



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Bicycle Advisory Council Meeting Agenda**  
**November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street City Hall, Staff Bull Pen, Room 1029**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Tom Thayer – BAC Chair  
Stanton Truxillo – Alt. BAC  
Tommy Eden, BAC  
Kathryn Flowers, Alt. BAC  
Sam Day-Woodruff, Alt. BAC  
Tom Wald, Alt. BAC  
Thomas Butler, Alt. BAC  
Pete Wall, Alt. BAC

Miller Nuttle, BAC  
David Orr, BAC  
Hilary Andersen, BAC  
Patricia Schaub, Alt. BAC  
Tara Mather, Alt. BAC  
Sophia Benner, BAC Vice Chair  
Tomasita Louviere-Ligons, BAC

**GUESTS:**

John Woodley  
Eric Jordan  
Mike Sledge

Scott Cater  
Sounthaly Outhavong  
Chris LeBlanc

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Laura Dierenfield, ATD  
John Eastman, Sidewalk Program  
Nathan Wilkes, ATD

Marissa Monroy, ATD  
Nadia Barrera, Urban Trails, PWD

**1. Introductions – 6:00 to 6:05**

**2. Citizen Communication – 6:05 to 6:15**

- Michael Fossum, Resident: Provided overview of the Animal Advisory Commission recommendations to the current coyote policy. Suggests the BAC vote against the AAC recommendations.
- Eric Jordan, Mellow Johnny's Bike Shop: Concerned about the maintenance of the bike lanes. Has spoken with Austin Resource

Recovery's Richard McHale. Suggested the BAC rally for better maintenance of the bike lanes.

### **3. Review and Approval of August Minutes – 6:15 to 6:20**

Hilary Andersen requested a correction to the spelling of her name.

Ms. Laura Dierenfield related to the BAC that because Rebecca Brenneman went from being an alternate BAC member to a full member, there is an additional slot open to fill her previous role as an alternate member. Ms. Dierenfield suggested we conduct a follow on election of the existing applicants. The BAC members agreed. The applicants will be contacted about this opportunity.

Following those comments, David Orr moved to approve the minutes. Stanton Truxillo seconded. The minutes were approved with Tommy Eden abstaining.

### **4. Items from Staff – 6:20 to 7:00**

- Presentation: Sidewalk Master Plan Update, John Eastman, Sidewalk Program

Mr. Eastman provided an overview of the sidewalk plan update. The current plan was adopted in early 2009. This update will incorporate the latest best practices, incorporate Imagine Austin policies and Complete Streets resolution, and develop condition assessment rating and prioritization system.

#### EXISTING SIDEWALKS

There are 2,360 miles of existing sidewalks. To replace a sidewalk, it would cost approximately \$18/sf. The service life of a sidewalk is 75 years.

Staff with the Sidewalk Program completed a pilot conditional assessment rating sidewalks from A-F. Of the sidewalks Austin needs, 80 percent of them are functionally deficient. 90 percent of sidewalks are noncompliant. Half the problems with sidewalks are related to vegetation. If the City trims and works with the community, we could greatly improve the sidewalk network.

If we tried to get all sidewalks to be functionally acceptable, it would cost about \$530 million. The City of Austin is spending about \$250,000 a year on sidewalk maintenance.

City staff believes with an estimated annual budget of \$15 million, within 10 years, the entire sidewalk network would be about 55 percent functionally acceptable.

Potential funding sources include: Transportation User Fee (TUF), bonds, commercial/multifamily driveway assessment,

residential driveway assessment, new parking meter revenue, and enforcement fees.

### NEW SIDEWALKS

There are about 246 miles of “very high” priority sidewalks that don’t exist. Ms. Dierenfield expanded on alternative and complementary strategies to address missing or inadequate sidewalks to include crossing and shared space. The Pedestrian Safety Action Plan will serve to compliment the Sidewalk Master Plan update by expanding on engineering, education, encouragement and enforcement strategies to make walking safe, fun and delightful. As far as alternative strategies, the City is interested in piloting shared space in the Sidewalk Master Plan. This pilot would be pursued using six key principals: 1) Establishing gateways; 2) Designing for slow speeds; 3) Considering the context; 4) Involving stakeholders; 5) Work with existing guidance; and 6) Evaluate effectiveness.

The shared space pilot project will identify Austin neighborhoods with the following characteristics: Primarily residential, low speed and volume of cars, no sidewalks and on-street parking.

Patricia Schaub asked what the cost would be to install a shared space versus a sidewalk. City staff said that number is still undetermined.

Tom Wald asked about corridors that aren’t in City of Austin’s jurisdictions. Mr. Eastman said that TxDOT has been a good partner and asked that absent TxDOT’s sidewalks be included in this plan. City of Austin has built sidewalks on TxDOT jurisdiction.

Hilary Andersen asked if a bond could help fund these projects. Mr. Eastman said that was a possibility, but that would ultimately be up to City Council.

Mr. Eastman said this a new sidewalk goal could be to complete priority sidewalks within ¼ mile of all identified schools, bus stops, and parks within 10 years. That would require an estimated annual budget of \$25 million and would build out about 40 miles annually for 400 total miles, after 10 years.

Mr. Eastman pointed to Minneapolis as a peer city that is doing a great job of tackling sidewalk problems. Minneapolis requires adjacent landowners to build out sidewalks, and they aggressively enforce it.

Tommy Eden inquired about narrowing roads to put in sidewalks and said he would like to see that option included as a possibility.

- Discussion and Nomination: Nomination of a Mobility 35 Aesthetics Working Group (Rundberg Land to Woodland Avenue), Representative from the Bicycle Advisory Council Meetings would be held four times throughout 2016.

Sophia Benner made a motion that Hilary Andersen serve as the primary representative, and that Sophia Benner serve as an alternate. Tom Thayer seconded the motion. BAC approved.

## **5. Items from BAC – 7:00 to 7:50**

- Discussion and Possible Action: 183 North Mobility Project

Tom Wald stated that he thought it would be important for the BAC to weigh in on this project. Mr. Wald explained that CTRMA is interested in building a variable toll road along 183 and is currently conducting an environmental review. Along with this project, CTRMA is interested in building bike/ped facilities. From MoPac to just past SH45, there is negligible bike access and many places where there is no sidewalk.

David Orr made a motion to approve the following resolution:

“The BAC supports the inclusion of a shared use path along the length of both sides of the 183 North Mobility Project tied in to the Shoal Creek Connector on the southern end and 183A on the northern end, including comprehensive design for improvement of crossings.”

The motion was seconded by Hilary Andersen.

The motion was approved on consensus.

- Subcommittee on e-bikes report (Chris LeBlanc, Chair)

Chris LeBlanc, Nadia Barrera, and Laura Dierenfield met with the park official on the issue of e-bikes in parks. The current regulation is that e-bike is not allowed on parkland, but it allowed on right of way land. Park staff is adamant about this stance, and did not seem willing to budge.

After the meeting, it was concluded that the next steps include:

1. PARD will initiate their Culture Change Campaign to raise awareness of proper trail etiquette. This is currently underway in the early stages.

2. Bike Austin to take lead on Austin-focused research on e-bike utilization on park trails.
3. Clarify to bike community that e-bikes are allowed on right of way, such as the Pfluger Bridge and Crenshaw Bridge.
4. Active Transportation and Urban Trails programs staff will identify key segments of trails that serve the overall transportation network and bring those to PARD to consider allowing e-bikes under a pilot program that focuses on responsible use.
5. Recognize that e-bikes are a growing segment of City life and this is an issue we need to work on together and study the potential user groups who can really benefit from this work.

#### **6. Announcements/Adjourn – 7:50-8:00**

- TNC Panel Discussion on Dec. 2, 015 at 6 p.m. at the Palm Door.