



CITY OF COLUMBIA
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
December 12, 2022
4:30 PM

Richland Library Main Branch
Columbia, SC 29201

PAMELA BYNOE-REED • ZACH CAVANAUGH • DEREK DAVIS • DOUGLAS GIOVANETTI
CARMEN LATIMER • JENNIFER LEAPHART • CYNTHIA WATSON • MARY SCOTT-CHANCEY WILLIAMS

In attendance: Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Derek Davis, Douglas Giovanetti, Jennifer Leaphart, Mary Scott-Chancey Williams

Absent: Zach Cavanaugh, Carmen Latimer, Cynthia Watson,

Staff: Leigh DeForth, Shane Shaughnessy

Blake Gibbons, The COMET and Jonathan Howell were also in attendance

I. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Leaphart

The Chair and Vice Chair not being present, Ms. Leaphart called the meeting to order at 4:38pm with five members present to establish quorum.

II. REGULAR AGENDA

Ms. Jennifer asked for a motion to move Item d. Elections to the beginning of the agenda and the acceptance of the nominations. Ms. Bynoe-Reed made the motion to move the Item and accept the nominations submitted; Ms. Scott-Chancey Williams seconded the motion.

d. Elections

Ms. DeForth passed out paper ballots to the five present BPAC members. The results of this vote were two votes for Mr. Davis for Chair, two votes for Mr. Giovanetti for Chair, and one ballot with no votes. Ms. Leaphart was elected Vice Chair. Ms. DeForth passed out another round of ballots. This second vote resulted in the election of Mr. Giovanetti as Chair.

a. Meeting Minutes

- Approval of November minutes

Ms. Leaphart made a motion to approve the November minutes. Ms. Bynoe-Reed seconded the motion.

- b. Strategic Planning (continued)
- Mayor's request for priorities

Ms. DeForth began the strategic planning session by writing on a white board the priorities discussed in the November meeting: Heat Island Mapping, Dedicated Sidewalk Fund, Equity in Implementation, and Pedestrian Safety Fund.

Ms. Scott-Chancey Williams stated that the Coalition of Downtown Neighborhoods requested that the BPAC consider advocating for the adjustment of light signal timing in the downtown core to make the timing more consistent, reduce stop-and-go traffic, and increase pedestrian crossing times. She stated that a part of this request was due to the increase in projects around the N. Main corridor including a proposed new school, new businesses, and new multifamily buildings. Mr. Giovanetti said there were currently leading pedestrian intervals on Assembly and Gervais and that there is an effort to secure funding for retiming lights in conjunction with the upcoming Blossom Street Bridge project.

Ms. Scott-Chancey Williams asked about the possibility of N. Main being narrowed that the Mayor had mentioned at October's meeting. She said that it would be a prime opportunity to put bicycle infrastructure on that corridor and lead into the heart of downtown. Mr. Giovanetti said that the possibility of narrowing N. Main had originally come up in conjunction with a traffic study conducted for the redevelopment of the Jim Moore Cadillac site. When N. Main was previously reconfigured, the outer lanes were made to be around 14' in order to create a "shared" lane for bicyclists and vehicles to share. Ms. DeForth suggested that an alternative to narrowing N. Main (which had recently been substantially completed) could be to advocate for dedicated City funding of the Vista Greenway, which was currently being built using state funding.

Ms. Scott-Chancey Williams asked who was in control of the timing of lights. Ms. DeForth said that traffic light timing was done through a collaborative effort between the City and SCDOT. Mr. Giovanetti said the City is primarily responsible for maintaining the signals, though it receives funding from SCDOT. Ms. Scott-Chancey Williams asked if a study would be necessary to change the timing of the lights and said she believes a group of downtown neighborhoods had already commissioned such a study.

The discussion moved to the recommendation of Heat Island Mapping. Ms. DeForth stated that the report that had been a collaborative effort between the Tree and Appearance Committee, Public Works, and USC has been released and contained some recommendations. She said the report was released in mid-November and that there would likely be public meetings and follow-up listening sessions in the new year. Ms. Scott-Chancey Williams asked how the recommendations of the report would be incorporated and used by the City. Ms. DeForth stated that the report could be used by citizens to advocate for policy changes with their representatives and that various City departments would be reviewing the report to see how they can incorporate its recommendations into their goals. She said that other communities such as Seattle had used similar reports to help target their urban forestry efforts more equitably.

Ms. Bynoe-Reed stated that she would like for the BPAC to advocate for the City to support the Soda Cap Connector and its upcoming update through marketing. She said The COMET is working on promoting this update through a variety of means including giving out free rides and social media and suggested that the BPAC Facebook page could help in this effort. Ms. Scott-Chancey Williams agreed and said that it should be including in the three goals the Committee brings to Council.

Mr. Gibbons asked if the City had a list of sidewalk quality. Ms. DeForth said the Public Works has a recent quality study and maintains a list of sidewalk additions and repairs requested, however this list is not funded. She noted that most potential grants that could be used to fund sidewalk projects would

require local matching funds, and noted that this was what led to the discussion of a sidewalk/pedestrian safety fund at the prior BPAC meeting.

Ms. Scott-Chancey Williams suggested that the Committee separate the topics into short term priorities which could be accomplished within the year and longer term priorities that they could build to. She suggested the three priorities the Mayor asked for could be support for the Soda Cap Connector, the adjustment of signal timing, and funding a pedestrian safety fund that would include funding for sidewalks. She suggested that they could use these priorities to build toward longer-term goals of heat island mapping, prioritizing equity in implementation, greenway and bike lane construction, and connecting to the river. The other committee members agreed with this suggestion. Ms. DeForth asked how they would like to present this information to Council, and the consensus was to create a presentation and try to get onto a Council agenda, preferably in February. Ms. Bynoe-Reed said she and Mr. Gibbons could work on the Soda Cap Connector portion of the presentation. Mr. Giovanetti said he would look into when the last time signal timing was adjusted. Ms. Scott-Chancey Williams said she would talk to the Coalition of Downtown Neighborhoods about the specifics of the timing change. It was suggested that they have a draft of the presentation by the January BPAC meeting and work to get onto a Council meeting afterwards.

c. City Planning Update

Ms. DeForth began the Planning Update saying the Greene Street Bridge had recently opened and included bike lanes, bike racks, and wide sidewalks. She highlighted that the City was applying for a CRISI grant tied to railroad consolidation. Additionally, the bid for the South Main streetscape project had been won by AOS. She also provided an update for the River Drive bridge replacement (over the railroad) stating that members of the City had met with SCDOT to provide input on the project. Finally, she said the Heat Mapping initiative report had been completed and has been released.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. DeForth said there was a possibility that there could be new BPAC members added in December if they are appointed by City Council.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. ADJOURN

Mr. Davis made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Scott-Chancey Williams. The meeting ended at 5:38pm.