

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

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

**February 15, 2017**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) met at 2:30 pm on February 15, 2017, at NCTCOG offices.

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

#### **Meeting Summary Outline**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Statewide TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee Update
3. Building Resilient Cities, One Trail at a Time
4. 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic Count Report
5. Local Community Updates and Accomplishments
6. Review of BPAC Member Survey Results
7. Other Business/ Open Discussion

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

Terry Hughes welcomed attendees and introduced himself as the 2017 Chair and Julie Anderson from the City of Denton as the new Vice-Chair of BPAC.

At the beginning of each year, members of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) nominate their agency's representative to BPAC. With new members in attendance, everyone introduced themselves, their affiliation, and described their role in bicycle and pedestrian planning within their agency.

The summary of the November 16, 2016 Meeting was accepted as submitted. There was no discussion.

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

Karla Weaver, Program Manager with NCTCOG, provided an update on the Statewide TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting held on January 20, 2017 in Austin. The statewide TxDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA Set-Aside) Call for Projects recently opened and the deadline for applications is May 22, 2017. Smaller communities outside the large urbanized areas within the North Central Texas region are eligible to apply. Additional information on the call for projects is available online at TxDOT's website [here](#). Teri Kaplan, the statewide Bicycle Coordinator for Texas, recently hired Bonnie Sherman to assist with statewide bicycle projects and activities. Both Teri and Bonnie are available to help communities with TxDOT-related bicycle questions. A consultant was hired by TxDOT

for one year to develop a study on statewide bicycle corridors that would contribute to tourism, economic development, and transportation. The results of this study will be shared with the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) and the governor. TxDOT has also hired the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) to develop a statewide bicycle and pedestrian traffic count program. Pilot projects are underway in Houston and Austin, and recommendations from the program will be finalized in mid-2018.

### **3. Building Resilient Cities, One Trail at a Time – Robert Kent, Trust for Public Land**

Robert Kent, North Texas Area Director for the [Trust for Public Land](#) (TPL), provided a presentation about the benefits shared-use paths and parks have on public health, economic, environmental, and social issues and how they contribute to building the resiliency of cities. TPL is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect land and create accessible shared-use paths (trails) and parks across the country.

A toolkit for GIS software was developed by TPL called “Climate-Smart Cities”. This mapping toolkit applied a spatial analysis methodology to identify suitable areas for shared-use paths and parks with the goal to build resiliency of cities against climate change threats. The Climate-Smart Cities program used four strategies to help cities improve their climate resiliency:

- 1) “Connect” – the best locations for shared-use paths and parks that would improve the active transportation network
- 2) “Cool” – the best locations for shared-use paths and parks that would reduce the urban heat island effect
- 3) “Absorb” – the best locations for shared-use path and parks that would improve storm water management
- 4) “Protect” – the best locations for shared-use paths and parks that would improve flood protection by serving as a buffer between rivers and development

TPL partnered with several cities across the country to implement this toolkit, including the City of Dallas. The Dallas program was called “Smart Growth for Dallas” and consists of a partnership between TPL, Building Community Workshop, and the Texas Tree Foundation. Phase 1 of the program included developing maps identifying each feature’s suitability. Examples include highlighting areas without access to bicycle infrastructure and areas within walking distance to DART light rail stations. After analyzing the numerous factors, the GIS model identified high priority parcels of land in Dallas that meet the program’s objectives.

Phase 1 of the “Smart Growth for Dallas” program identified areas within the City of Dallas that would contribute the most to building resiliency. The next steps for implementing Phase 1’s recommendations are focused on working to include projects in the 2017 Dallas Bond Package. This funding mechanism would be used to acquire key parcels of land identified in the analysis and eventually constructing specific shared-use path and park projects. The goal of the mapping toolkit is to help cities with limited funding prioritize investments based on data-driven decisions.

**4. 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic Count Report – Daniel Snyder, NCTCOG**

Daniel Snyder, Transportation Planner with NCTCOG, provided a preview to the forthcoming 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic Count Report. High-level travel patterns and trends observed included an increase in overall pedestrian traffic compared to 2015, mode split among bicyclists and pedestrians varying among locations, and seasonal activity generally is higher in the warmer months. This year's report is the first to include data collected from a permanent bicycle counter installed in a roadway's bike lane in Fort Worth. It was found that bicycle traffic at this location exceeded some count stations installed on shared-use paths. In total, the 31 count stations around the region recorded a combined 7.4 million bicycle and pedestrian traffic counts in 2016.

The 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic Count Report is now available online [here](#).

**5. Local Community Updates and Accomplishments**

**a. North Richland Hills Trail and Route System Plan – Michael Wilson, City of North Richland Hills**

Michael Wilson presented an overview on the development of the recently adopted North Richland Hills Trail and Route System Plan. This plan aims to improve connectivity of both on- and off-street bicycle facilities to local destinations, improve safety and accessibility for all bicyclists, and connect to the regional shared-use path (trail) network. With an existing extensive shared-use path system, recommendations of the plan include implementing an on-street bicycle network to create a seamless citywide bikeway network.

During the development of the plan, there was skepticism by some members of the public about the number of people currently bicycling on roadways in North Richland Hills. To address this perception, staff referenced freely available [Strava](#) map data identifying popular roadways where bicyclists ride.

**b. Planned Separated Bikeway Westside Trail at Mercer Crossing – Mitzi Davis, City of Farmers Branch**

Mitzi Davis presented an overview about an upcoming bikeway project along Valley View Lane at Mercer Crossing. A separated bikeway is planned to be constructed with jersey barriers or railings to protect people bicycling from high-speed motor vehicle traffic. This project will connect new development underway in western Farmers Branch with the Champion Trail in the City of Irving.

**c. DART's Bike to Work Day – Chris Walters, Dallas Area Rapid Transit**

Chris Walters presented on upcoming activities by DART to promote the Bike to Work Day Challenge, a month-long event in May 2017, as well as the Bike to Work Day event "energizer stations" on May 19, 2017 at select DART stations. Participants are encouraged to sign-up on DART's website [here](#).

**d. Upcoming Events and Training – Julie Anderson, City of Denton**

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

**6. Review of BPAC Member Survey Results – Daniel Snyder, NCTCOG**

In advance of the meeting, BPAC representatives were surveyed to gauge interest in scheduling future meetings at a different day or time. Daniel Snyder reviewed results from a BPAC member survey on proposed meeting times. Based on the survey results and feedback from BPAC members, no adjustment to the meeting day and time was proposed.

**7. Other Business/Open Discussion**

Terry opened the floor to Committee members for open discussion. No additional comments were made by meeting attendees. Committee members were reminded to coordinate with their respective STTC representatives to submit their agency's nominations for 2017 BPAC representative. BPAC membership must be confirmed on an annual basis as outlined by the committee's by-laws.

The next BPAC meeting is scheduled May 17, 2017.

**Members in Attendance at the February 15, 2017 BPAC meeting:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>02/15/2017</b>
City of Allen	Randy Thompson	√
City of Arlington	Andy Richardson	√
City of Bedford	William Lankford	√
City of Burleson	Laura Melton	√
City of Carrollton	Andrew Combs	√
City of Cedar Hill	Carolyn Skeels	√
City of Colleyville	Heather Dowell	√
City of Coppell	George Marshall	√
City of Dallas	Jared White	√
City of Denton	Julie Anderson	√
City of DeSoto	Phillip Lozano	√
City of Duncanville	Bart Stevenson	√
City of Euless	Ray McDonald	√
City of Farmers Branch	Mitzi Davis	√
City of Fort Worth	Clarence Bryant	√
City of Frisco	Robert Caskey	√
City of Garland	Ann McGinnes	√
City of Grand Prairie	Daon Stephens	√
City of Grapevine	Kathy Nelson	√
City of Irving	Nathan Benditz	√
City of Keller	Jennifer Basham	√
City of McKinney	Robyn Root	√
City of North Richland Hills	Joe Pack	√
City of Plano	Christina Sebastian	√
City of Richardson	Jessica Shutt	√
City of Rowlett	Tony Felts	√
City of The Colony	Eve Morgan	√
City of Weatherford	Terry Hughes	√
City of Wylie	Robert Diaz	√
Town of Flower Mound	Kari Biddix	√
Dallas County	Micah Baker	√
Hunt County	Kevin St. Jacques	√
Ellis County	Joseph Jackson	√
Rockwall County	Lee Gilbert	√
Tarrant County	Joe Trammel	√
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)	Chris Walters	√
Denton County Transportation Authority	Jonah Katz	√

Fort Worth Transportation Authority	Curvie Hawkins	√
North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA)	Lori Shelton	√
TxDOT, Fort Worth District	Phillip Hays	√

√ = representative was present

**Non-Members and Guests in Attendance at the February 15, 2017 BPAC meeting:**

Alta Planning + Design	Catrine Machi
City of Arlington	Bob Watson
City of Balch Springs	Chris Dyser
City of Dallas	Chelsea St. Louis
City of DeSoto	Renee Johnson
City of Fort Worth	Jeremy Williams
City of Garland	Rebecca Beckham
City of Garland	Ziad Kharrat
City of North Richland Hills	Michael Wilson
City of Southlake	Jerod Potts
Dallas Area Rapid Transit	Jory Dille
Dallas Area Rapid Transit	Chris Walters
Dallas Area Rapid Transit	Ralph Zaragoza
Dallas County	Minesha Reese
Kimley-Horn	Tyler Wacker
Lee Engineering	Josh Smith
University of Texas at Arlington	Amber Raley

**NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the February 15, 2017 BPAC meeting:**

Kevin Kokes
Gabriel Ortiz
Daniel Snyder
Karla Weaver