

MEETING SUMMARY

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

November 15, 2023

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) met in the Transportation Council Room at the North Central Texas Council of Governments at 2:00 pm on November 15, 2023.

See Page 6 for meeting attendance.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Heather Dowell, Vice-Chair, City of Midlothian

Heather Dowell introduced herself as the Vice Chair and stand in for Chair of BPAC, Chad Marbut. Heather informed BPAC members there is a new public comment form item on the committee's agenda. The August 2023 meeting summary was accepted as submitted.

2. Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines Final Rulemaking – Elizabeth Hilton, Federal Highway Administration

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ensures individuals with disabilities have access to a public entity's programs, activities, and services in entirety. Elizabeth explained that the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG), which was published by the U.S. Access Board in 2023, is not enforceable under the ADA until it is adopted by the Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation. Characterizations of PROWAG include accessibility guidelines in the public right-of-way, such as sidewalks, crosswalks, on-street parking, and pedestrian signals. Development of PROWAG started in 1999 and has gone through multiple phases over the years until the final guidelines were completed in 2023. The status of PROWAG is that it's not a federal standard and is not enforceable under the ADA.

Notable changes in public right-of-way accessibility guidelines final rule can be found in these two links below:

<https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/>

<https://www.access-board.gov/news/2023/09/01/notable-changes-in-public-right-of-way-accessibility-guidelines-final-rule/>

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

3. Local Community Updates – Various BPAC Members

a. Coppel’s Bicycle “Share the Road” Signage – Layne Cline, City of Coppel

In 2016, the City of Coppel posted over 70 regulatory signs on different streets and thoroughfares indicating bicyclists may use the full travel lane. Each sign included a placard referencing the state law. In 2017, Coppel City Council adopted a local signage ordinance related to bicycle users. Layne explained the signs were installed to inform motorists to change lanes if they are passing. A reference to the local ordinance, Sec. 8-5-6, is placed underneath all 70 signs. Signage is now posted on seventeen roadways in Coppel. Layne shared bicyclist crash data reported between the years 2016 and 2023 in the city of Coppel. Overall, 0-3 bicyclist crashes have occurred every year since the installation of the signage. Additional data is needed to conclude if signage is impacting bicyclist safety.

To see more details on the details of the ordinance please visit here:

https://library.municode.com/tx/coppel/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=CO_CH8TRRE_ART8-5GETRRE_S8-5-6SIREBIER

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

b. Denton Parkway Road Diet – Karina Maldonado, City of Denton

The Denton Parkway Road Diet project aims to make improvements implementing the City of Denton’s mobility plan. The limits of the project are Parkway St. from Carroll Blvd. to Congress St. The goals of the project were to improve multimodal access, support the City of Denton 10-minute walk initiative, and pilot accessible design in a quick-build (paint and flex post) street design. Previously, the road was a four-lane collector with shared-lane markings on the outside travel lanes. Now, the road is a two-lane road with a center turn lane and a shared-use bicycle and pedestrian facility, referred to by city staff as an “on-street multi-use path.” Karina highlighted the project was not a reconstruction project, but instead a road retrofit. Lessons learned from the project included feedback from the public expressing confusion over the new traffic pattern. A conflict with the design involved bicyclists having difficulty accessing and exiting the shared use facility due to the bollards.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

c. E-Scooter Launch – Jason Aprill, City of Plano

In recent years the City of Plano adopted policies and actions to ensure a safe system for micromobility transportation, such as e-scooters. Jason shared a timeline from 2017 to 2023 that outlined the major events, with the most recent milestone being the City issuing a permit to Lime to deploy a fleet of e-scooters. The City’s micromobility policies include guidelines on the permit process, program rules and regulations, identifies areas where e-scooters are restricted, data collection on ridership, and institutes a system for reporting complaints. Areas of Plano where e-scooters can’t operate include Downtown Plano, Haggard Park, and Legacy Town Center District. One method to file a complaint includes the Fix it Plano web page (Fix It Plano | Plano, TX - Official Website). E-scooters can be ridden on shared-use paths and sidewalks, except for sidewalks in the

downtown area. If e-scooters are ridden into restricted areas, businesses can report it, and the e-scooter rider will be fined \$200. The only data recorded from an e-scooter trip are the start and end destinations, but not the route taken.

More information about the Bike and Scooter Share Program can be found here: <https://plano.gov/555/Bike-Scooter-Share-Program>. This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

d. Upcoming Events – Heather Dowell, BPAC Vice-Chair

Heather highlighted upcoming events and training opportunities throughout 2023 and 2024.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

4. Arlington Roadway Safety Audit – Chris Funches, City of Arlington

In 2023, the City of Arlington was invited by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to conduct a road safety audit (RSA). Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), (FHWA), City of Arlington, and Walkable Arlington performed the RSA over the course of three days and identified needed improvements around Speer Elementary, Kookan Education Center, and on Cooper Street and Center Street. The safety audit team spoke with community leaders, schools, and principals to solicit community feedback. Cooper St. was observed outside of work hours from 6-8pm. Chris noted the safety audit team was interested in the interaction between the freight train and pedestrians along Cooper St. Overall, the study area was identified to have a low comfort experience for bicyclists and pedestrians due to high vehicle speeds. One of the major findings from the RSA was the importance of collaborating with the Arlington school district and crossing guards to have public safety presence during drop-off and pick-up times. Another finding was the presence of outdated infrastructure in various locations requiring a plan for future improvements.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

5. **TxDOT Statewide Active Transportation Plan** – Jeff Whitacre, Kimley-Horn,

TxDOT is developing the first Statewide Active Transportation Plan (ATP) and contracted with the consultant firm Kimley-Horn to assist the agency in the planning process. As part of the development of the Plan, TxDOT and consultant staff have been hosting public meetings throughout the state to solicit input on the direction of the plan. The vision for the Plan is to advance active transportation as a viable fully integrated multimodal transportation system for all Texans. At this stage of the planning process, TxDOT is currently gathering data and input. The final Plan is anticipated to be adopted in the fall of 2024. The consultant team distributed a “priority pyramid” form to attendees and asked them to prioritize emphasis topics the Statewide ATP should focus on such as accessibility, comfort, health, funding sources, design, stewardship, and more.

For more information on TxDOT’s Statewide Active Transportation Plan please visit:

<https://www.txdot.gov/projects/projects-studies/statewide/statewide-active-transportation-plan.html>

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

6. **NCTCOG Updates**

a. **The Economic Impact of Walkable and Bikeable Communities** – Stu Burzette

Stu presented findings from a literature review on the many ways active transportation has an economic impact on communities. Areas benefiting from active transportation include property value, customer spending and sales tax, reduced maintenance costs for infrastructure, job creation, new businesses, rent premiums, car ownership costs, and public health. Completed bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects have proven to improve property value and property tax revenue. For example, the Katy Trail in Dallas resulted in an 80 percent increase in property values within eight years. Housing in walkable urban areas in DFW has a price premium of 103 percent compared to suburban locations. Stu indicated a report is forthcoming and will be available on NCTCOG’s website.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

b. **BPAC Member Survey Results** – Daniel Snyder

Prior to the BPAC meeting, NCTCOG staff distributed a survey to members of BPAC with questions about materials developed for BPAC meetings, presentation topics of interest, meeting format, and engagement. Daniel presented an overview of the survey results. A total of 28 respondents answered the seven-question survey. Based on the results, 32 percent of BPAC members reported “Always” and 50 percent reported “Sometimes” read meeting summaries. Eighteen percent of members “Never” read the meeting summaries. Overall, 46 percent of BPAC members reported “Always” and 39 percent reported “Sometimes” find the contents of meeting summaries to be useful, whereas 14 percent “Never” find meeting summaries useful. An overwhelming majority (93 percent) of BPAC members find it helpful for presentation slides to be posted online after the meeting. As representatives to the Committee, BPAC members are encouraged to share the best practices and lessons learned from meetings with their colleagues. When asked if members share information from meetings with other members of their agency, 29 percent reported they “Always” share the information, 68 percent reported

“Sometime” and four percent reported “Never.” Fifty percent of members reported they “Always” find content presented at BPAC meetings to be informative and engaging, while the other 50 percent reported “Sometimes.” NCTCOG staff solicited feedback on how to improve the management or structure of BPAC meetings. Two themes emerged from the responses were an interest in more opportunities for group discussion and virtual meeting options.

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

c. Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Updates – Kevin Kokes

The Statewide BPAC meets quarterly in Austin and advises TxDOT on bicycle and pedestrian issues. Members of the committee represent various regions across the State and include Karla Windsor, Senior Program Manager with NCTCOG. On behalf of Karla, Kevin shared a summary from the latest meeting. In September 2023 TxDOT published the Texas Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) to address the rising number of pedestrian-related crashes. Local agencies can use the PSAP to help identify and program roadway safety investments. Kevin reviewed a list of cities in the region that were awarded funding through either the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) federal funding opportunity or Statewide Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Call for Projects. Agencies awarded funding are required to submit a modification request to the NCTCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to initiate the project.

Information on the Statewide PSAP Summary Report and District-Specific Summary Reports can be found online at: <https://www.txdot.gov/about/advisory-committees/bicycle-pedestrian-advisory-committee/pedestrian-safety-action-plan.html>

This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

7. Other Business / Open Discussion – Heather Dowell, Vice-Chair, City of Midlothian

The Vice-Chair opened additional discussion among members. Jessica Scott added the City of Dallas’ Bike Plan update includes bicycle boulevards. Jessica noted that to adhere to the recommendations under a bicycle boulevard facility, the speeds must be below 30mph on those specific streets. Jessica added Dallas staff must conduct a study of the roadways to justify lowering speed limits. Jessica expressed interest in hearing how other communities address speed limits lower than 30mph on their streets. Heather Dowell announced the date of BPAC’s next scheduled meeting, to be held on February 21, 2024, and adjourned the meeting.

Members in Attendance at the November 15, 2023, BPAC meeting

Agency	Name
Town of Addison	Joe Pack
City of Arlington	Jana Wentzel
City of Burleson	Tiana Jackson
City of Coppell	Dusty Cline
City of Dallas	Jessica Scott
City of Denton	Karina Maldonado
City of Farmers Branch	Robert Diaz
Town of Flower Mound	Brennon Peltier
City of Fort Worth	A. Ensor for Quenell Johnson
City of Frisco	Robert Caskey
City of Garland	Ziad Kharratt
City of Grand Prairie	Brett Huntsman
City of Grapevine	Paul Lee
City of Hurst	Kyle Gordon
City of Irving	James White
City of Keller	Cody Maberry
City of Lewisville	Sirwan Shahooie
City of Mansfield	David Boski
City of McKinney	Robyn Root
City of Mesquite	Jahor Roy
City of Midlothian	Heather Dowell
City of North Richland Hills	Michael Wilson
City of Plano	Jason Aprill
City of Richardson	M Deasey for Daniel Herrig
City of Waxahachie	Jennifer Pruitt
Dallas County	Minesha Reese
Tarrant County	Susan Young
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)	Patricio Gallo
Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA)	Tim Palermo
Trinity Metro	Shawn Tubre
TxDOT, Dallas District	Rachael Twiggs

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the November 15, 2023, BPAC meeting:

Stu Burzette
Kevin Kokes
Brandi McDow
Daniel Snyder
Erik van Bloemen Waanders
Barbara Walsh