

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

**May 17, 2017**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) met at 2:30 pm on May 17, 2017, at NCTCOG offices.

**Please see Pages 5-6 for meeting attendance.**

#### **Meeting Summary Outline**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Statewide TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee Update
3. City of Coppell ADA Transition Plan
4. Accessing TxDOT's CRIS Query Tool for Bicyclists and Pedestrians
5. Successful Safe Routes to School Planning in Fort Worth
6. Local Community Updates and Accomplishments
7. Recommended Funding for TA Set-Aside Projects
8. Other Business/Open Discussion

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions: Terry Hughes, Chair, City of Weatherford**

The Chair of BPAC, Terry Hughes of the City of Weatherford, welcomed attendees and introduced himself as the 2017 Chair and Julie Anderson from the City of Denton as the Vice-Chair of BPAC. Mr. Hughes also provided general contact and online information for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He mentioned any member of the public is welcome to attend these meetings, which are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday and every 3<sup>rd</sup> month of the year.

The summary of the February 15, 2017 Meeting was accepted as submitted. There was no discussion.

#### **2. Statewide TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee Update – Karla Weaver, NCTCOG**

Karla Weaver, Senior Program Manager with NCTCOG, provided an update on the Statewide TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting held on April 10, 2017 in Austin. The submittal deadline for the TxDOT call for projects for TA Set Aside Program is Monday (5/22). This is for areas of the state with a population of 200,000 or less. Applicants for the state call must have letter from the MPO indicating the project will be included in the TIP if the State awards funding. Such request for letters from applicants must be made to NCTCOG as soon as possible in order to meet the state's submittal deadline. TxDOT is moving ahead within the State Tourism Trail Study. TxDOT has a consultant onboard and they have been evaluating how to identify bicycle tourism and trails that would connect across the state. They are looking to foster Safe trails, especially if these systems are on state facilities and roadways, as well as identify the benefits of tourism and trails, and really engage stakeholders. The key groups [stakeholders] they are currently coordinating with

are the Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Texas Historical Commission, the Texas Economic Tourism Office, Bike Texas, MPOs, and NCTCOG's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to gain feedback and input the process. TxDOT is also working with Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) in the future on an Economic Impact Study of trails and tourism and cycling events throughout the state. Any local communities that have any state parks, any large bike ride events, or tourism destinations that are desirable to highlight should be provided, NCTCOG will be sending out a survey to BPAC members so these items can be included on TxDOT's Statewide map. Karla will also request TxDOT present to the BPAC about the project at the July 2017 meeting. Karla encouraged BPAC Members to contact her know if there is any issue they would like considered by the state advisory committee.

**3. City of Coppell ADA Transition Plan – Jamie Brierton**

Mr. Hughes introduced Jamie Brierton with the Engineering Department of the City of Coppell, who then introduced Kristi Avalos of Accessology. Kristi indicated the federal government is beginning to enforce the preparation of ADA Transition Plans, which have been required since 1993. The federal government is starting to tie these plans with federal funding via education and transportation departments. A wave of lawsuits are already hitting various municipalities throughout the United States who were holding them liable for non-compliance with ADA access to adequate sidewalk facilities. Every municipality falls under Title II of ADA, which requires a Transition Plan to be put in place. It requires everything involved with non-motorized user accessibility (i.e. infrastructure, administrative costs). In addition, the population of those with disabilities have grown to approximately 21% of the general population, and the growing aging baby boomer population is expressing a greater need for accommodating increased accessibility.

Jamie explained how the City of Coppell's Transition Plan provided the rationale for the city to determine where they were not compliant in certain areas. The city discovered a need to designate an ADA Coordinator and public engagement/evaluation. She also explained how it is the city's goal to become compliant with Federal & State ADA Regulations by having an ADA Transition Plan in place. A benefit of the document is it helps alleviate liability thanks to the documented dedication of funds toward issues outlined by the Plan. The project list in the Plan is "proactive vs. reactive" toward accessibility issues.

Karla Weaver indicated NCTCOG's 3-year cycle for FHWA's MPO Federal Certification is up for review this June. It is likely FHWA will want to know how many agencies have a transition plan since in the future federal funding may be withheld from those agencies without plans.

**4. Accessing TxDOT's CRIS Query Tool for Bicyclists and Pedestrians**

Mr. Hughes introduced Kevin Kroll of NCTCOG who reviewed a training session, demonstrating how to use the Crash Records Information System (CRIS) online. This online tool allows for anyone to interpret crash trends and to present their findings in a presentable format. TxDOT does an annual analysis for this data—2016 data is expected to be available within the next month. Kevin also reviewed crash report formats. Here is a link to his [crash query tool](#).

**5. Successful Safe Routes to School Planning in Fort Worth**

Mr. Hughes introduced Brian Jahn of the City of Fort Worth. Brian provided an overview of Fort Worth's Safe Routes to School program and described how the city's Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Commission played a key role in securing support and funding for the program. Brian also discussed how the city combined their Sidewalk program with their

School Safety program by creating the new Safe Routes to School program which allowed for new infrastructure to be constructed on campus and within the surrounding neighborhood. They call this the “Complete Schools Approach”. The city is using a holistic approach to planning for improvements. In addition to sidewalks improvements, they used crash data to address safety issues through infrastructure countermeasures, such as raised crosswalks, ADA ramps, crosswalk facilities, crossing guards and driver feedback signs.

## 6. **Local Community Updates and Accomplishments**

### a. **The Grapevine Connection, Kathy Nelson, City of Grapevine**

It all about connections, both literally and figuratively. The Grapevine Connection includes the retrofit of a one-mile section of Dallas Rd. and the extension of the Cotton Belt Trail located near the Future Grapevine TEXRail Station and TOD Development in Grapevine. This particular section is critical in the overall success of the trail because of the connectivity it provides between the retail nodes to the south and residential nodes to the north. It also provides enhanced connectivity to the Texas Trail Connection and enhances non-motorized user connectivity to the future TEXRail.

### b. **Context Sensitive Corridor Studies, Trey Ingram, NCTCOG**

Trey Ingram provided an overview of two corridor studies of SH 183 (one complete and one underway). The underway SH 183 Corridor project is from I-30 to the Trinity River. He provided an overview of the results received from public input and other challenges with these projects. Each project was separated into Context Zones, which were based on the land use context of the area and available right-of-way. He also highlighted the public’s desire to provide trail access from SH 183 to the Trinity Trail system, so they provided the public with several options.

### c. **Bike Radar at Intersections, Julie Anderson, City of Denton, Vice Chair**

Julie provided an overview of the Bike Radar devices installed by the City of Denton on several traffic signals at intersections, then demonstrated to the audience how these devices can detect cyclists on the road when they approach the intersection. This technology is beneficial because it rules out the need for bicycle sensors in the pavement which can get damaged and cyclists tend to miss the sensor with their tire, where as the Bike Radar covers the entire lane.

### d. **Upcoming Events and Training, Julie Anderson, City of Denton, Vice-Chair**

Julie Anderson reviewed upcoming events and training opportunities for active transportation professionals. The presentation is available on the BPAC website [here](#).

## 7. **Recommended Funding for TA Set-Aside Projects**

Kevin Kokes provided an update on the call for projects by NCTCOG for the 12 County North Central Texas region. He highlighted the evaluation criteria adopted by the Regional Transportation Council, which is based on the priorities and goals expressed in Mobility 2040 including implementing the Regional Veloweb, connections to transit, safety, congestion reduction, and others. Project readiness was important to show the project is ready to advance and obligate funding quickly. He also provided an overview of the Funding Recommendations which will be reviewed by the STTC on May 26, 2017. The Regional Transportation Council is scheduled to award funding on June 8, 2017. Kevin indicated that NCTCOG staff will meet with representatives with any agency who have questions about the project scoring or how to enhance their applications for future call for projects.

8. **Other Business/Open Discussion**

Terry opened the floor to Committee members for open discussion. No additional comments were made by meeting attendees.

The next BPAC meeting is scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 2:30 PM in the same room.

**Members in Attendance at the May 17, 2017 BPAC meeting:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>5/17/2017</b>
City of Arlington	Andy Richardson	√
City of Bedford	William Lankford	√
City of Burleson	Laura Melton	√
City of Carrollton	Andrew Combs	√
City of Cedar Hill	Carolyn Skeels	√
City of Colleyville	Heather Dowell	√
City of Dallas	Jared White	√
City of Denton	Julie Anderson	√
City of Farmers Branch	Mitzi Davis	√
City of Fort Worth	Clarence Bryant	√
City of Frisco	Robert Caskey	√
City of Garland	Ann McGinnes	√
City of Grand Prairie	Daon Stephens	√
City of Grapevine	Kathy Nelson	√
City of Irving	Nathan Benditz	√
City of Keller	Jennifer Basham	
City of McKinney	Robyn Root	√
City of North Richland Hills	Joe Pack	√
City of Plano	Christina Sebastian	√
City of Richardson	Jessica Shutt	√
City of Rowlett	Tony Felts	√
City of The Colony	Eve Morgan	√
City of Weatherford	Terry Hughes	√
City of Wylie	Robert Diaz	√
Town of Flower Mound	Kari Biddix	√
Dallas County	Micah Baker	√
Hunt County	Kevin St. Jacques	√
Ellis County	Joseph Jackson	√
Tarrant County	Joe Trammel	√
Denton County Transportation Authority	Jonah Katz	√
Fort Worth Transportation Authority	Curvie Hawkins	√
North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA)	Lori Shelton	√
TxDOT, Fort Worth District	Phillip Hays	√
TxDOT Dallas District	Nazrul Chowdhury	√
Wise County	Chad Davis	√

√ = representative was present

**Non-members and Guests in Attendance at the May 17, 2017 BPAC meeting:**

Shield Engineering	Jean Alexander
Accessology	Kristi Avalos
City of Arlington	Bob Watson
City of Coppell	Jamie Brierton
City of Corinth	Barbara Cabbage
City of Dallas	Jason Ney
City of Fort Worth	Brian Jahn
City of Fort Worth	Chandrakanth Muruganandham
City of Fort Worth	Mirian Spencer
City of Fort Worth	Jeremy Williams
City of Fort Worth	Packyen Wilson
City of Garland	Rebecca Beckham
City of Grand Prairie	Walter Shumac
City of North Richland Hills	Michael Wilson
City of Southlake	Jerod Potts
City of Weatherford	Robert Marbut
City of Westworth Village	Dan Novak
City of Wylie	Brent Stowers
Dallas County	Neal Blevins
Fort Worth Bicycling Assoc.	David Wagner
Half Associates	Bud Melton
Paddling club	Dale Harris
Shield Engineering	Emily Gilbert
Town of Prosper	Paul Naughton
Town of Prosper	Brennon Peltier

**NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the May 17, 2017 BPAC meeting:**

Nick Hernandez
Trey Ingram
Kevin Kokes
Kevin Kroll
Gabriel Ortiz
Daniel Snyder
Karla Weaver