APPROVED Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2015

The City of Raleigh Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on Monday, June 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Raleigh Municipal Building, 222 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, NC with the following members present:

Commission Members:

Mike Dayton, Chair Evan Brigham Dr. Linda Butler Dan Howe Harry Johnson Paul Nevill Seth Palmer Aaron Peeler Alan Wiggs

Staff:

Eric Lamb, Transportation Planning Manager Teresa Young, Administrative Support

Absent:

Amy Simes, Vice Chair (excused) Seth Palmer (excused)

I. Introduction

Mr. Dayton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nevill stated that the section on Public Comments in be corrected to say that he received input from local cyclists on the need for street cleaning of local bike lanes.

Mr. Nevill moved for approval of the May 18th minutes as amended, which was promptly seconded by Mr. Johnson and approved by unanimous voice vote.

III. Public Comments

Mr. Brigham noted that he sent an email regarding legislation, particularly House Bill 44, that directly impacted road diets and bike lanes. He urged the commissioners to contact their representatives to state their opposition to the bill. Mr. Lamb clarified that House Bill 44 would specifically inhibit the construction of road diets specifically for the purpose of adding bike lanes. Mr. Lamb also added that it modified the original provision requiring votes by the Board of Transportation, and that this was now part of a general municipal government reform bill. He additionally stated that the bill also had a provision regarding preventing municipal governments from regulating appearance in residential areas. Mr. Johnson recommended that each commissioner write a personalized letter or email to their house representative regarding House Bill 44 as that would have the most impact.

Mr. Wiggs commented that after his recent trip to Boston he noted the difference between the atmosphere regarding pedestrians and cyclists in Raleigh versus Boston, and that Boston in recent years had made more of an effort to make the city and streets more cyclist and pedestrian friendly. He expressed his desire for Raleigh to become a city that is more cognizant of cyclists and pedestrians. Mr. Johnson added that in Boston he feels only the parts of the city that have a lot of visitors seem to be more cyclist and pedestrian friendly.

IV. Special Presentation

Kate Dixon, executive director of the Friends of the Mountains and Sea Trail, spoke about the organization that supports the Mountains to Sea Trail, which is planned to be a premier statewide hiking trail. She discussed many aspects regarding the volunteer-maintained trail and their plans to make it one of the top trails for hiking in the state.

V. Staff Report

City Project Updates: Mr. Lamb reported that there are no new projects to report on. He stated the Bike Plan update was underway as well as the twenty seven miles of restriping.

City Staffing Updates: Mr. Lamb announced that the advertisement for the Bicycle and Pedestrian program manager closed on the previous Wednesday, June 10th. He said interviews will be scheduled shortly.

City Council Actions: Mr. Lamb stated that he is still waiting for feedback from the City Attorney's office regarding the City Code Evaluation for Pedestrians. He announced that the City Council approved the Commission's recommendations for sidewalk prioritization and that staff will be posting an interactive GIS tool to allow citizens to see the different sidewalk projects. Mr. Lamb added that Council adopted the budget for 2016 but did not approve the bike share portion as there was no big sponsor to back the program at this time. Mr. Brigham questioned if the commission could have done more regarding the bike share, Mr. Lamb responded that it would be more important to get a main sponsor for the bike share program and then to move forward on implementation at a later date.

Mr. Johnson requested to switch out items six and five on the agenda regarding committee reports, to which there were no objections.

VI. Committee Reports

Chair's Report: No report.

Community Outreach Committee: Mr. Nevill reported that the community outreach committee met on Thursday June 11th and made updates to the commission's draft work plan. He requested that the updates be approved with the work plan.

Bicycle Planning Committee: Mr. Johnson stated that the committee had not met but corresponded via email regarding work plan updates, which the committee would discuss during item seven of the agenda.

Pedestrian Planning Committee: Mr. Peeler stated the committee had no updates but Mr. Matt Tomasulo was present to speak on Walk Your City.

Mr. Tomasulo announced that the Walk Raleigh agreement was approved and the sign installations will now be underway. He showed prototypes of the signs to the commission and conveyed that there will be four campaigns total around the City for Walk Raleigh. He added that installation of the signs would begin soon and continue for the next six weeks. He also thanked the commission for all their support.

Joint Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee: No report.

VII. Old Business

Work Plan Update: Mr. Dayton announced that there were proposed updates to the draft work plan from the community outreach committee and the pedestrian planning committee.

Mr. Peeler stated that the pedestrian planning committee modified three bullets under their section and proposed to remove a portion from the workplan. Mr. Nevill stated that the community outreach committee updated their section of the work plan and deleted repetitive bullets. He added that the committee also added a bullet regarding social media outreach. Mr. Johnson pointed out the need to restore the bullet point regarding bike share and bike plan update for the work plan as the bike share program wasn't approved by council.

The commission discussed further about additional changes to the work plan regarding sidewalk construction, education, and pedestrian crosswalk campaigns. It was noted that references to "CAT" transit and Triangle Transit should now be changed to GoRaleigh and GoTriangle respectively.

Mr. Howe made a motion to approve the revised work plan, which was seconded by Mr. Johnson. The work plan was approved by unanimous voice vote.

VIII. Announcements

Mr. Johnson updated the commission regarding house bill 44. He stated that an amendment was being run through the house that would change the Board of Transportation approval thresholds for road diets.

Mr. Brigham announced that Tour de Fat was taking place in Durham on Saturday, June 20th. He also announced that Oaks and Spokes was having an event on July 4th at 2 PM. that consisted of a bike ride as well as food and drink.

Mr. Wiggs stated that the Firecracker ride in Cary is on July 4th and is at Salt Box Village in Cary.

Mr. Dayton reminded the commission of the Blount Street Art Project event and bike ride that was taking place on July 11th with the Historic Development Commission and the Arts Commission.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Teresa Young