

MEETING SUMMARY

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

August 19, 2020

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) met virtually at 2:00pm on August 19, 2020, via Microsoft Teams.

Please see Pages 5 and 6 for meeting attendance.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Jessica Shutt, Chair, City of Richardson

Jessica Shutt welcomed attendees and introduced herself as the 2020 Chair of BPAC. The May 2019 meeting summary was accepted as submitted with no further discussion.

2. Local Community Updates

a. Maintenance Vehicles for Bicycle Facilities and Accommodations – Jessica Scott, City of Dallas

Jessica Scott provided an overview on the City of Dallas' new bike lane street sweeper. The new sweeping machine was purchased for \$70,000 and is narrower for maintaining bike lanes and facilities. The total cleaning path of the equipment's two circular brushes is approximately 5-feet (width). The Dallas Central Business District and nearby major bridges with bike lanes (e.g. Sylvan Ave., Jefferson St. Viaduct, and Cadiz St, Harwood St., and Bishop Ave.) are swept twice per month and other locations are serviced as requested through the City's 311 system. Reported issues are responded to within 24-48 hours in the order they are received. The City plans to purchase a second sweeper to keep up with the maintenance demand. Specific questions about the sweeper should be directed to Tina Richardson, Asst. Director, Dallas Public Works Dept. at Tina.Richardson@dallascityhall.com.

b. City of Southlake Sidewalk Network – Stephanie Taylor, City of Southlake

Stephanie presented an overview of the Pathways program for installing sidewalks in the city. Pathways is about mobility and infrastructure, using metrics that are highlighted in the presentation. Southlake's previous approach led to an unconnected system. A citizen satisfaction survey revealed that the City was not doing a sufficient job and needed more consistent engagement regarding sidewalk projects. The established approach was analyzed, improved upon, and introduced to the City Council as more strategic and collaborative process. The updated process utilizes a more efficient algorithm/weighted system to come up with a constructability score in determining which segments to develop. Also, neighborhood sidewalk matching funds have been incorporated so that fifty percent of the design and construction cost are funded through the city.

c. Round the Town with Oscar Bike Rides – Adrien Pekurney, North Richland Hills

Adrien provided an overview of a community bike ride through North Richland Hills involving Mayor Trevino, which could not take place this year due to COVID-19 social

distancing issues. City staff found a creative solution to proceed with the “Round the Town” bike ride in a safe way, using selfies at mile markers that were then posted to the riders’ social media accounts. Organizers provided five featured routes wherein residents can start at home or at designated parks. To document participation, city staff incorporated “selfie picture points” and suggested riders submit them to the city’s online site to receive prizes. A step by step process was established to pick a route, grab helmet and water, take a selfie, complete the route, submit photos, and then enter contest. Mayor Trevino participated and posted selfies along the route.

d. **Upcoming Events – Kathy Nelson, BPAC Vice-Chair, City of Grapevine**

Kathy Nelson reviewed upcoming events and training opportunities for active transportation professionals as follows:

- Love to Ride USA – Competition that highlights the benefits of cycling; Relationship between bicycle facilities and increasing bicycle trips
- Webinar – \$95, APBP 2021 Conference in Minneapolis, MN

3. **Southeast Connector Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations – Phil Hays, TxDOT and Naser Abusaad, Civil Assoc., Inc**

Phil Hays provided introductions and Naser provided an overview of new pedestrian and bicycle accommodations that will be integrated as part of TxDOT’s Southeast Connector project for IH 30, IH 20, IH 820 and US 287, all located within Tarrant County. This project spans several cities: Fort Worth, Forest Hill, Kennedale, and Arlington. The highways are planned for reconstruction and will include new sidewalks and bike lanes and/or shared use paths along various frontage roads and major roadway crossings. Ten-foot wide shared usage paths will be used along some of the bridge and highway crossings, providing an increased level of comfort for active users. Project design began in 2017 and is now nearing final construction design after receiving significant input from local city staff and stakeholders. Construction is expected to start in Winter of 2021 and completion is slated for Winter 2026.

4. **2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Annual Traffic Count Report – Daniel Snyder, NCTCOG**

Daniel provided a brief overview of the annual report of bicycle and pedestrian counts collected along trail trails across the region including those located in Denton, Allen, Fort Worth, North Richland Hills, Dallas, Irving, and Plano. The permanently installed trail counters have a combination of infrared sensors to count pedestrians and inductive loops for detection of bicyclists. Across the region the aggregated trail mode split is 65 percent pedestrians and 35 percent bicyclists, however the mode split varies from location to location. Consistent with previous years, in 2019 the various sections of the Katy Trail in Dallas have the highest volumes of both pedestrians and bicyclists of any trail in the region. Daniel also highlighted NCTCOG’s off-and-on-street mobile counters that are available to loan to local communities in order to conduct short term counts on trails and on-street bikeways.

5. **Celina Trails Master Plan – Kimberly Brawner and Cody Webb, City of Celina**

Kimberly and Cody presented on the Celina Trails Master Plan. The city of Celina is 78-square miles including the city’s extraterritorial jurisdiction with a population expected to reach 50,000 by 2025. Celina used a community survey to help prepare a strategic plan of

trails and on-street bikeways across the city. Based on the community's feedback, adaptive plans were developed that emphasize biking and include enhanced landscaping. The city's Downtown Connectivity Plan highlights connectivity through side paths, bike trails and pedestrian paths, using adaptive roadway typologies to best support the system for active users. This approach was utilized to best replicate pedestrian-friendly downtown areas such as Sundance Square in Fort Worth.

The city's Master Plan identified user groups to determine best path or roadway typology to develop, based on the surrounding context. Typologies included shared use paths, side paths, bicycle paths and bicycle lanes. Beyond the adoption of the detailed plan and design guidelines, local subdivision regulations and roadway technical specifications were all revised to ensure consistency between all development and infrastructure standards.

6. Dallas Slow Streets Pilot Program – Ali Hatefi, City of Dallas

Ali gave an overview of the City of Dallas Slow Streets pilot initiative which was developed in partnership with the Better Block Foundation, Coalition for a New Dallas, BikeDFW, and Amanda Popken Development. The pilot initiative is based on programs in Kansas City, Missouri and Austin to support active residents during the COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions. Criteria for the selected routes include low-traffic streets, neighborhood streets, no traffic signals along the street, the applicant/advocate agrees to be block captain, approval from at least 25% of neighbors, segment limited to one block, must be open to local traffic, deliveries and emergencies, and having no other city or utility work along the block during the street's pilot period. The pilot program has concluded; however, city staff is discussing with City Council the possibility of continuing the program in the future.

7. NCTCOG Updates – NCTCOG Staff

a. Update to Environmental Justice Index – Kate Zielke

Kate presented on the newly updated online Environmental Justice Index (EJI) tool, available through the NCTCOG website. As a critical part of integrating equity in the transportation planning process, EJ was established in part by the Title VI: Civil Rights Act of 1964. The EJI includes downloadable layers for GIS users. The EJI can be found on NCTCOG's Environmental Justice & Title VI page by following the URL: www.nctcog.org/ej

b. 2020 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects: Recommended Funding Awards – Daniel Snyder

Daniel provided an overview of the call for projects which included the review and evaluation of 38 applications which included: Shared-use paths, on-street bikeways, bicycle/pedestrian signalization, etc. Regional network connectivity, transit accessibility, safety, safe routes to school were among the specifics discussed. Daniel also reviewed the list of twelve projects recommended for funding awards. More information is available at www.nctcog.org/tap

c. Trail Count Data in Response to COVID-19 – Daniel Snyder

Daniel provided an update on data collected for various modes of transportation in 2020. Motorized traffic volumes decreased from March to June, noting that the most drastic was in April at a decrease of 25 percent. Transit has experienced a significant decrease in

ridership as well, most notably throughout April and May. In contrast, bicycle and pedestrian traffic counts on trails throughout the region have seen substantial growth in 2020 compared to this time last year.

d. TOD Survey: Bicycles and Pedestrians – Travis Liska

Due to time constraints this presentation was postponed to the November BPAC meeting.

e. 2020 Highlighted Regional Trails Brochure – Matt Fall

Matt Fall reported the 2020 Highlighted Regional Trails brochures are available for pick up at the NCTCOG office. The public can also access a PDF copy of the 2020 brochure online at nctcog.org/veloweb. Cities are encouraged to contact Barb Walsh (bwalsh@nctcog.org) or Matt Fall (mfall@nctcog.org) to request 100-350 copies of the brochures for distribution.

f. Annual Updates to NCTCOG’s Regional Trails and On-Street Bikeways Network Maps – Preston McLaughlin

Preston McLaughlin provided an overview of the annual updates to NCTCOG’s regional database of trails and on-street bikeways. He requested city representatives provide information about any necessary updates to alignments or funding / construction status of the network which is displayed on NCTCOG’s online interactive mapping system. Cities and agencies are encouraged to provide feedback to NCTCOG by September 18th.

8. Other Business/ Open Discussion

Jessica Shutt opened the floor for discussion or comments and no participants had input. Jessica announced the date of BPAC’s next scheduled meeting, to be held on November 18, 2020, at 2 PM.

Members in Attendance at the August 19, 2020 BPAC meeting:

City of Allen	Krishan Patel
City of Arlington	Anthony Cisneros
City of Burleson	Heather Houseman
City of Carrollton	Marcos Fernandez
City of Cedar Hill	Shawn Ray
City of Cleburne	Aaron Dobson
City of Colleyville	Lisa Escobedo
City of Coppell	John Elias
City of Dallas	Daniel Church (For G. Khankarli)
City of Duncanville	Athena Seaton
City of Farmers Branch	Mitzi Davis
City of Fort Worth	Jeremy Williams
City of Frisco	Robert Caskey
City of Garland	Josue de la Vega
City of Grand Prairie	Brett Huntsman
City of Grapevine	Kathy Nelson
City of Greenville	Letora Anderson
City of Irving	Cody Owen
city of Keller	Cody Maberry
City of Lancaster	Emma Chetuya
City of McKinney	Robyn Root
City of Mesquite	Wes McClure
City of Midlothian	Heather Dowell
City of North Richland Hills	Joe Pack
City of Plano	Christina Sebastian
City of Richardson	Jessica Shutt
City of Rowlett	Carlos Monsalve
City of Southlake	Stephanie Taylor
City of The Colony	Eve Morgan
city of Waxahachie	Colby Collins
City of Weatherford	Chad Marbut
City of Wylie	Dennis Sewell (For R. Diaz)
Dallas Area Rapid Transit	Patricio Gallo
Dallas County	Minesha Reese
Denton County Transportation Authority	Tim Palermo
Hunt County	Kevin St. Jacques
Rockwall County	Lee Gilbert
Town of Flower Mound	Kari Biddix
Trinity Metro	Sandip Sen
TxDOT Dallas District	Maher Ghanayem (For Melissa Meyer)
TxDOT Fort Worth District	Phil Hays

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the August 19, 2020 BPAC meeting:

Matt Fall
Kevin Kokes
Robert Kozub
Travis Liska
Preston McLaughlin
Daniel Snyder
Sydnee Steelman
Karla Weaver
Kate Zielke