



## Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

### MINUTES

January 18 2005 ▪ 7:00 PM  
Durham City Hall  
Durham, NC 27701

**Members Present:** Phillip Barron, Heather Fisher, Robert Glenn, Tim Griffin, Judy Martell, Pete Schubert  
**Members Absent:** Excused absences: Aaron Cain, Jimmy Gamble, Diane Daniel, Steve Matherly, Paul Naylor, Mike Wolosin  
**Staff Present:** Alison Carpenter, Felix Nwoko, Kathy Molin  
**Guests Present:** Mary Meletioui, Tom Norman, Nick Lurie  
**Public Present:** N/A

#### I. Call to Order

Chair Judy Martell called the meeting to order.

Acting Secretary was Alison Carpenter.

Excused absences: Diane Daniel, Paul Naylor, Mike Wolosin

#### II. Approval of Minutes

The December 2004 meeting minutes were approved as is. Judy Martell suggested the addition of an “action items” section to future minutes.

#### III. Adjustments to the Agenda: Announcements and Public Comment

- Alison Carpenter announced the release of the Durham County Bicycle Plan request-for-proposals (RFP). The City/MPO will choose a consultant and hope to begin work by April.

#### IV. Public Comment

N/A

#### V. Guests/Presentations

1. Cornwallis Rd & Other Upcoming Projects – Tom Norman, Director of the NCDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Division was invited by Pete and Alison to attend the BPAC meeting to discuss the Cornwallis bike lane project. Tom presented a visualization of the intersection of Cornwallis with NC 147, and brought site plans of the entire bike lane

project for commission members to view. He discussed the Cornwallis/NC147 intersection in detail, due to the inordinate design of the bike lane. NCDOT worked to design bike lanes around the NC147 slip lanes, and used the innovative Oregon DOT handbook for guidance.

Tom discussed the regional significance of this project, with its connections to the ATT to the north and RTP to the south. Felix Nwoko pointed to TTA station connections between Cornwallis and the North RTP station. Phillip Barron asked about the possibility of an NC55 connection between MLK and Cornwallis Rd. Tom pointed out that the current NC55 widening project will result in 14ft wide outside lanes for cyclists. Phillip asked about maintenance/debris removal along the roadway, for the convenience and safety of cyclists; Kathy Molin asked about snow-plowing. Tom pointed out that Cornwallis is a state roadway, and therefore maintenance will be a state responsibility to be addressed by the NCDOT Division 5 maintenance team. He mentioned that this will be a breakthrough kind of project for the state road system, and the maintenance team will have to create a schedule based on level of use of the bike lane and bicyclists' requests. Tim Griffin asked about measurements of success for Cornwallis bike lanes. Felix mentioned the opportunity for the City/MPO to do bike/ped counts along the roadway as part of an upcoming Congestion Management System (CMS) Study. He confirmed that the City/MPO will do counts of Cornwallis to measure any increases in use. Judy Martell asked about thermoplastic striping used by NCDOT for bike lane projects. Tom answered that a new skid-resistant material may be used for Cornwallis if the technology is available.

2. Chapel Hill Bike/Ped Plan – Nick Lurie, member of the Chapel Hill Bike/Ped Advisory Board, presented the Chapel Hill Bike/Ped Action Plan to the commission and discussed opportunities for cooperation between adjacent municipalities. Nick presented maps of improvement corridors for Chapel Hill, and discussed their plans for sidewalk/bicycle improvements. Judy Martell suggested the possibility of a joint meeting, and Nick agreed that it may be a good opportunity for collaboration on border-issues, as well as broad planning initiatives. Nick left a copy of the maps for the commission (with Alison), and agreed that a joint meeting would be welcomed in the future. The full Action Plan can be viewed at: <http://townhall.townofchapelhill.org/planning/bikeped/BikePedPlan.htm>

## **VI. Old Business**

1. BPAC Website Update – Heather Fisher suggested that a feedback request box be posted to each page of the website, possibly in a bar at the bottom of each page.
2. Update on Duke University Contacts - none
3. Bike Maintenance Class Update - none
4. Nominations to Ped Plan & Old Durham-Chapel Hill Rd steering committees – Diane Daniel was nominated as the primary member to the Pedestrian Plan steering committee and Judy Martell as the alternate. Pete Schubert was nominated as the BPAC liaison to the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Rd policy committee.

## **VII. New Business**

1. Blackwell/Corcoran Street Meeting Update –Alison Carpenter gave a brief update on results of a recent meeting regarding Norfolk-Southern’s suggestion to close the Blackwell/Corcoran and Pettigrew intersection (an at-grade crossing with the RR tracks), and build an underground pedestrian tunnel for access to the American Tobacco campus and Bulls stadium. Steve Matherly represented BPAC at a recent meeting in the mayor’s office on the topic; the meeting revealed that the City position is one of opposition to the suggested closure. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for January 25. BPAC will continue to discuss the topic as the issue progresses.
2. Safe Routes to School Workshop – Bo Glenn discussed the local opportunities for walk/bike to school activities, and suggested a workshop of some sort in which community members could discuss the possibilities for increased bike/ped use by children, public health and safety issues, traffic calming, etc. Mary Meletiou, of the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (and consultant to NCDOT’s Bike/Ped Division), informed the commission of an upcoming series of Safe Routes to School workshops, being planned in the Triangle. She offered that Durham might hold one or two in April, and use the workshop as a platform for continued conversations and activities. The commission will discuss site selection and other planning issues at the next meeting.
3. Midnight Bike Ride– Leigh Scott of Durham Central Park and others are planning a one-hour midnight bike ride in June as a fundraiser for Central Park. The first planning meeting will be on January 29 @ 9AM; anyone from BPAC is welcome to attend. For location/directions, contact Leigh Scott or Phillip Barron.

## **VIII. Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

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## **ACTION ITEMS**

- Follow up with NCDOT regarding Bicycle Element of Statewide Comprehensive Transportation Plan. (? Should BPAC issue challenge/suggestion to Bicycle/Pedestrian Division regarding annual allocation toward bike/ped facilities in Durham?)
- Follow up with Chapel Hill Bike/Ped Board regarding joint meeting
- Continue to work with Mary Meletiou on site selection for Safe Routes to School training in Durham
- Follow up with Phillip on individual writing assignments for webpage