



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

MINUTES

December 20, 2005 ▪ 7:00 PM
Committee Room
Second Floor, City Hall

Members Present: Heather Fisher, Robert Glenn, Tim Griffin, Sam Hummel, Judy Martell, Chris Mankoff, Phil McHugh, Mike Wolosin

Members Absent: Excused absences: Phillip Barron, Diane Daniel, Alan Dippy, Pete Schubert, Caleb Southern

Staff Present: Alison Carpenter

Guests Present: Dan Clever, DOST

Public Present: N/A

I. Call to Order

Former chair Judy Martell called the meeting to order. New chair, Heather Fisher, was elected during the meeting and presided over the meeting for the remaining time after her election.

Acting Secretary was Alison Carpenter.

II. Approval of Minutes

The October 20, 2005 meeting minutes were adopted without changes.
The November 30, 2005 meeting minutes were adopted without changes.

III. Adjustments to the Agenda: Introductions & Announcements

The “new business” item on election of a Commission chairperson was moved to the front of the agenda. Heather Fisher was nominated for chair, and the commission voted unanimously to elect her. Heather asked that the election of a vice chair be placed on the next agenda.

Bo Glenn asked that the “new business” item on TTA Regional Rail be discussed at the front of the agenda, so guest Dan Clever could leave early if he liked.

IV. Public Comment

N/A

V. Old Business

- DOST Development Review Subcommittee Update – Judy did not have an update at this time. Alison discussed the possibility of eliminating the DOST

subcommittee liaison position, in order to have that person (currently Judy Martell) serve on the Development Review Board (DRB). The recently adopted Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for Durham requires a member of BPAC to serve on the DRB.

Bo Glenn confirmed that the DOST development review subcommittee will not be eliminated now that BPAC and DOST members serve on the DRB, because the subcommittee serves a different function than the DRB. The DOST subcommittee reviews cases earlier in the development process than the DRB, and therefore has more flexibility for requiring bike/ped related concessions in the review process (as in rezoning cases). The DRB, however, reviews site plans submitted after rezonings, at which point the developer can only be required to adhere to City ordinance.

Judy Martell volunteered to serve on the DOST development review subcommittee and the DRB, while she has the time to do so.

- BPAC Website Update – Chris Mankoff announced recent updates to the minutes and agenda on the BPAC website. Chris will be helping Phillip update the site regularly, and asked for new member bios from those who have not submitted them.
- Duke University Update – Mike reported to the Commission on recent progress with the Duke Bike Advocates group. Sam Hummel reported that a new benefit has been awarded to bicycle commuters at Duke by the Transportation Services department. All bike commuters, with registered bikes, will receive 12 free parking permits each year.
- Pedestrian/Bike Plan Update – Alison announced that the Pedestrian Plan inventory and policy review tasks are nearing completion. It was reported that the consultants have compiled all public comments and are working on the project prioritization using a methodology that gives weight to areas within close proximity to schools, transit and higher density land-use. The next public workshop will be held on February 28, 4-8pm, in the Council Chambers on the first floor of Durham City Hall.

Alison announced that the Bicycle Plan is underway and the consultants are currently working on an existing conditions review. The first public workshop will be held on January 31, 4-8pm, in the Council Chambers on the first floor of Durham City Hall.

- Old Durham-Chapel Hill Rd Study Update – Alison presented a brief update that the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Rd study is complete, and currently a subcommittee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is looking at the funding scenario for the project, in order to find an additional \$1 million to build bike/ped improvements along the entire corridor. This project will be incorporated into the statewide 2007-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for construction in 2009. The report and funding scenario should be presented for adoption by the MPO's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) in early Spring 2006.

VI. New Business

- Treasurer's Report – Chris Mankoff reported that he had discussed the BPAC budget with County Clerk, Vonda Sessions. Chris indicated that the Commission has \$1,000 to spend by June 2006. He asked that the Commission work on a plan for yearly expenditures. This item will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.
- Election of Commission Chairperson – item moved to the front of the agenda. Heather Fisher was nominated and elected by unanimous vote as chair. Former chair, Judy Martell, will remain on the commission as a voting member.
- Receive comments from Friends of the Eno – Alison presented a copy of a letter, written by Steve Bevington for the Friends of the Eno group to City Council, urging that the Eno River bridge and greenway, as well as the Warren Creek greenway, be construction priorities for the City. The commission asked that Steve Bevington be invited to the next BPAC meeting to discuss this matter. Alison will follow up on this invitation.
- Education Materials – Alison presented three design proposals by Red Beret Design for the Durham bike education materials, and asked the commission to pick a preferred design option. Alison also presented text for the tri-fold “Bike Safety for Motorists” brochure, as well as the bike law card, and asked for grammatical edits/additions from commission members. The commission voted in support of the black background design with yellow print. Alison will work with artist and bring in drafts of the “Basic Bike Commuting” pamphlet, bike law card, and bumper sticker for commission review.
- American Tobacco Trail – commuting after dark – Alison reported that a meeting was held in late November to discuss recent ticketing on the ATT after dark. Commuter cyclists complained to the City about the warning tickets and \$135 citations being handed out to trail users, many of whom were on their way home from work after 5:00pm. Local cyclists, Lars Trost, wrote to City officials and asked for a meeting with the Dept. of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and others. Lars and Phillip Barron met with DPR, Transportation, and Durham PD officials to discuss the trail closing times. Prior to the meeting, the trail was closed ‘from dusk to dawn’. During the meeting, it was decided that the trail would be closed from 10pm-5am, leaving less ambiguity in the trail hours and more opportunity for commuter cyclists to use the trail for transportation. The Parks and Rec department publicly announced the new trail hours the first week in December.
- Annual Report to City Council – Alison presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission, to be used for a Council presentation of the annual report. Alison was asked to pull together a guest list and brief description of issues that came before the commission in 2004/2005. Alison will compile document and bring to January BPAC meeting for comments.
- Community Bike Parade – Alison announced that a local group has been working to organize a weekend event in late April in downtown Durham, which will include a community bike ride. The ride will likely be a bike parade of sorts, with “art bike” decorating and a “running of the bull” from American Tobacco Campus

to the CCB Plaza (park) downtown. Alison asked if the commission would be interested in participating in this event. The commission opted to do so.

Bo Glenn suggested inviting Woolly Bully to ride a bike in the parade. He also suggested inviting Durham Cycle Center or another bike shop to set up a bike repair clinic at the event. Alison will introduce these ideas to the event task force.

- TTA Regional Rail Project – this item was moved to the front of the agenda. DOST Commission member Dan Clever, attended the BPAC meeting to discuss the TTA light rail project, and incorporation of bike/ped amenities into the project sites. Dan presented a draft letter to the commission, and asked that BPAC consider sending the letter to TTA, as well as Senators Dole and Burr, in support of the rail project. The commission discussed the opportunity to include information in the letter regarding increased train ridership to be gained by incorporating bike/ped amenities in and around the train and stations. The commission also discussed opportunities for including figures and statistics from other cities (e.g. Portland), regarding bike/rail combo use. Dan asked if TTA currently incorporates bike-to-transit numbers in their ridership data that is currently being used to justify the project to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Alison offered to follow up with Durham transportation modelers regarding bike/ped data in the regional transportation model. Heather Fisher offered to draft a letter from BPAC, using Dan's letter as a basis, and bring it to the January BPAC meeting for review.

As an aside, Bo Glenn suggested a Washington, DC bike rally in support of the TTA rail project. He suggested members of the CAMPO bike/ped stakeholder group, DOST, BPAC and others could organize and attend the event to urge Congress and the FTA to jumpstart the project.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.

ACTION ITEMS

- Prepare annual report for Council
- Invite Steve Bevington to the January 2006 BPAC meeting
- Draft letter re TTA Regional Rail project