

MEETING SUMMARY

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

August 17, 2022

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 August 17, 2022.

See Page 7 for meeting attendance.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Robert Caskey, Chair, City of Frisco

Robert Caskey welcomed attendees and introduced himself as the Chair of BPAC, and Chad Marbut as the Vice-Chair. The May 2022 meeting summary was accepted as submitted.

2. TxDOT Sandwich Boards Pedestrian Safety Campaign – Alice Shaw, TxDOT Dallas District

TxDOT started a new safety outreach campaign called “Be Safe. Drive Smart. Walk Smart.” in an effort to decrease the number of bicycle and pedestrian crashes across the state. Between 2020-2021 the state saw a 15 percent increase in pedestrian fatalities, which is partly due to people beginning to walk more after the COVID-19 pandemic. Through research of crash data, TxDOT documented the increase in pedestrian fatalities is partially a result of pedestrians failing to yield to vehicles and drivers being distracted while driving. As part of the safety campaign, TxDOT created a series of Sandwich Boards (Humanizing Posters) and commercials to help increase pedestrian awareness.

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

3. Local Community Updates

a. Dallas Micromobility Ordinance – Jessica Scott, City of Dallas

The City of Dallas staff has drafted a new Micromobility Ordinance that will help define how and where electric scooter vendors can operate within Dallas. In creating this new ordinance, the city staff formed a Micromobility working group/committee to help recommend the rules and regulations for the Ordinance. City staff reviewed similar case studies from across the country to help form the draft Ordinance. The Ordinance will help resolve nine key issues facing the city’s transportation infrastructure, including the number of vehicles that can be operated per vendor, hours of operation, and uniform parking standards. The Ordinance will also establish Equity Opportunity Zones, which will help distribute electric scooters across areas of low-income and areas of large minority populations. City staff anticipate the vendor permit applications will be released by September 2022 and that operations can begin in October.

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

b. North Texas Local APBP Chapter Update – Daniel Herrig, City of Richardson

Daniel Herrig provided an update to BPAC members that the Association of Pedestrian & Bicycle Professionals (APBP) has officially created a new North Texas Chapter. This chapter will help cultivate local transportation knowledge and provide networking among professionals in the North Texas Region. APBP members will also have access to the monthly webinar series approved for AICP credits. For those interested in joining the local APBP chapter, membership dues are \$130 per year and discounts can be provided to students and to employers with 5+ members. Mr. Herrig also announced that there will be a Bike Tour in Denton on September 7 and that there will be a future event in Fort Worth sometime in Fall 2022.

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

c. Emerald Ash Borer – Brett Johnson, City of Dallas

The Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) notified the City of Dallas in May that there was confirmed presence of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) within city limits. EAB is a destructive, non-native, wood-boring pest that attacks ash trees. EAB's can infect healthy ash trees and may cause them to die 2-3 years after infestation. Ash trees represent approximately 10 percent of the city's total number of trees and about 5 percent of the total number of trees within the DFW region. To help prevent the spread of EAB, the TFS and Texas Department of Agriculture quarantined all trees in Dallas, Tarrant, and Denton Counties and set traps for EABs. Additionally, the city is working on updating their city code ordinances and initiated its own EAB Action Plan to respond to the threat and will remain in effect until Spring 2023. City staff are also performing a tree inventory to help track ash trees to be removed or treated.

The webpage for Dallas's Forestry can be found here:

<https://dallascityhall.com/projects/forestry/Pages/home.aspx>

The webpage for the Texas A&M Forest Service can be found here: tfsweb.tamu.edu/EAB/

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

d. Santa Fe Trail Mural – Samuel Mortimer, Alex O'Neil, Friends of Santa Fe Trail

Mr. Mortimer provided an update about a recent project along the Santa Fe Trail, which is a 4.5-mile-long trail in Dallas that connects Deep Ellum to White Rock Creek Lake. The new project on the trail aims to establish the Brookside Bridge Plaza and to create a mural alongside a roadway bridge. The plaza will revitalize a dead-end street space and turn it into an enjoyable pedestrian space with a mural. Local community contributions helped finance this project. The mural was designed and painted by Woodrow Wilson High School Art Students. To help make the mural, the Friends of the Santa Fe Trail (FSFT) and the City of Dallas came into agreement that the Dallas Public Works Department will own the bridge and FSFT will oversee maintenance.

e. Upcoming Events – Chad Marbut, BPAC Vice-Chair

Chad Marbut presented upcoming regional events and trainings, and national conferences. Mr. Marbut also commented that the City of Weatherford is working on their new Trails Master Plan.

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

4. City of Denton Mobility Plan/Vision Zero – Pritam Deshmukh, City of Denton

The City of Denton is about to initiate the development of their new Vizion Zero Plan, which will be an in-depth action plan to help minimize traffic deaths and injuries on roadways. The Vizion Zero Plan follows-up on Denton’s 2022 Mobility Plan which highlighted implementing a Vizion Zero Plan in the future and to create a city that is safe for pedestrians and bicyclists. This Plan will help create uniform design guidelines and establish maintenance regulations for transportation infrastructure. Additionally, the Plan will highlight the need for city staff to collaborate with local community stakeholders, such as schools to help promote safety education for children. The Vizion Zero Plan development process is currently at Phase 1, Assessment of road conditions, and staff is expected to complete this phase by November 2022. The Plan is expected to be completed and formally adopted by City Council in 2024.

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

5. NCTCOG Updates

a. 2017-2021 Bicycle and Pedestrian Crash Data – Cauner McDonald

Cauner McDonald notified the BPAC members that NCTCOG’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Crash Data was updated to the new 5-year data cycle (2017-2021). This data originates from TxDOT’s Crash Records Information System (CRIS) and is reviewed by NCTCOG staff. While reviewing the crash data, NCTCOG staff identified two crash trends across the 12-county Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). Since COVID-19, the total number of bicycle and pedestrian crashes decreased, however the number of fatalities has increased. Also, Dallas and Tarrant Counties comprise over 75 percent of all bicycle and pedestrian crashes within the MPA, despite being only 60 percent of the total regional population.

The webpage for NCTCOG’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Crash Data can be found here: nctcog.org/bikeped-crashes.

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

b. Annual Trail and On-Street Bikeways Updates – Cauner McDonald

Every year, NCTCOG staff asks BPAC members to help identify necessary updates to the regional database for Trails and On-Street Bikeways. BPAC members can identify necessary edits to the regional database via two methods. Members can use the GIS Online Interactive Webmap to identify necessary edits to the database (e.g. recently funded or completed trails). The second method consists of a GIS “check-out” process where NCTCOG staff provides ArcGIS data directly to city representatives who update the data files before sending them back to NCTCOG staff. All proposed updates to the regional database must be submitted to Cauner by September 14, 2022.

The webpage to edit the Trails and On-Street Bikeways Database is located here: [Trails and On-Street Bikeways Database Edits](#)

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

c. Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (2022 Update) – Julie Anderson

Julie Anderson notified BPAC members that NCTCOG’s Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) is currently being updated for 2022. This Action Plan reaffirms NCTCOG’s commitment to promote projects, programs, and policies to reduce roadway fatalities. The 2022 update adds a new environmental justice analysis, provides more information on annual monitoring and outcomes, and removes duplicate tables in Appendix B. A public comment period was open between 6/21 – 8/8 and a redline version of the Plan was posted to NCTCOG’s website. It is expected that the Plan updates will be adopted by the RTC on August 18, 2022.

The webpage for the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/plan/bikeped/pedestrian-safety-action-plan>

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

d. Safe Streets for All Notice of Funding Opportunity – Julie Anderson

As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant was created to help improve roadway safety and significantly reduce roadway fatalities and injuries. The SS4A Grant is a 5-year federal funding program that allows government agencies to apply for funding to either create an action plan or to implement a project highlighted in an existing action plan. Applications for the SS4A Grant Application are due September 15, 2022.

The webpage for the SS4A Grant Application can be found here: [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Grant Program | US Department of Transportation](#)

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

e. Targets for Regional Non-Motorized Safety Performance Measures – Julie Anderson

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and State Departments of Transportation to monitor non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries on roadways. The State of Texas and NCTCOG previously adopted a safety target of reducing non-motorized fatalities by two percent in 2022; however, based on the most recent 2017-2021 5-year rolling average crash data, the number of fatalities and serious injuries is actually rising. Due to this recent trend, the state adopted a new safety target of a 50 percent reduction in fatalities by 2035. NCTCOG will take new safety target measures to the RTC in February 2023 for approval.

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

f. Regional Complete Streets/Context Sensitive Design Policy – Julie Anderson

NCTCOG staff are currently developing a Complete Street (Context Sensitive) Design Resolution for future adoption by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC). This Resolution acknowledges the definition of complete streets as set by the FHWA and FTA. The Regional Complete Street (Context Sensitive Design) Resolution will define how a complete street should be treated in rural and urban settings. This Resolution will also support the adoption and implementation of local city policies/resolutions to promote complete street designs and will direct NCTCOG to prepare a draft checklist/guide for complete street projects and performance measures. Members of the BPAC will be requested to participate in the process of developing a regional policy, checklist/guide, and performance measures over the upcoming year.

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

g. Walkable Places Mapping – Stu Burzette

NCTCOG staff is currently evaluating where Walkable Places are located within the 12-county Metropolitan Planning Area. These Walkable Places are based on the 2019 WalkUp WakeUp report made by NCTCOG. So far, NCTCOG staff identified 143 Walkable Places in the region. These locations are based on their building form(s), mix of land uses, and the surrounding transportation context. NCTCOG staff is asking for public feedback from BPAC members and to provide all comments to Stu by September 9, 2022.

The webpage for submitting feedback on the North Texas Walkable Places 2022 Draft map can be found here: <https://arcg.is/1W8WCu0>

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

h. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Call for Projects Frequently Asked Questions – Daniel Snyder

Since the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Call for Projects opened on July 18, NCTCOG staff received several questions from agencies seeking clarification on various items. Mr. Snyder presented on topics involving Transportation Development Credits (TDCs), types of eligible traffic calming measures, the definition of obligating funds, and eligible costs for reimbursement. A FAQ document was posted online at www.nctcog.org/2022_TACFP.

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

i. Walk to School Day – Erin Curry

Erin Curry informed BPAC members that Walk to School Day is scheduled for October 12, 2022, which celebrates the benefits of walking and bicycling for children and spotlights the importance of traffic safety. NCTCOG staff will distribute free safety prizes and promotional items to schools that organized their own Walk to School Day event. Schools that wish to participate in the Walk to School Day Event must register with NCTCOG staff by September 26. Ms. Curry also indicated the survey for the Safe Routes to School Action Plan will be closing on August 26.

The webpage for Walk to School Day can be found here: www.nctcog.org/WalkToSchool

The survey link for Safe Routes to School can be found here: [SRTS Survey](#)

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

6. Other Business/ Open Discussion

Robert announced the date of BPAC's next scheduled meeting, to be held on November 16, 2022, and closed the meeting.

Members in Attendance at the August 17, 2022, BPAC meeting

Town of Addison	Joe Pack
City of Allen	Krishan Patel
City of Burleson	Heather Houseman
City of Cedar Hill	Shawn Ray
City of Colleyville	Luis Gatica
City of Dallas	Jessica Scott
City of Denton	Nathan George
City of Euless	Alexander Harvey
City of Farmers Branch	Shane Davis
Town of Flower Mound	Brennon Peltier
City of Fort Worth	Quenell Johnson
City of Frisco	Robert Caskey
City of Grand Prairie	Brett Huntsman
City of Grapevine	Kathy Nelson
City of Hurst	Kyle Gordon
City of Irving	Cody Owen
City of Keller	Cody Maberry
City of Lancaster	James Mays for E. Chetuya
City of Mansfield	Chris Ray
City of McKinney	Robyn Root
City of Mesquite	Wes McClure
City of Midlothian	Heather Dowell
City of North Richland Hills	Michael Wilson
City of Plano	Jason Aprill
City of Richardson	Daniel Herrig
City of Waxahachie	Eleana Tuley
City of Weatherford	Chad Marbut
Dallas County	Minesha Reese
Hunt County	Brian Crooks
Rockwall County	Lee Gilbert
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)	Dan Dickerson
Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA)	Tim Palermo
Trinity Metro	(James Wilson)
TxDOT, Dallas District	Tim Wright
TxDOT, Fort Worth District	Anthony White

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the August 17, 2022, BPAC meeting:

Julie Anderson	Cauner McDonald
Kevin Kokes	Daniel Snyder
Karla Windsor	Stuart Burzette
Sydnee Steelman	Erin Curry