



CITY OF COLUMBIA
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
March 14, 2022
4:30 PM

Richland Library Main
Auditorium
Columbia, SC 29201

PAMELA BYNOE-REED • ZACH CAVANAUGH • DEREK DAVIS • CHRISTINA GALARDI
ANNA GILBERT • DOUGLAS GIOVANETTI • GEORGE KOKOLIS • CARMEN LATIMER • JENNIFER LEAPHART
BETSY NEWMAN • CYNTHIA WATSON • MARY SCOTT-CHANCEY WILLIAMS

In attendance: Zach Cavanaugh, Derek Davis, Douglas Giovanetti, Anna Gilbert, George Kokolis, Carmen Latimer, Betsy Newman, Cynthia Watson

Absent: Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Christina Galardi, Jennifer Leaphart, Mary Scott-Chancey Williams

Staff: Leigh DeForth, Shane Shaughnessy Lucinda Statler

Eshana Young-Pierre, Blue Bike SC, was also in attendance.

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chair Cavanaugh

Mr. Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.

II. REGULAR AGENDA

- a. Meeting Minutes
- Approval of [February minutes](#)

Mr. Cavanaugh moved to approve the minutes as submitted, and Mr. Kokolis seconded the motion.

- b. Bike Ped Counts
- Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/2022SpringCounts>
 - Analysis & reporting
 - New locations this year!

Ms. Newman entered the meeting at 4:36pm.

Shane provided a summary of the prior pedestrian and bicycle count locations and data, identifying trends on both weekday and weekend counts. He reviewed the mode share split between pedestrians and bicyclists by location, and reviewed a sample report sheet for a specific count location, and indicated the report would be emailed to BPAC members once available.

He encouraged BPAC members to participate, starting Saturday, March 26th through April 9th. He reviewed next steps for the counting process, noting that some locations would fall off in favor of other locations due to demographic shifts, development, and updated traffic incident data (crashes that included bicyclists and pedestrians).

BPAC members asked some questions regarding the reporting and counting processes. Some of the locations on Rosewood and Garners Ferry were discussed, as well as counting procedures other changes that have occurred since counts began in 2014.

c. Committee reports

- Open Streets

- ✓ ECCO is working with CPD to finalize the Open Streets route and event permit. The date has been changed to May 1 to accommodate a conflicting event. The planning team involving neighborhood leadership has identified good organizations to lead activities and is looking for sponsorship opportunities. We may need assistance from BPAC members to recruit sponsors and/or activities.
- ✓ Find more info in the [Open Streets Handbook](#)

Ms. DeForth provided an additional update from Ms. Galardi, as both she and Ms. Williams were unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Galardi had noted that CPD had requested that SCDOT provide additional supplies (barricades) for the initially submitted route, and that a follow up conference call between ECCO, CPD, Public Works, and Ms. Galardi and Ms. Williams had occurred last week. Based upon the conversation, ECCO had submitted a revised route to avoid closure of Main Street, running parallel to Main Street, and Ms. Galardi hoped that the permit would be approved in the coming week.

- Ambassador program

- ✓ Walk Bike Ambassador applications were released at the beginning of the month. Applications are due March 21. Sessions will be held for 3 Mondays and 3 Sunday afternoons in April and May. We need all BPAC members to support promoting the program to their networks!
- ✓ Applications available until March 21 here:
<https://planninganddevelopment.columbiasc.gov/bike-pedestrian-advisory-committee/#Initiatives>

Ms. Latimer noted that the subcommittee had received five applications to date would be putting together a marketing push. She noted that they would be meeting on the 22nd to review applications. Mr. Cavanaugh noted that he had emailed the Mayor and City Council members a blurb about the Ambassador program. Ms. Latimer indicated that applications were available until the 21st, and encouraged committee members to continue to share that information with their networks. Ms. Watson noted that John Black was also helpful as he regularly promotes events to the Council of Neighborhoods, and she offered to provide that contact information to Mr. Cavanaugh.

- Bike/ped tours/partnerships

There was some discussion regarding the ride with Blue Bike that had been held recently, and how an attendee had indicated they would like to see the time of the BPAC meeting change to later in the evening. Committee members discussed the meeting times, and Ms. Statler noted that Council and land use boards and commissions were all currently meeting at 4pm.

Ms. DeForth touched on changes to consolidate the City's social media platforms, and how that shift would increase the lead time required for press releases and social media marketing requests to the City's Public Relations, Media and Marketing Department (PR). She noted that staff understood from PR that marketing requests should ideally be submitted with a 30-day lead time, but that two weeks was the minimal submittal requirement. Ms. Young-Pierre noted that she would also happily work with BPAC members to help amplify any messaging via her social media platforms for Blue Bike SC.

- Marketing

Further discussion regarding marketing occurred, and it was suggested that BPAC also work to build a relationship with Sustainable Midlands for marketing purposes as well.

d. May is Bike Month

- Sustainable Midlands/ Cola Town Bike Collective tour?

Ms. Statler noted that Becca Smith of Sustainable Midlands had met with Cola Town Bike Collective and they were excited about co-hosting a group ride during Bike Month, but they had not identified a date yet.

There was some discussion of promoting the Vista Greenway as the monthly bike/ped tour during Bike Month, as it connected the Cola Town Bike Collective facility with downtown.

- Bike to Work Day activities?

Ms. DeForth noted that in past years, Blue Bike had helped to host/organize rides from locations throughout the City to culminate at the State House the morning of Bike to Work Day, which is part of the national celebration of Bike Month. Riders had, in past years, posed for a photograph, then ridden down Main Street as a group, ending at either City Hall or the Colliers Building north of City Hall. These rides hadn't occurred in 2020 or 2021 due to pandemic response measures, but Ms. DeForth had reached out to bike shops to see if they would be interesting in facilitating group rides, and asked if there were any BPAC members who might wish to do the same. Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 20th.

Ms. Young-Pierre noted that Blue Bike would be hosting rides with Lets Meatless at least once a week between April 18 and May 15 in support of local restaurants. Ms. Watson suggested this could be a great tie in for the April ExploreFreely ride. Ms. Young-Pierre noted that once ride dates were finalized, May rides could be added to the Bike Month Calendar.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of hosting more family-friendly Mayor's Bike Ride, and Mr. Cavanaugh indicated he could reach out to the Mayor to see if he might be willing to attend one of the Blue Bike rides in May, if he would be willing to host a Mayor's Bike Ride (one that might be more family-friendly in scope), and/or if he would attend a Bike to Work Day ride.

e. City Planning Update – staff

Ms. Statler noted that per BPAC's request to speak with Council and understand Council's goals for the Committee prior to conducting strategic planning of their own, it sounded like the best course was to schedule a time to meet with the Environment and Infrastructure Committee. Committee members were Dr. Bussels (Chair), Mr. McDowell, and Mr. Duvall, and the Committee meets at Council's or a Committee member's request, not at regularly scheduled intervals. Mr. Cavanaugh indicated he would be happy to reach out to Council members that served on the Committee to determine a future meeting date were BPAC could attend.

Ms. Statler also noted that the Central Midlands Council of Governments (CMCOG) was working on the bike share expansion study contract, and that the Calhoun Street project was very close to bidding. She also highlighted the Vista Greenway extension discussed at the last meeting, noting that it would have to cross N. Main Street at some point. BPAC members had some questions regarding the Gills Creek Greenway and S. Main Capital District plan, the latter of which Ms. Statler indicated had broad support but was simultaneously looking for additional funding and at value engineering alternatives due to the bid value. She noted that the high cost was mainly due to the fact that the project required a lot of utility undergrounding and rebuilding of existing utilities, which needed to be completed as part of the larger project.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Young-Pierre noted that Bewegen had just released a mapping tool to map where riders are going.

V. ADJOURN

There being no further business or comment, Mr. Kokolis made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Statler noted that this was Mr. Kokolis' last meeting, and she, as well as Committee members, thanked him for his service and wished him well. Ms. Gilbert seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm.