

## MEETING SUMMARY

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

**May 18, 2016**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) met in the NCTCOG Transportation Council Room beginning at 2:30 pm on May 18, 2016.

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

#### **Meeting Summary Outline**

1. Welcome and Introductions  
Approval of February 17, 2016 Meeting Summary
2. Health and Equity in Active Transportation
3. School Siting and Transportation
4. Local Community Updates and Accomplishments
5. Statewide TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee Update
6. Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Update
7. Other Business/Open Discussion

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

In Chair Renee Johnson's absence, Vice-Chair Terry Hughes welcomed attendees and explained the function of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

The Summary of the February 17, 2016 Meeting was accepted as submitted. There was no discussion.

#### **2. Health and Equity in Active Transportation – Yvette Wingate and Sam Adamie, Tarrant County Public Health Department**

Yvette Wingate, Health Equity Coordinator for Tarrant County Public Health Department (TCPH), presented on health equity issues and how active transportation has a unique role in overcoming social inequities. Ms. Wingate explained that while equality may allow everyone an opportunity, there are institutional barriers preventing everyone access to the same opportunities. Research has found that active lifestyles involving at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week greatly reduces the risk of developing chronic conditions in adults, especially those among minorities. Bicycling or walking for commute purposes present an opportunity for adults to integrate physical activity into their daily routine.

Sam Adamie, Environmental Specialist with TCPH, presented on a recent initiative by the public health department to identify neighborhoods in need of public health intervention programs. The GIS mapping process involved several phases; areas with severe health disparities were identified by ZIP Codes, and existing conditions of the built environment

were analyzed. In partnership with the Fort Worth ISD, neighborhood associations, City departments, Texas Christian University students in the nursing and health science school, the Blue Zones Project, and civic and clergy members, the group identified C.C. Moss Elementary as a location for a Safe Routes to School pilot project. Activities included education and outreach among students, parents, and school staff about pedestrian safety, encouraged “Walk to School Wednesdays”, and presented design recommendations on how the school can increase walkability. In conclusion, Mr. Adamie emphasized the need to engage and develop local partnerships to leverage resources and ensure the long-term sustainability of important health equity initiatives.

### **3. School Siting and Transportation – Kathryn Rush, NCTCOG**

Kathryn Rush presented on the interrelationship between school locations and transportation options. Over the past couple of decades, the Dallas – Fort Worth metroplex has experienced large population growth and is projected to continue. By 2040, the region is estimated to add 790,000 more school-age children. To accommodate this growth, cities and independent school districts (ISDs) must prepare now and take transportation into consideration when building new schools. There are several factors influencing the development of larger schools out in the fringe of their community, such as minimum acreage standards, an increased desire for larger athletic facilities, more parking spaces, land availability, and cost. Many schools over the years have been built along major roadways. These major roadways generally have high speed vehicle traffic and may not have sidewalks, making it dangerous for students to walk or bicycle to school.

To address these issues, NCTCOG was awarded a TIGER grant in 2014 to fund regional coordination among ISDs and cities on school siting issues in their local decision-making process. The four goals of the Community Schools and Transportation Program are: 1) Encourage Interagency Coordination, 2) Advance Long-Term Planning for School Siting, 3) Improve Transportation Safety Near Schools, and 4) Promote Multi-Modal Transportation Options to Schools. NCTCOG established the Regional School Coordination Task Force to facilitate interagency coordination. The Task Force is made up of volunteer stakeholders from different departments and agencies with the goal to identify and remove policy barriers to developing sustainable schools. Representatives from every community are encouraged to participate in future Task Force meetings. The next meeting is July 26, 2016.

To learn more about the Community Schools and Transportation Program, please visit [www.nctcog.org/schools](http://www.nctcog.org/schools).

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

#### **a. Fort Worth Complete Streets Policy – Julia Ryan, City of Fort Worth**

Julia Ryan presented an overview of the Complete Streets policy recently adopted by the City of Fort Worth. The Complete Streets policy is in conjunction with the city’s updated Master Thoroughfare Plan. The policy sets forth a requirement to consider multi-modal accommodations in the design of new streets built or re-paved/re-surfaced. Ms. Ryan noted that if a Complete Streets project with additional accommodations is calculated to be unduly cost prohibitive (such as +20%), then the improvements may be waived. The Complete Streets policy also directs the City of Fort Worth to adopt design standards

using the best and latest design standards available, such as ADA, ITE, AASHTO, and NACTO. To evaluate the performance of future Complete Streets projects, the City of Fort Worth developed several performance measures such as crash reductions, improved emergency services response times, access to environmental justice communities, and increase in active transportation mode share. Now that the policy is adopted, city staff are working on updating internal processes that will contribute to the policy's implementation, such as updating their street design manuals, staff training, and revising their project prioritization criteria.

**b. DART's Bike to Work Challenge – Chris Walters and Ralph Zaragoza, DART**

Chris Walters highlighted the Bike to Work Day activities on May 20, 2016. DART partnered with BikeDFW and NCTCOG to organize Bike Commuter Energizer Stations at eight transit stations in the region. Each energizer station featured staff and volunteers distributing refreshments and promotional items to those commuting by bicycle. Ralph Zaragoza reviewed the month-long Bike to Work Challenge organized by DART and NCTCOG taking place throughout May. Residents of DART-member cities are encouraged to register and record their bicycle trips using the [www.TryParkingIt.com](http://www.TryParkingIt.com) website. The top three individuals with the most miles recorded at the end of the month will win prizes.

**c. Colleyville Cotton Belt Trail Connection – Heather Dowell, City of Colleyville**

Heather Dowell provided an update about the Cotton Belt Trail Connection project that celebrated its opening day on April 15, 2016. Closing this gap now provides an 11-mile continuous shared-use path connecting the cities of Colleyville, Grapevine, Hurst, and North Richland Hills. The trail connection features a pocket park with improvements such as benches, a water fountain, rest area, and trash receptacles.

**d. Upcoming Events and Training – Terry Hughes,  
Vice – Chair, City of Weatherford**

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

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

Karla Weaver provided an update on the Statewide TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting held on April 29, 2016 in Austin. TxDOT will soon announce an initiative called "BikeStripe", a program in which cities with a population of 5,000 – 250,000 are eligible to apply for on-street bikeway demonstration project funding. The call for projects is anticipated to be announced June or July 2016. Ms. Weaver reported there is considerable interest at the state level in coordinating long-distance bicycle routes to promote eco-tourism across Texas. [A video was played](#) to introduce the audience to the United State Bicycle Route System, a proposed network of bikeways (on- and off-street) crossing the country similar to the Interstate Highway System. To learn more about the project and view a national corridor map, go to [www.adventurecycling.org/usbrs](http://www.adventurecycling.org/usbrs). There was additional discussion about upcoming safety funding in which approximately \$2 million of left over SAFETEA-LU money will be available for education such as safety kits for schools. TxDOT will issue a procurement for interest over the summer.

6. **Regional Pedestrian/Bicycle Plan Update – Gabriel Ortiz, NCTCOG**

Gabriel Ortiz introduced a new mapping effort by NCTCOG staff to identify areas in the North Central Texas region where the built environment is conducive to walking and bicycling. The presentation included examples of similar efforts completed in the Atlanta, GA region and Montgomery County, MD. From the regional and local perspective, this tool will have the potential to assist in the strategic implementation of infrastructure projects that aim to provide a high return on investment. Initial factors considered in NCTCOG's analysis include: rail stations, schools, retail, parks, existing shared-use paths, and areas of dense short car trips (less than three miles). Other variables to be considered include employment, housing density, bus stops, zero-car households, and on-street bikeways. BPAC members also suggested considering demographic forecast data, street grid density, motor vehicle traffic counts, planned transit stations, and concentrated areas of major destinations. In addition to the variables identified, NCTCOG staff will look into if certain variables should be assigned a higher weight (more value).

7. **Other Business/Open Discussion – Terry Hughes, Vice – Chair, City of Weatherford**

Terry opened the floor to Committee members for open discussion. Kevin Kokes announced two upcoming training opportunities. Complete Streets workshops will be held on June 9 and June 10, 2016. A workshop on separated bike lanes and protected intersections will be held in September 2016. An announcement will be sent to BPAC members when a date is finalized. Mr. Kokes also reviewed the list of projects and plans underway in the region involving active transportation.

The next BPAC meeting is on August 17, 2016.

**BPAC Members in Attendance at the May 18, 2016 Meeting**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>
City of Allen	Randy Thompson
City of Burleson	Paul Mitchell (for Laura Melton)
City of Carrollton	Fernando Villareal (For Andrew Combs)
City of Colleyville	Heather Dowell
City of Coppell	George Marshall
City of Dallas	Jared White
City of Duncanville	Bart Stevenson
City of Fort Worth	Clarence Bryant
City of Frisco	Robert Caskey
City of Garland	Ann McGinnes
City of Grapevine	Kathy Nelson
City of Irving	Nathan Benditz
City of Keller	Jennifer Basham
City of Mansfield	David Boski
City of McKinney	Robyn Root
City of Mesquite	Travis Sales
City of North Richland Hills	Joe Pack
City of Plano	Christina Sebastian
City of Richardson	Jessica Shutt
City of Weatherford	Terry Hughes
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)	Renée Esses
Fort Worth Transportation Authority (FWTA)	Jose Perez
North Texas Tollway Authority	Lori Shelton
Dallas County	Micah Baker
Ellis County	Joseph Jackson
Hunt County	Kevin St. Jacques
Tarrant County	Joe Trammel
Wise County	Chad Davis
Town of Addison	Michael Kashuba
Town of Flower Mound	Kari Biddix
TxDOT, Dallas District	Sandra Williams
TxDOT, Fort Worth District	Phillip Hays

**Other Attendees at the May 18, 2016 Meeting**

City of Benbrook	Bennett Howell
City of Dallas	Jason Ney
City of Fort Worth	Chandra M.
City of Fort Worth	Mirian Spencer
City of Fort Worth	Packyen Wilson
City of Fort Worth Public Health Dept	Sam Adamie
City of Fort Worth Public Health Dept	Yvette Wingate
City of Frisco	Brett Bergeron
City of Grand Prairie	Ken Unkart
City of Kennedale	Rachel Roberts
City of Wylie	Shohn Rodgers
Blue Zones Project	Brandy O'Quinn
Dallas Area Rapid Transit	Chris Walters
Dallas Area Rapid Transit	Ralph Zaragoza
Dallas Regional Chamber	Philip Haigh
Half Associates, Inc.	W. J. "Bud" Melton
Lee Engineering	Josh Smith
Tarrant Regional Water District	Rachel Navejar
Texas Christian University	Sharon Canclini
Texas Christian University	Pamela Frable
Wilks Development	Jordan Wilks

**NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the May 18, 2016 Meeting**

Karla Weaver
Kevin Kokes
Gabriel Ortiz
Kathryn Rush
Daniel Snyder