

## MINUTES

November 15, 2011 Meeting

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**Members Present:** Toby Berla, Dan Clever, Ninna Gagnon, Greg Garneau, Lou Goetz, Erik Landfried, Mathew Palmer, Merry Rabb, Dwayne Taylor, Lars Trost,  
**Members Absent:** Scott Carter, Jim Dunlop, Teiji Kimball (unexcused), Jonathon Leach  
**Staff Present:** Dale McKeel  
**Liaisons Present:** None  
**Guests Present:** Brian Williams (Duke Transportation), Carl Sundstrom, Cynthia Van der Wiele, Brian Williams

### A. Introductions

Dan Clever called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

### B. Approval of Minutes

◆ Motion for approval of October 2011 minutes by Toby, seconded by Merry, unanimously approved

### C. Adjustments to the Agenda

◆ Ninna requested a discussion about scheduling the annual BPAC retreat.

### D. Announcements

◆ Erik was contacted by Joe Hummer, an NC State engineering professor, who is studying pedestrian access and safety on “super streets”.

◆ Dan mentioned the upcoming meetings hosted by NCDOT regarding safety improvements at grade-level crossings of the railroad tracks in Durham. The workshops will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at these locations:

- Monday, Nov. 28: Durham Armory, 212 Foster Street, for downtown crossings between Gregson Street and Driver Street.
- Tuesday, Nov. 29: Trinity Ballroom, Hilton Durham, 3800 Hillsborough Road, for crossings in west Durham between Neal Road and Buchanan Boulevard.
- Thursday, Dec. 1: NC Biotechnology Center, Hamner Conference Center - Glaxo Galleria, 15 T.W. Alexander Drive in RTP, for closings in eastern Durham between Ellis and Cornwallis Roads.

◆ Mathew was contacted by Rachel Raney of the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association regarding traffic speed issues on Duke, Gregson, and Buchanan. He would like to consider working with Safe Routes to Schools to identify nearby schools for alternative transportation initiatives. BPAC will consider which committee might work on this, and make a recommendation at the December BPAC meeting.

## **E. Public Comment**

◆ None

## **F. Committee Reports**

### **1. Development Review Committee Report (Dan Clever)**

*First Thursday, 6:30 pm, Sunset Grill*

In attendance were: Dan Clever, Jim Dunlop, Dale McKeel, Linda Smith, Lars Trost

1) Discussed an alternative sidewalk request for Ashton Hall (Mineral Springs Road) in advance of Nov. 4 DRB. DRB deferred action on alternative sidewalk/payment in lieu determination and the site plan determination to allow the applicant time to obtain additional information to address the sidewalk specifications identified in the zoning committed element (Z04-67)

2) Reviewed 3 development plans and one land use update:

Z1100024           Diamond Touch Construction- no comments

Z1100026           Del Webb - Durham- no comments

Z1100027           Fayetteville Street-University Land Use Update-no comments

Z1100025           Eno Pointe Assisted Living- If the UDO doesn't require sidewalk on both sides of Goodwin Road at this location, we believe the project would better serve the needs of the community if sidewalk were provided along site frontage with Goodwin Road. This would provide pedestrian access to Roxboro Road.

3) Jim reviewed the final recommendation on the Alston Avenue project. We reviewed cross sections of the road, including the intersection with Main Street. South of Main wide outside lanes will be employed.

4) We discussed staff responses to our recommendations on the Comprehensive Plan update.

### **2. Bike Plan Implementation Committee Report (Greg Garneau)**

Second Thursday 6:30 pm, Geer Street Garden ◆ Meeting held October 13, 2011

In attendance were: Scott Carter, Dan Clever, Dale McKeel, and Greg Garneau (Convener)

A review the markups to the City's new Comprehensive Plan

Dan Clever will resubmit many of the markups. Mark Ahrendsen is concerned that -- given some of the changes BPAC submitted -- his current departmental budget does not

provide the resources needed to quantify and report certain new, implied [by BPAC] metrics required quarterly by the City Manager's office.

From Scott's email to BPAC: "Mark also talked about our inputs to the Comprehensive Plan. He said that the BPAC comments that were not incorporated were primarily due to resource limitations within his department. Anything that gets included in the Plan is measured and tracked for compliance, and he did not want to add new elements to the plan unless there were resources to implement them."

Dan will focus on those that do not add to departmental costs.

Safety problems, unsafe driving at the Chapel Hill Road - Bivins Street - Jersey Avenue intersection

BPAC members attended the neighborhood meeting attended by City officials and employees. Phil Loziuk, City Traffic Engineer, has indicated that a four-way stop will be installed at the intersection in the very near future. Pedestrian amenities and bicycle lanes will be added too.

Public Comment Period and Public Hearing for the Draft FY 2014-2020 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Regional Priority List

Toby Berla circulated an analysis questioning the distribution of project monies between Durham and Orange Counties. Dale McKeel will cover this subject in detail, but the projects considered in the analysis omitted bicycle projects moved to the larger Highway List. This was done due to a new policy. On-road bicycle projects over one million dollars in cost were moved to the Highway List. The Bicycle and Trail List is now limited to off-road projects and those on-road projects costing less than one million dollars.

There are other factors in the creation of the overall Regional Priority List that Dale will explain to BPAC in greater detail. Briefly however, projects are added to the list only after they are designed and submitted. The projects are then scored using a formalized process that is described in the attached memo.

Updating the City's Bicycle Plan

Dan Clever proposed that BPAC solicit public comment about any proposed updates to the Plan. Methods for gathering input from the public were briefly discussed.

Club Boulevard neck downs and bicycles

From Scott's email to BPAC: "I [Scott Carter] met with Mark Ahrendsen this morning and expressed our BPAC concerns about the final decision made for Club Blvd. He was very receptive to listening to our comments, and he said he will send us a letter with an explanation for how the many factors were considered in reaching a final decision. He

said they heavily weighed the BPAC inputs, but that the neighborhood input and other factors tipped the scale towards the curb extension design. I do not believe that the timing of our input was an issue. I think we should wait for his communication on this."

Club Boulevard was therefore the subject of a brief discussion.

United States Bicycle Route Number 1

Scott Carter and Dale McKeel are aware of Branson Kimball's request to appear at a BPAC meeting (in the near future) to make a presentation on this subject.

### **3. Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee Report (Erik Landfried)**

First Tuesday of month, 6:30 pm

In attendance: Erik Landfried, Merry Rabb, Carl Sundstrom

At the request of Dan Clever and Scott Carter, the Committee reviewed the markups to the Comprehensive Plan that Dan had sent out in mid-October. For several of the items that were recommended by BPAC, but not included in the latest markup, we would request an explanation as to why those sections were not included.

### **4. Communications Committee Report (Merry Rabb)**

Second Wednesday, 7 pm, Beyu Caffe

Attending: Merry Rabb, Ninna Gagnon & Dale McKeel

Since there's been some attrition due to people leaving BPAC, the Communications Committee is actively recruiting new members. Toby Berla has expressed an interest in joining but cannot make our regular meeting time. We will find ways for him to participate, and/or we may change our meeting day to Tuesday. Merry will survey committee members regarding preferred meeting dates and times.

Recent events: Ninna Gagnon, Dwayne Taylor, Merry Rabb & Alan Dippy all helped with the Bike Day held on Friday October 28 at the Salvation Army Boys & Girls' club. It went very well for the first try at such ambitious event – some glitches along the way but all in all a successful and fun event.

Ninna reported on some activities related to Clean Energy Durham and some news items she has learned in recent meetings with GoTriangle, etc.:

- A new monthly "Tipping Point" group ride is being held Sundays leaving from Seven Stars Cycles and ending back at Motorco for brunch. One was held this past weekend and the next one is scheduled for December 11. See Clean Energy Durham's Facebook page for details.

- The SmartCommute challenge is planned for next fall rather than spring in 2012. GoTriangle will still support activities related to Bike Month in May.
- There's some discussion of starting a BikeShare program in Durham

Dale reported that there may be a statewide Bike Summit next year – Duke may be able to host it.

Events coming up:

Opening ceremony for Third Fork Creek Trail has not yet been scheduled – it may now happen in the early spring rather than this fall.

## **G. Updates from Liaisons**

### **1. NCCU – Jonathan Leach**

- ◆ No report

### **2. Duke University**

- ◆ Brian Williams. Sharrows are being added on various campus roads. Sewer grates will be marked with white lines for safety. Signs will be added around campus -- at the tunnel under Main St and at entry points, to teach people entering campus what the sharrow symbols mean. More educational events are planned on campus about alternative transportation.

- ◆ Launched a shower map on the Duke website, including hours and contact information. The University allows registered bike commuters access to showers gym facilities on campus. More information about bicycling at Duke is here:

[http://parking.duke.edu/alternative\\_transportation/bicycling/index.php](http://parking.duke.edu/alternative_transportation/bicycling/index.php)

- ◆ The Parking and Transportation Office keeps track of grad student and employee bike commuters. 530 are currently registered.

- ◆ Infrastructure improvements will hopefully get the University to a Bronze status with the League of American Bicyclists.

### **3. DOST – Toby Berla**

- ◆ Discussed the proposed route for the Light Rail Corridor between Durham and Chapel Hill.

- ◆ Duke Beltline update.

- ◆ Trails plan update.

## **H. Old Business**

### **1. ATT Phase E Update (Dan Clever and Dale McKeel)**

- ◆ The city re-advertised for bids on November 15. The pre-bid conference will be held in late November. Bids are due on December 15. BPAC may want to invite a project representative to the December meeting to learn how the bidding process went.
- ◆ The city extended the maximum construction timeframe to 13 months, to allow a more economical process.

## **I. New Business**

### **1. Update to the Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans (Dale McKeel)**

- ◆ No update.

### **2. DurhamWalks! Plan: Revised Sidewalk Corridor Rankings and Proposed Sidewalk Construction Priority List**

- ◆ Dale provided the final report that was presented to the City Council at a recent work session. Councillor Cole-McFadden wanted to see how projects are distributed geographically by City Council Ward. Councillor Catotti asked about the ranking methodology. The plan will be on Council agenda for next Monday (November 21) for final adoption.

### **3. Transportation Improvement Program – Regional Priority List (Dale McKeel)**

- ◆ This is a two-year process - we are currently early in the first year. Each city and county in the MPO region put together a wish list of projects. These lists were given to MPO and compiled into a single document. In last 2 years, NCDOT has tried to use a more objective ranking process for projects. A draft plan is scheduled to be released in June 2012, with final adoption in the spring of 2013.
- ◆ \$20 million worth of projects in our MPO alone. \$6 million in funding per year for the entire state.
- ◆ The reason there are so many more Orange County projects than Durham County projects is because the submitted projects from past years were carried over. A lot of Durham's projects were for more than \$1 million, so were moved to the highway projects section of the document. They were classified as "modernization" projects. Money will be allocated based on Tier, Goal, and Improvement Type.
- ◆ Next step is to assign points to various projects. Mostly based on the rankings. Then local representatives are asked to provide a list of their top five projects. Dale requests that BPAC members review and provide feedback on specific projects. Comments are due by December 14.

## **J. Staff Report / Questions / Announcements**

### **◆ NCDOT Access to Transit Project**

The NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation funded two projects to study how difficult it is to access transit in three corridors in Durham: Holloway/Liberty, Roxboro from downtown to the North Duke Mall, Fayetteville Rd from NC Central to Riddle Rd. They are working with Triangle Transit on these projects. The kickoff meeting will be held soon. The study will also look at amenities needed for transit stations.

#### ◆ **BPAC Elections**

BPAC usually elects new officers in December. Committee chairs should get together to nominate candidates. Erik will organize that meeting.

#### ◆ **Club Boulevard Pedestrian Project**

Transportation Dept met with Scott Carter, will provide a letter explaining the decision to go ahead with the proposed design for bulb-outs along Club Blvd. The outcome of this design process raises some questions:

- Can BPAC improve its outreach to be able to influence project designs more in the future?
- Can BPAC influence the design standards used by the City in general?
- What is BPAC's role on future projects like this?

#### ◆ **Comprehensive Plan**

Some changes suggested by BPAC members did not make it into the draft Plan. Dan drafted a letter to the Planning Dept listing those items. Toby made, and Erik seconded, a motion to adopt the letter as amended, and forward it to the Planning Dept. The motion passed without objection.

#### ◆ **December meeting date**

The online poll indicated that December 13 is a preferred date for BPAC's meeting. Erik moved to reschedule the meeting to December 13, and Toby seconded the motion. The motion passed with one objection. Dale will look for a location.

#### ◆ **January Retreat**

Dan or Scott will set up an online poll regarding the date. Dan will contact Steve about using the same room as last year. Brian will look into a space at Duke.

#### **K. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 9:21.

Next meeting: December 13, 2011.

Minutes submitted by: Toby Berla