Pedestrian Crossing: Ms. Baldwin reviewed photos of the City’s recent efforts to improve the midblock pedestrian crossing on Wilmington Street at Exchange Plaza. Mr. Wiggs requested that the City evaluate ways to improve the lighting of this crosswalk to improve pedestrian visibility, especially given the proposed plaza improvements.

City Project Updates: Mr. Lamb indicated that the project list has been updated to include several new projects, and that a detailed review of all the projects will be provided at the February retreat. Mr. Wiggs inquired regarding the cancellation of NCDOT’s project on Glenwood Avenue between Millbrook Road and Lumley Road. Mr. Dayton asked the City to push forward as quickly as possible with the Gorman Street Cycletrack implementation.

City Council Action Items: Mr. Lamb indicated there has been no action to date by the City Attorney’s office regarding the City Code Update for Pedestrians since it was referred from the City Council.

VI. Committee & Member Reports

Chair’s Report: Mr. Dayton shared his excitement regarding the City’s announcement today regarding the acquisition of Dix Park. Regarding committee assignments, Mr. Dayton reminded the Commission that new assignments need to be made to reflect the new members, and that the assignments would be finalized at the upcoming retreat.

Community Outreach Committee Report: Mr. Nevill reported that the committee was considering next steps and resources regarding the No Need to Speed campaign, and for Bike Month and ongoing bike education events.

Bicycle Planning Committee Report: Mr. Wiggs reported the Committee’s recommendation to endorse the proposed Hillsborough Street Phase II plan, and to refrain from adding intersection bicycle ramps at this time. Mr. Wiggs expressed his reservations about the use of three roundabouts, stating that he felt that it was overkill. Mr. Nevill noted the committee discussion about the size and placement of the Rosemary-Shepherd roundabout. He also pointed out an issue that was raised in committee regarding left turn prohibitions for bikes from Dan Allen Drive that result from the proposed design.

Mr. Dayton moved to endorse the current Hillsborough Street Phase II plan as proposed, which was seconded by Mr. Peeler. Mr. Wiggs indicated that he liked the proposed roundabout at Dixie Trail. Mr. Brigham stated that likes the current plan and feels it is a pro-pedestrian, pro-bicycle project with good traffic calming features. Mr. Dayton stated that he’s very comfortable with using roundabouts as a cyclist, and that he’s pleased with the City’s efforts to improve positioning with the application of sharrow markings approaching each circle. Mr. Nevill stated that he generally agreed with Mr. Brigham’s previous comments. Mr. Peeler noted that he uses the existing roundabouts on Hillsborough Street and that he’s very happy with their function. Mr. Howe observed that Phase I was a dramatic improvement over the previous condition, especially with respect to pedestrian safety. He explained that Phase II lays the groundwork for extending the urban development pattern to the west,

and that the project appropriately balances the tradeoffs. Mr. Dayton called for the vote on the motion, which was approved 7-1 with Mr. Wiggs voting in the negative.

Pedestrian Planning Committee Report: No report.

Joint Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Committee: No report.

VII. New Business

Work Plan Review: Mr. Dayton led the commission in a review of the current work plan. Mr. Wiggs requested to discuss citywide bicycle and pedestrian crash data at the upcoming retreat. Mr. Dayton inquired regarding the status of NCDOT's WalkBikeNC plan, which Ms. Baldwin indicated has been approved by NCDOT. Mr. Dayton requested that staff from NCDOT attend a future meeting to update the Commission how the City can best promote the plan.

BPAC Retreat Agenda: Mr. Dayton presented the draft agenda for the February retreat and asked if anyone had any proposed changes or suggestions. Mr. Nevill requested that the commission also receive an update on the City's greenway projects. Mr. Brigham suggested that the commission may wish to consider adding an item on ways the Commission can improve BPAC and its effectiveness and its appeal in the community.

VIII. Announcements

Upcoming Events: Mr. Nevill announced that the annual Raleigh Run Green and World Record Kilt Run would be held Saturday, March 7th, 2015 starting at 2 PM in Moore Square.

IX. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Lamb

