

MEETING SUMMARY

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

February 21, 2024

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 February 21, 2024.

See Page 6 for meeting attendance.

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

Heather Dowell welcomed attendees and introduced herself as the new Chair of BPAC for 2024, and Anthony White as the new Vice Chair. The November 2023 meeting summary was accepted as submitted. Next, BPAC members introduced themselves and answered the question, “what is a notable bicycle or pedestrian-related program, project, or activity that is upcoming, or has been recently completed in your city?”

2. Local Community Updates – Various Community and BPAC Members

a. Research on "Assessing Cyclists' Stress on a Large-Scale" – Ming Le, Ph.D., University of Texas at Arlington

Understanding cyclists’ stress is an important topic for transportation officials deciding where and what type of bike facilities to build on roadways. The framework commonly used to evaluate cyclist stress (or comfort) level while riding on roadways is referred to as Level of Traffic Stress (LTS), or Level of Comfort. Typically, data used within this framework is based on roadway characteristics, such as number of travel lanes, travel speeds, traffic volumes, etc. and does not capture real-time perception of the cyclist while using the roadway. Professor Le and her research team are studying the opportunity of using smartphone sensors and AI modeling to capture cyclists’ perception of stress in real-time.

To test the feasibility of the project, the team performed a small-scale pilot study with a group of UTA students to evaluate the relationship between cyclists’ reported stress levels and sensor readings after riding around campus. The preliminary study yielded promising results as it showed correlations between the contextual smartphone sensor data and the cyclists’ reported stress. The next step in the research project is to use this relationship and turn the smartphone sensory data into a perceived level of stress while bicycling by applying AI modeling and machine learning.

The long-term vision of this project is to build an online ecosystem called “StressMap” that hosts the front-end user app, cloud service AI model, Google Maps back-end, and web portal. The goal is to aggregate the individual data to identify on the web portal map the distribution of cyclists’ stress in the region. Transportation planners can use the data when making decisions on where to plan and implement bicycle infrastructure and cyclists can use the data to best plan a safe and comfortable route.

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

b. Hi Line Connector – Philip Hiatt Haigh, The Loop Dallas

The Loop Dallas is a non-profit organization with the mission to build a pedestrian and bicycle network that connects all parts of Dallas. The 50-mile loop project increases access to green space, public transportation, and major destinations. The Hi Line Connector is a one-mile segment of the Loop Trail that connects the Katy Trail, located in Uptown Dallas, to the Trinity Strand Trail, located in the Design District. This project overcomes barriers for active transportation users created by IH 35E and adjacent rail lines. Notably, the project implements innovative design at the high traffic intersection of Houston St. and Victory Ave. by constructing wide crosswalks to separate bicycle and pedestrian movement to reduce conflicts. Additionally, the project includes physically separated bike lanes on Victory Ave. and Houston St. connecting to a newly built shared use path on Hi Line Dr. The alignment of the shared use path along Hi Line Dr. is located within the existing 50-foot wide median as a seamless continuation of the Trinity Strand Trail. A protected pedestrian signal phase will be implemented at the intersection of Hi Line Dr. and Oak Lawn Ave. to protect vulnerable road users crossing at the traditional crosswalks and the trail crossing located between the medians.

Information about the Loop Dallas and the Hi Line Connector project can be found on the Loop Dallas website at: theloopdallas.org

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

c. Upcoming Events – Anthony White, BPAC Vice-Chair

Anthony highlighted upcoming events and training opportunities throughout 2024.

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

3. Using Detection Software for Data Collection related to Curb Ramps and Compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) – Glenn Barker, City of Corinth

The City of Corinth leveraged technology to complete an asset inventory of roadways, sidewalks, and curb ramps in a timely and cost-effective manner. Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology such as [GoodRoads](#) catalogs assets along the roadway, and the location (or absence of) sidewalks and curb ramps. To supplement data collection, the city used the [DeepWalk](#) smartphone application to measure the slope and cross slope of curb ramps as well as trip hazards. The information from these software products is integrated into ArcGIS and the CityWork portal to facilitate work orders submitted for 'quick fix' issues. Long-term projects will be incorporated into a five-year maintenance plan. Data from these products will be used to ensure ADA compliance and serve as the basis for an ADA Transition Plan. ADA compliance projects will be addressed every two years.

Additional information on DeepWalk can be found at: www.deepwalk.com

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

4. Lessons Learned from Reducing Posted Roadway Speed Limits – Matt Hotelling, Town of Flower Mound

Fast vehicle speeds increase the risk of severe injury or death for vulnerable users in the event of a crash. Over a 15-year period (2006-2021) the Town of Flower Mound went through several iterations of speed limit policy to reduce the posted speed limit to 25 mph in residential neighborhoods.

In 2006 Flower Mound's Town Council, under House Bill 87, declared the prima facie speed limit as unreasonable or unsafe for roadways within one-quarter mile of a school or major street construction projects that were not included in the Thoroughfare Plan. Speed limits were lowered to 25 mph on a street-by-street basis. However, in 2010, the policy was updated to reduce speed limits to a subdivision-by-subdivision basis, and an exception process was developed for subdivisions that fell outside of the established one-quarter-mile radius.

In 2020, the topic was presented again to the Flower Mound Transportation Commission (TRC), and the TRC recommended converting residential streets to 25 mph. At the November 15, 2021, Council meeting, the ordinance to change residential speed limits passed. Over an 18-month period, new signage was installed at the entrance of residential neighborhoods to establish the 25-mph speed limit for all streets within the subdivisions.

Video of the November 15, 2021 Town Council meeting can be found at: flowermoundtx.new.swagit.com/videos/239525

Ordinance (No. 48-21) to reduce the speed on residential neighborhoods can be found at: library.municode.com/tx/flower_mound/ordinances.

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

5. Bicycle Boulevard Design Characteristics – Daniel Herrig, City of Richardson

As part of the City of Richardson's Active Transportation Plan (adopted 2023), the city introduced Neighborhood Byways, commonly referred to as Bicycle Boulevards, for neighborhood streets in the plan's network. Neighborhood Byways prioritize bicycle travel by employing a context sensitive combination of signage, pavement markings, and traffic calming measures on low speed and low traffic volume roadways. The new facility type appeals to bicyclists of all ages and abilities and ensures a safer and comfortable ride on corridors where separated bicycle facilities are not feasible. The city will use signage and pavement markings to designate Neighborhood Byway corridors, and additional traffic calming measures will be installed as appropriate based on traffic volumes and roadway conditions. Implementation of these treatments will follow guidance recommended by the National Association of City Transportation Officials.

More information about the City of Richardson's Active Transportation Plan can be found on the City of Richardson website at: www.cor.net/departments/transportation-mobility/active-transportation-plan.

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

6. NCTCOG Updates

a. **Urban Bikeway Design Guide Working Paper: Material Success, Designing Durable Bikeways – Catherine Richardson**

This presentation was omitted due to time constraints.

b. **Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks – Catherine Richardson**

This presentation was omitted due to time constraints.

c. **Upcoming Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Notice of Funding Opportunity – Catherine Richardson**

Catherine provided an update to the committee about the released FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the SS4A grant program. The purpose of the grant program is to prevent deaths and serious injuries on roadways. The program does this by supporting comprehensive safety action plans and implementation projects and strategies identified in plans. Eligible agencies can apply for two grant types, “Planning and Demonstration” or “Implementation.” There are three opportunities to submit Planning and Demonstration Grant applications: April 4, May 16, or August 29, 2024. The sole deadline for Implementation Grants is May 16, 2024. Catherine also updated the committee of the funding awards received by agencies in the region in FY22 and FY23, totaling nearly 30 million dollars.

More information about the federal grant opportunity can be found on the US DOT SS4A website at: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>

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

d. **Look Out Texans Video Distribution– Catherine Richardson**

The Look Out Texans safety campaign was launched in 2015 with the goal to encourage North Texans to look out for each other while using our roadways. As a part of this campaign, NCTCOG developed safety tips and testimonial videos to bring awareness about traffic laws, safe traffic behaviors, and stories of crash victim survivors. In 2024, NCTCOG staff will coordinate with cities in the region to help promote traffic safety by broadcasting these videos and safety tips on local media, government access channels and online streaming platforms, community buildings, and message boards. Catherine asked for the Committee’s assistance in the distribution of Look Out Texans traffic safety videos and tips by providing their agency’s Communication staff contact information. An email was sent to the committee after the meeting containing a link to the form for submitting contact information.

More information about the Look Out Texans campaign can be found the Look Out Texans website at: lookouttexans.org.

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

e. **Bicycle-Pedestrian Count Equipment Partnership Survey – Daniel Snyder**

This presentation was omitted due to time constraints. A follow-up email was sent to BPAC members and interested parties after the meeting.

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

f. **Bike to School Day 2024 Promotion – Devia Joshi**

Devia informed the committee of NCTCOG's Bike & Roll to School Day Promotion Program which promotes children biking and rolling to school safely. NCTCOG will provide participating schools event and social media toolkits, promotional giveaway items, and conduct a bike raffle for students that complete a safety pledge. Bike & Roll to School Day is May 8, 2024. Schools can register their event on the Walk, Bike & Roll to School national website.

Information about National Walk and Bike to School Day can be found on the Walk, Bike & Roll to School website at: www.walkbiketoschool.org

Information about NCTCOG's Bike & Roll to School Day promotion can be found on the "Walk Bike & Roll to School Day" website at: www.nctcog.org/wtsd.

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

g. **Community Gardens Guide – Shawn Conrad**

This presentation was omitted due to time constraints.

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

The Chair opened additional discussion among members. Hearing no comments, Heather announced the date of BPAC's next scheduled meeting, to be held on May 15, 2024, and adjourned the meeting.

Members in Attendance at the February 21, 2024, BPAC meeting

Agency	Name
Town of Addison	Joe Pack
City of Allen	Krishan Patel
City of Arlington	Jill K for Jana Wentzel
City of Bedford	Patrick Perrault
City of Burleson	T Attanassio for Tiana Jackson
City of Carrollton	Tom Hammons
City of Cedar Hill	Shawn Ray
City of Cleburne	Kenneth Overstreet
City of Colleyville	Earl Escobar
City of Coppell	Aaron Tainter
City of Dallas	Jessica Scott
City of Denton	Karina Maldonado
City of Farmers Branch	Alex Pharmakis
Town of Flower Mound	M Hotelling for Brennon Peltier
City of Fort Worth	Walter Council
City of Frisco	Michael Kim
City of Garland	Matt Grubisich
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	Garett Smith
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	Daniel Herrig
City of The Colony	Calvin Lehmann
City of Waxahachie	Jennifer Pruitt
City of Weatherford	Chad Marbut
Dallas County	Minesha Reese
Hunt County	Brian Crooks
Parker County	Cintia Ortiz
Wise County	Chad Davis
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)	Patricio Gallo
Trinity Metro	Shawn Tubre

TxDOT, Dallas District	Rachael Twiggs
TxDOT, Fort Worth District	Anthony White

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the February 21, 2024 BPAC meeting:

Shawn Conrad
Devia Joshi
Kevin Kokes
Catherine Richardson
Daniel Snyder
Barbara Walsh