

MEETING SUMMARY

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

March 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 March 15, 2023.

See Page 5 for meeting attendance.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Chad Marbut, Chair, City of Weatherford

Chad Marbut welcomed attendees and introduced himself as the new Chair of BPAC, and Heather Dowell as the new ViceChair. The November 2022 meeting summary was accepted as submitted. Next, BPAC members introduced themselves and had a choice to answer a question from one of two topics. Members and guests were asked to either share a notable bicycle or pedestrian related project their city had recently completed or that's underway, or they could offer suggestions on topics for future BPAC meetings.

2. Local Community Updates – Various BPAC Members

a. Rowlett Rd Cycle Track – Micah Baker

Micah provided an overview of the process and various considerations involved in designing a cycle track on Rowlett Road in Garland. The posted speed limit on the corridor is 40 and 45 mph. The Rowlett Road cycle track project was awarded Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding through the 2020 NCTCOG Call for Projects. Partners involved in the project include the City of Garland, DART, and TxDOT. DART is involved in the project because the cycle track will connect to the Lake Ray Hubbard Transit Center at the project's southern terminus. Project challenges consist of ROW constraints, utilities, access to bus stops, mailboxes, and driveways. Early in the project, it was determined an off-street sidepath through the entire corridor was not feasible due to limited right-of-way and various overhead utility conflicts. However, retrofitting the roadway travel lanes to include an on-street cycle track was decided as the preferred approach to integrate bicycle facilities in the corridor. A notable aspect of the project under design is the anticipated use of a low-profile concrete barrier between the cycle track and the vehicle travel lanes, which will be a first in the region. The inspiration for this barrier design came from Toronto, Canada. When completing a cost comparison, the option to ship the barrier from Toronto was lower cost than having it manufactured in the U.S. Currently, the design plans are 95% complete, with 100% plans expected to have a quick turnaround. Dallas County staff anticipates construction to begin by the end of 2023, or by the beginning of next year. There were several questions after the presentation. An audience member asked if there was any information on the cycle track conflicting with traffic signals. Micah replied by saying there will be bicycle signal heads facing the cyclists and signal timing changes based on NACTO guidance. In addition, the raised barrier will have openings for various driveways in the corridor. Another question asked was whether they received any input from the community, in which Micah replied that TxDOT held a public meeting about the entire project, however the meeting was not specifically focused on the Rowlett Rd cycle track project. This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

b. Dallas County Mobility Partner of the Year Award – Micah Baker

At the end of Micah’s presentation on Rowlett Rd Cycle Track, he highlighted the Dallas County award provided to Daniel Herrig for 2022 City Mobility Partner of the Year. Mr. Herrig serves as the City of Richardson’s BPAC representative.

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

Heather highlighted upcoming events and training opportunities throughout 2023.

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

3. Dallas Sylvan Road Bridge Retrofit – Philip Hiatt Haigh, The Loop Dallas

Philip Hiatt Haigh provided an overview of the planned retrofit of the Sylvan Road bridge in Dallas. The purpose of the retrofit project is to increase safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. The bridge currently has one-way buffered bike lanes separated from traffic by flex posts, which generally have not worn well adjacent to the vehicular traffic lanes. The primary component of the bridge retrofit project is to create physical barriers separating vehicle traffic, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Hardscape materials and improvements were designed to add character and reduce the need for maintenance. Another aspect of the project is moving the existing handrail, reusing it, and giving it an aesthetic look. The Loop Dallas, a non-profit organization, is covering the costs related to engineering design for this project. Phillip noted there are issues with street racing on Sylvan Road bridge. The Loop Dallas and the City want to focus on reducing motor vehicle speeds to protect pedestrians and bicyclists. Engineering design plans are at 60% and they are prepared to move to 90%. A question was asked on how much weight will be added to the bridge structure. Philip responded that no additional weight will be added to the bridge due to two lanes being removed to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

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

4. Trail Branding and Wayfinding Project – Shawn Conrad, NCTCOG

Shawn Conrad gave an update about NCTCOG’s Trail Branding and Wayfinding Project for the Fort Worth to Dallas Regional Trail Corridor, now officially renamed as the DFW Discovery Trail. The 66-mile trail corridor extends from downtown Fort Worth through Arlington, Grand Prairie, Irving, to the eastern side of downtown Dallas. Shawn outlined the history of the regional trail corridor and the public/stakeholder participation process. A unified overall trail logo was developed as well as unique jurisdictional trail logos that represent wildlife from each community and can be used for co-branding purposes. Through stakeholder input, it was determined that existing 911 signage along the trail in each individual community would not change. The determination was also made to preserve the natural setting of the trail and avoid environmental impacts by only installing lighting at priority locations. A question was asked about how the type of signage for the regional trail was determined. Shawn responded there were surveys and feedback opportunities where the public gave input on colors and other design elements. A consensus was made from public and stakeholder input to use a natural look and feel for the signage. The final design for the signage was based on a collection of feedback and input.

For more information about the DFW Discovery Trail, visit: www.DFWdiscoverytrail.com

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

5. Weatherford E-Bike Ordinance – Jaycob Kirkpatrick, City of Weatherford

Jaycob Kirkpatrick presented an overview about the City's new E-Bike Ordinance, which was passed in response to the surge in their popularity on paved and unpaved trails in Weatherford. Jaycob explained that there are different types of classes for e-bikes. Class 1, 2 and 3 are defined by their maximum speed and engine type. A question was asked to describe the relationship between the City and the mountain bike club community. Jaycob responded that the club maintains a network of mountain bike trails and that the City assists with the club.

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

6. NCTCOG Updates

a. Mobility 2045 Update Resources – Erik van Bloemen Waanders

Erik van Bloemen Waanders provided BPAC members with an overview of the NCTCOG Mobility 2045 2022 Update webpage. Resources available on the webpage include interactive maps and detailed documents that can be accessed by the public. Material related to regional active transportation planning can be found in chapter 6 of the document, Mobility Options. Information in this chapter outlines supported goals, policies, programs, projects, the Regional Veloweb, and more. NCTCOG maintains an online map identifying existing, funded, and planned sections of the Regional Veloweb, community trails, and on-street bikeways. The facilities on this map reflect locally adopted plans. For more information about the Mobility 2045 Update, visit: [North Central Texas Council of Governments - Mobility 2045 Update \(nctcog.org\)](http://North Central Texas Council of Governments - Mobility 2045 Update (nctcog.org))

For more information about the online regional trails and on street bikeways map, visit: [Trails and On-Street Bikeways \(arcgis.com\)](http://Trails and On-Street Bikeways (arcgis.com))

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

b. Regional Sidewalk Data – Travis Liska

Travis Liska provided an update on the development of a regional sidewalk database. Over the past year, NCTCOG purchased sidewalk data for cities that previously did not have existing sidewalk GIS data. NCTCOG staff are establishing a procedure in which local governments may request sidewalk GIS data for their community. As part of the distribution process, a limited license agreement will need to be signed by the local government agreeing not to sell the data. A similar agreement will also be made available specifically for consultants working on projects on behalf of a city involving the sidewalk data. The regional sidewalk geodatabase combines existing data from some cities with new data that identifies where sidewalk facilities currently exist and includes crosswalks with the new data. The geodatabase will not identify ADA compliant and non-compliant ramps. This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

c. FY 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All Program – Kevin Kokes

Kevin debriefed BPAC members on the upcoming federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program funding opportunity. The SS4A program funds the development of safety action plans, as well as the construction of safety improvements identified in the safety action plans. NCTCOG submitted a construction application in 2022 but was not selected. However, NCTCOG staff met with FHWA staff to discuss the application evaluation and learned FHWA did not award all the funding available for the development of safety action plans (approximately \$200 million). This funding is expected to carry over into the next fiscal year in which the grant will be held. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is anticipated to be released in April. NCTCOG encourages all cities to submit an application for the SS4A program if they do not have an adopted roadway safety action plan that addresses all modes of travel. NCTCOG staff are available to provide cities with technical assistance during the development of local plans and ensure the plan is consistent with the Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. This presentation can be found on the BPAC website at: www.nctcog.org/BPAC.

d. Statewide BPAC Update – Karla Windsor

Karla serves as the Chair of the Statewide BPAC, a committee that meets quarterly and is made up of representatives from regions across the state. Karla provided an update on TxDOT's final review of the scope of work for a consultant to develop a Statewide Active Transportation Plan (ATP). TxDOT has started work on developing "Connecting Texas 2050," the next statewide long-range transportation plan. Active transportation will be included in this plan. It was also noted that Texas has more unobligated Transportation Alternative (TA) funding than any other state in the U.S. Karla encouraged BPAC members to apply to the statewide TA Call for Projects organized by TxDOT. Lastly, Karla shared that TxDOT will emphasize the term "modal optionality" moving forward.

7. Other Business/ Open Discussion

The Vice Chair opened the meeting for discussion among members. Chad Ostrander, with the City of Plano, expressed concern over the lack of technical guidance regarding the process for identifying intersections in proximity to schools that warrant crossing guards. NCTCOG staff responded they would follow up by surveying cities in the region on the topic and would schedule a meeting with Mr. Ostrander and others to discuss next steps. Chad Marbut announced the date of BPAC's next scheduled meeting, to be held on May 15, 2023, and adjourned the meeting.

Note: The May 15, 2023 meeting was cancelled. BPAC will reconvene on August 16, 2023.

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

Town of Addison	Joe Pack
City of Allen	Krishan Patel
City of Arlington	Jana Wentzel
City of Burleson	Tiana Jackson (Travis Rosenbaum)
City of Carrollton	Marcos Fernandez
City of Cedar Hill	Shawn Ray
City of Coppell	Dusty Cline
City of Dallas	Jessica Scott
City of Denton	Karina Maldonado
City of Duncanville	Jacqueline Culton
City of Farmers Branch	Shane Davis
City of Fort Worth	Quenell Johnson
City of Frisco	Robert Caskey
City of Garland	Ziad Kharratt
City of Grand Prairie	Brett Huntsman
City of Grapevine	Kathy Nelson
City of Haltom City	Will Wiegand
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 Plano	Jason Aprill (Chad Ostrander Mar)
City of Richardson	Daniel Herrig
City of The Colony	Calvin Lehmann
City of Waxahachie	Eleana Tuley
City of Weatherford	Chad Marbut
City of Wylie	Rico Govea
Dallas County	Minesha Reese
Hunt County	Brian Crooks
Tarrant County	Susan Young
Dallas Area Rapid Transit	Patricio Gallo
Denton County Transportation Authority	Tim Palermo
Trinity Metro	Shawn Tubre
TxDOT, Dallas District	Tim Wright
TxDOT, Fort Worth District	Anthony White

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

Shawn Conrad
Carolyn Horner
Kevin Kokes
Travis Liska
Cauner McDonald
Daniel Snyder
Erik van Bloemen Waanders
Barbara Walsh
Karla Windsor