

MEETING SUMMARY

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

August 18, 2021

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) met virtually at 2:00 pm on August 18, 2021, via Microsoft Teams.

See Pages 6 and 7 for meeting attendance.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Kathy Nelson, Chair, City of Grapevine

Kathy Nelson welcomed attendees and introduced herself as the 2021 Chair of BPAC, and Robert Caskey as the Vice-Chair. The May 2021 meeting summary was accepted as submitted.

2. Local Community Updates

a. Bike Friendly Application – Jeremy Williams, City of Fort Worth,

Jeremy provided an overview on how local communities can apply to become a Bike Friendly Community (BFC); a designation awarded by the League of American Bicyclists. There are two application cycles per year – one in spring and one in fall. A new cycle begins the day after an application cycle closes, giving applicants several months to fill out the online application. The next opportunity to submit a BFC application is late spring 2022. The application process leads off with a brief review of the general community profile. The applicant will then continue to the reporting portion of the application, which asks questions about the community's engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation efforts (the 5 E's). Following the application deadline, the league distributes public surveys to community residents, league members, bike advocates, and bicyclists who are familiar with the applicant community. A benefit of applying to be a Bike Friendly Community is the feedback provided by the League of American Bicyclists on identifying areas in need of improvement.

Bike Friendly Community Online Application: bikeleague.org/content/about-bfc-application-process

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC

b. Plano Bike and Scooter Share Program – Drew Brawner and Neelam Fatima, City of Plano

Drew and Neelam provided an overview on Plano's Bike and Scooter Share Program that resulted from the latest update to the Comprehensive Plan aimed to increase and enhance the micromobility system. The action of the plan outline development guidelines that improve the safety and convenience of bicycling and micromobility transportation. In February 2018, the City of Plano adopted an ordinance to regulate bike share services through a permit process. This resulted with one scooter company, Bird, obtaining a permit

in 2021 to operate in the city. The Bike and Scooter Share Program consists of a permit process, program rules and regulations, home zones and restricted use areas, ridership, and reporting complaints. As a result of the program, there have been no reported crashes and less than 15 complaints in over 6,800 total rides.

Bike and Scooter Share Website: plano.gov/555/Bike-Scooter-Share-Program

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

c. Dallas Sidewalk Master Plan – Efrain Trejo, City of Dallas

Efrain provided an overview on the City of Dallas’ first Sidewalk Master Plan, completed in June 2021. The plan uses a data-driven system to identify the most impactful projects and provide guidance for decision makers on budgeting new construction and sidewalk repairs. The purpose of the plan is to promote accessibility for pedestrians and improve safety, assist in planning efforts, and determine priority areas for improvement. The plan is comprised of six driving principles: safety, environmental sustainability, equity, economic vitality, housing, and innovation. A system of prioritization was used to ensure the areas with the highest needs are being addressed first. Through this data-driven process, 12 focus areas within all 14 city council districts of Dallas were developed, with an estimated project cost of \$30 million. The next steps following the identification of those focus areas is to complete all 12 priority sidewalk projects within the next two to three years.

Dallas’ Sidewalk Master Plan: dallascityhall.com/departments/public-works/DCH%20Documents/Public%20Works/pdf/Dallas_Sidewalk_Master_Plan.pdf

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

d. Idaho Stop Law, SB 1055, & HB 3665 – Robin Stallings, Bike Texas

Robin provided an overview on two Texas Senate and House bills, SB 1055 & HB 3665, and the proposed Stop as Yield Law for 2023. The Stop as Yield Law, also known as the “Idaho Stop Law,” promotes safe and efficient bicycle transportation by allowing bicyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs. SB 1055, also known as the Lisa Torry Smith Act, requires motorists to stop and yield to a pedestrian or bicyclists at crosswalks, makes injuring them a Class A misdemeanor, and serious injuries a state felony. HB 3665, the Texas eBike Law, protects electric bicycles from being prohibited for use on paved multi-use paths. However, local authorities may set speed limits on shared-use paths and prohibit e-bikes from single use tracks (such as mountain biking trails).

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

e. Trinity Trails Motor Excluder – Tina Nikolic, Tarrant Regional Water District

Tina provided an overview on the West Fork Trinity River Trail that has recently had motor excluders installed at trail entrances. Tarrant Regional Water District sought to prevent motor vehicles such as motorcycles, dirt bikes, and 4-wheelers (or ATVs) on trails due to the damage caused to the trail, surrounding greenspace, and ensure the structural integrity of the dam. Motor excluders, or A-Frame barriers, are a fence and narrow gate that prevents motor vehicles from entering a trail and requires bicyclists to dismount and walk their bike through the opening.

f. **Upcoming Events – Robert Caskey, Vice-Chair, City of Frisco**

Robert Caskey reviewed upcoming events and training opportunities for active transportation professionals.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

3. **Northaven Trail Bridge in Dallas – Maher Ghanayem, TxDOT and Micah Baker, Dallas County**

Maher and Micah provided an overview on the Northaven Trail Bridge project in Dallas that began construction in Spring 2021. The bridge will connect the Northaven Trail that runs from Denton Drive to US 75 to the White Rock Creek and Cottonwood Creek Trails east of US 75. There were eight bids for the project and among them, the lowest bidder was chosen for an estimated cost of \$9.3 million while reducing the days allowed to complete the project by 67 days. Dallas County led the initial planning and design efforts for the bridge with three route schematics developed. After stakeholder and public input, a direct route to bridge over US 75 was chosen and led to the City of Dallas and TxDOT's involvement to complete the design and construction. The bridge will ultimately connect over 30 miles of continuous trails across North Dallas.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

4. **Virtual Public Hearing for Bicycle Use on the State Highway System – Melissa Meyer, TxDOT**

Melissa provided an overview of TxDOT's DFW Bicycle Public Hearing held from May 6 to May 21, 2021. The purpose of the hearing by TxDOT was to receive feedback on local problem areas, present updated policy guidance on bicycle facility design, and environmentally clear specific projects. Feedback from the public on local problem areas was collected using a MetroQuest survey, which allows citizens to drop pins on a map and provide comments on intersection related issues, bike issues, bike barriers, and more. As a result, a total of 511 markers (pins) and 383 comments were collected using this system. A survey was also conducted regarding barriers to bicycling, which relayed the top reasons to why people do not ride a bike. The top three barriers identified in the survey responses were bad driver behavior, no designated space, and disconnected bikeways. Results of the survey were emailed to BPAC members.

Public hearing materials and summary: www.Keepitmovingdallas.com/bicycle

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

5. **Miovision Technology for Baseline Data Collection in Fort Worth – Jeremy Williams, City of Fort Worth**

Jeremy provided an overview on Miovision Technology used to collect baseline pedestrian and bicycle travel data for a project in Fort Worth on East 1st and 4th Street funded by an award by the Regional Transportation Council through the 2020 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects. A subcontractor hired by the City of Fort Worth used the Miovision tool to record bicycle and pedestrian counts via video capture. The counts, broken down in 15-

minute intervals, and a map of the roadway were provided to the city as a result of the study. The TA project will construct separated bike lanes and install permanent bicycle count equipment. Before and after count data will highlight the impact the project has on bicycle trip/ridership in the corridor.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

6. **NCTCOG Updates**

a. **Annual Updates to the Trails and Bikeways Geodatabase – Julie Anderson**

Julie provided an update about annual updates to the regional trails and bikeways database. All communities are asked to review existing data to ensure NCTCOG maps reflect the most up-to-date status and alignments of trails and on-street bikeways. An interactive map was created to streamline this process, incorporating the ability to draw lines and add comments associated with particular facility segments. Alternatively, maps or mark-ups can be submitted via email. All responses are requested to be returned no later than September 15.

Interactive Map to provide updates: [Annual Trails and Bikeways Update Interactive Map \(arcgis.com\)](http://Annual%20Trails%20and%20Bikeways%20Update%20Interactive%20Map%20(arcgis.com))

Email questions or comments to Julie Anderson: JAnderson@nctcog.org

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

b. **Demand Zones for Walking and Bicycling Travel and Mobility 2045 Update – Julie Anderson**

Julie provided an update on the methodology being developed for identifying demand zones for walking and bicycling travel and their incorporation into the Mobility 2045 plan update expected to be completed and adopted in early 2022. Demand zones are geographic areas in the region with the highest propensity for walking and bicycling travel. The criteria used in the analysis is employment and population density, high density of short trips, low-income populations, zero car households, and areas of high vehicle congestion. These areas can help prioritize future investment of federal transportation funding for walking and bicycling infrastructure and can be used by local communities to identify areas of greatest need within their jurisdiction.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

c. **Regional Complete Streets Policy – Julie Anderson**

Julie provided an overview about Complete Streets Policy, which sets strategic direction for transportation planning by outlining how and who makes decisions about street design. Complete Streets, by definition, are streets that are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. NCTCOG conducted a survey of local government representatives in June 2021 regarding their Complete Streets policies, and/or barriers for preparing a local policy. The primary response received found that most agencies have not considered developing a local Complete Streets policy. Currently the cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Weatherford, and Terrell have adopted a

local Complete Streets policy. However, it was encouraged that local communities consider a Complete Streets policy given the benefits of safety on roadways and ability to avoid costly retrofits. NCTCOG anticipates developing a regional Complete Streets resolution or policy to be reviewed by BPAC at the meeting on November 17, 2021.

Read more about Complete Streets policy here: www.CompleteStreets.org

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

d. **ADA Transition Plans (Poll) – Matt Fall**

Matt provided a brief overview on ADA Transition Plans and the difference between ADA compliant and non-ADA compliant streets. A poll was then conducted asking BPAC members and guests to provide feedback on whether their community/entity has completed an ADA Transition Plan in the past or plans to do so in the future.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

e. **Monthly Trail User Count Data Update – Kevin Kokes**

Kevin provided an update on the trail usage data that is being actively collected. Trail usage continues to be up overall compared to prior to the outset of COVID-19. July 2021 registered a lower four percent increase.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

f. **Regional Single Occupancy Vehicle Trip Reduction Target Development Resolution – Kevin Kokes**

Kevin provided an overview on the Single-Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) Trip Reduction Target Resolution that was established by the Regional Transportation Council. The goal of the resolution is to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips with a target reduction of 20 percent.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

7. **Other Business/ Open Discussion**

Kathy announced the date of BPAC's next scheduled meeting, to be held on November 17, 2021.

Members in Attendance at the August 18, 2021, BPAC meeting:

Krishan Patel	City of Allen
Anthony Cisneros	City of Arlington
Heather Houseman	City of Burleson
Marcos Fernandez	City of Carrollton
Shawn Ray	City of Cedar Hill
Laura Melton	City of Cleburne
Ray Silva-Reyes	City of Colleyville
John Elias	City of Coppell
Jessica Scott	City of Dallas
Nathaniel D. George	City of Denton
Mitzi L. Davis	City of Farmers Branch
Jeremy Williams	City of Fort Worth
Robert Caskey	City of Frisco
Josue De La Vega	City of Garland
Brett Huntsman	City of Grand Prairie
Kathy Nelson	City of Grapevine
Cody Owen	City of Irving
Cody Maberry	City of Keller
Stacie Anaya	City of Lewisville
Chris Ray	City of Mansfield
Robyn Root	City of McKinney
Wes McClure	City of Mesquite
Joe Pack	City of North Richland Hills
Drew Brawner	City of Plano
Jessica Shutt	City of Richardson
Joel Hayes	City of Rowlett
Michelle McCullough	City of Southlake
Eve Morgan	City of The Colony
Chad Marbut	City of Weatherford
Robert Diaz	City of Wylie
Komala Narra	Dallas County
Patricio Gallo	DART
Tim Palermo	DCTA
Janna Tidwell	Town of Addison
Kari Biddix	Town of Flower Mound
Jan Heady	TxDOT Dallas District
Phillip Hays	TxDOT Fort Worth
Chad Davis	Wise County

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the August 18, 2021, BPAC meeting:

Julie Anderson
Shawn Conrad
Erin Curry
Matthew Fall
Kevin Kokes
Robert Kozub
Cauner McDonald
Sydnee Steelman
Karla Weaver