

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

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

**November 15, 2017**

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

**Please see Pages 6 and 7 for meeting attendance.**

#### **Meeting Summary Outline**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Statewide TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee Update
3. Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Crash Information
4. THE LOOP Circuit Trail Conservancy
5. Public/Private Partnerships: Friends of Trails Organizations
6. Local Community Updates
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 Vice-Chair of BPAC. The summary of the August 16, 2017 meeting was accepted as submitted with no further discussion.

#### **2. Statewide TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Update – Kevin Kokes, NCTCOG**

Kevin Kokes introduced TxDOT's new Bicycle webpage. TxDOT is looking for feedback from BPAC, so he asked if the audience could give input within the next couple of weeks. To access the webpage, [click here](#). TxDOT's Public Transportation Division recently purchased two years of Strava bicycle and pedestrian data, and is sharing this data with local government entities (including cities, counties, and MPOs). A recording of the October 20, 2017 training webinar will be available soon and a link will be emailed once it is available. This training provided an overview of available data and how it can be used. The Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails Study (TBTTs) map is being finalized. Layers on the map include bicycle designations and the proposed route system. The map is expected to near completion by the end of this year. In 2017, Texas improved its rank with the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Report Card, moving up from #31 to #25 on the list. The increase in the rank is due in part to improvements in Education and Funding and Evaluation and Planning. To access the full report, [click here](#).

#### **3. Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Crash Information – Gabriel Ortiz, NCTCOG**

Gabriel Ortiz provided an update on the new regional bicycle and pedestrian crash density maps (2012-2016) for the 12-county Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). He mentioned that Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has designated the State of Texas as well as the

Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth as “Pedestrian-Bicycle Focus Cities/States” in 2015; however, this is also a region-wide issue.

A crash density analysis was conducted by identifying the locations of all pedestrian and bicycle crashes throughout the 12-county MPA. Several examples of maps were highlighted including crash density, crash locations, and a hybrid of both. Gabriel provided an overview on the details of the data collection and TxDOT’s Crash Record Information System (CRIS) which provides crash data composing of “Reportable Crashes”, which are crashes that result in serious injury or fatality, and crashes that result in property damages exceeding \$1,000.

Gabriel walked through each type of crash map, followed by an overview of data findings. Key issues include:

- 72% of all non-motorized crashes in the MPA involve pedestrians.
- 28% of all non-motorized crashes in the MPA involve bicyclists.
- Although 73% of pedestrian and bicycle crashes occur on Off-System roadways, 67% of pedestrian and bicycle fatalities occur on TxDOT On-System roadways.
- In the US, bicycle fatalities were at their highest since 1991; pedestrian fatalities since 1990.

NCTCOG has updated the crash density maps to include 2012 – 2016 crashes, which can be found as PDFs [here](#). In addition to the maps, NCTCOG is also working on providing a KML file of the crash density and crash locations which can be used in conjunction with Google Earth.

For any questions on crash data go to [nctcog.org/bikeped/BikePedCrashInfo](http://nctcog.org/bikeped/BikePedCrashInfo) or contact Gabriel Ortiz at [GOrtiz@nctcog.org](mailto:GOrtiz@nctcog.org).

#### **4. THE LOOP Circuit Trail Conservancy (CTC) – Rick Perdue, CTC Board Member**

Rick Perdue provided a presentation overview of THE LOOP trail project and how the CTC leveraged public and private resources to fund the completion of an approximate 50-mile dedicated trail loop surrounding the core of Dallas. THE LOOP currently consists of 21.6 miles of completed trails, 21.9 miles of funded trails, and 10.0 miles of planned trails. He also provided a map of key connections integral to the trail’s near-term success. In the design district there is an opportunity to create a “gateway” bridge. The recent bond package approved by voters in the City of Dallas includes \$20 million for a bridge over IH 35E. The total project cost of THE LOOP is \$43 million, with private sources contributing \$10 million. An additional \$13 million will be contributed by NCTCOG (CMAQ funds) and county funds.

With regard to the inception of the organization, the CTC serves as an umbrella organization to lead fundraising and outreach efforts for the trail. To get a trail project completed the organization will partner with elected officials and other community leaders to ultimately design and build a complete trail system. The CTC organization was at first modeled after the organization for Clyde Warren Park and driven by strong advocacy from the community. Currently the organization has a consultant managing the organization; however, the organization hopes to hire an Executive Director soon to assume those duties.

Jared White, City of Dallas, explained how advocates lobbied for a private organization to act as one big umbrella over Dallas’ trail network. The CTC organization is also there to provide one grand vision. Private monies make the process of constructing trails faster and

easier. An endowment is being planned to help fund operations and maintenance activities for the trails.

**5. Public/Private Partnerships: Friends of Trails Organizations**

**a. Friends of Katy Trail – Robin Baldock, Executive Director**

Robin Baldock provided an overview of the Katy Trail which was spurred by a Rails to Trails grant awarded in the 1990s. This trail acts as a spine to 3,500 acres of linear park space. One million people a year use the trail. The Friends of Katy Trail organization was formed in 1997 when voters approved \$500,000 through a bond. The organization is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a board of 24 members. The organization provides most of the trail maintenance including landscaping and lighting. The City of Dallas provides storm maintenance and picks up trash once a week. The organization also works with the city for creating trail entrances. Efforts were made to prevent “canyonizing” of the trail with buildings, etc., so the organization will work with the city through the development process.

**b. Friends of Santa Fe Trail – Brad Grist, President of the Board**

Brad Grist provided an overview of the Santa Fe Trail in East Dallas and how the organization was formed in 2008, which is also when the first phase of the trail was constructed. In his presentation he explained the organization’s key focus on safety. Most of their donations come from private companies. The organization has had great success working with local civic associations, i.e. Boy Scouts. An example of civic participation is when the Boy Scouts raised funds to place benches and a water fountain along the trail. Trail maintenance and clean-up and the touch up of murals are completed by volunteers about four times a year. The City of Dallas helps out with concrete and other maintenance.

The organization is very involved with trail advocacy by increasing the awareness of the trail. To do this, events such as yoga, movie nights and club rides are held to attract people to the trail. Trail advocacy is a major focus of the organization. Brad Grist explained how their mission is to add amenities to the trail. This year, construction involved items, such as mile markers, water fountains, and tree plantings. For the organization’s annual budget, a committee was created, whose role is to seek new ways to fund certain capital projects throughout the trail. Their goal is to minimize burden to the city.

**6. Local Community Updates**

**a. DCTA Rail Trail, Jonah Katz, Denton County Transportation Authority**

Jonah Katz provided an update on the status of each trail segment of the DCTA Trail. The IH 35E trail bridge over Lewisville Lake is scheduled to be completed by June 2018. The overall trail corridor extends from Downtown Denton to the Hebron Station in southern Lewisville.

**b. Walking School Bus, Stephanie Jackson, Blue Zones Project**

The Walking School Bus program entails kids and their parents walking together as a group to educate them on how to safely cross the road and which routes kids should take to school. Organizers will work with advocates around the community to make sure enough volunteers are recruited to help with implementation.

The program provides Toolkits to schools. An example is “Walking Wednesdays”. A walking audit is conducted. Organizers look at safety issues with regard to sidewalks, working with the State and NCTCOG. The City of Fort Worth will help match those funds. For these projects, before and after data with pedestrian counters and survey data will be used to measure the success of their improvements. Organizers have seen an increase in pedestrian traffic in the three years since the program started. Organizers communicate to parents in both English and Spanish to maximize the program’s influence. Also, to encourage participation from the neighborhood important figures of the community are invited, i.e. mayors, priests, etc.

**c. School Siting Guidebook, Kathryn Rush, NCTCOG**

Kathryn Rush provided an overview of a new guidebook, *Planning for Community-Oriented Schools: A Guide to School Siting in North Texas*.—The Guide provides steps for improving city-school district communications and coordination, strategies and criteria for siting “community-oriented schools”, and local best practice examples. She explained that the trend since the 1970s of locating schools along major roadways and at the edge of neighborhoods and communities has had an adverse impact on the number of students that walk and bicycle to school. Lower rates of walking and bicycling in turn effects traffic congestion, air quality, health, and safety.

Community-oriented schools not only enable students to walk and bicycle to school, they can positively contribute to school district and local government goals related to academic achievement, quality of life, and community growth, and the efficient use of funds. Kathryn highlighted a case study school to demonstrate one of the Guide’s strategies for siting community-oriented schools: create safe environments for students to walk and bicycle.

**d. Mockingbird Bridge, Jared White, City of Dallas**

Jared White provided an overview of the Mockingbird Bridge which was officially opened in early November. The design and construction of the cable-stayed bridge over Mockingbird Lane just east of US 75 cost \$8.3 million. He explained the complexity of the bridge project, since it was located along a utility corridor and is above a DART tunnel. Lighter construction materials were used to reduce the weight load put on parts of the DART tunnel. He also explained the limited access for bicyclists due to the large differences in elevation grade between the station platform and the bridge.

**e. Upcoming Events and Training, Julie Anderson, City of Denton, Vice Chair**

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

7. **Other Business/Open Discussion – Chair Terry Hughes, and Julie Anderson, Co-Chair, City of Denton**

Terry opened the floor to Committee members for open discussion.

Amelia Hayes with FHWA announced two new publications from FHWA. One is titled, “*Accessible Shared Streets: Notable Practices and Considerations for Accommodating Pedestrians with Vision Disabilities*” ([link](#)) and the other is “*How to Develop a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Plan*” ([link](#)).

Kevin Kokes announced a poll will be sent to BPAC members in the upcoming weeks concerning possible adjustments to the start times for the APBP webinar and the BPAC meetings in 2018. Kevin also announced Terry Hughes’ last day as Chair of BPAC is today. Terry was thanked for his service as Chair for the 2017 year. Vice Chair Julie Anderson will assume the BPAC Chair position for 2018.

Chair Terry Hughes announced the date of BPAC’s next scheduled meeting on February 21, 2018 in the Transportation Council Room.

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

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE</b>
City of Allen	Randy Thompson
City of Arlington	Andy Richardson
City of Burleson	Laura Melton
City of Colleyville	Heather Dowell
City of Dallas	Jared White
City of Denton	Julie Anderson
City of Farmers Branch	Mitzi Davis
City of Fort Worth	Clarence Bryant
City of Frisco	Robert Caskey
City of Grand Prairie	Daon Stephens
City of Grapevine	Kathy Nelson
City of Irving	Cody Owen (For NBenditz)
City of Keller	Jennifer Basham
City of Lancaster	Shane Shepard
City of Lewisville	Stacie Anaya
City of McKinney	Robyn Root
City of North Richland Hills	Joe Pack
City of Plano	Christina Sebastian
City of Richardson	Jessica Shutt
City of The Colony	Eve Morgan
City of Waxahachie	Shon Brooks
City of Weatherford	Terry Hughes
City of Wylie	Robert Diaz
Dallas Area Rapid Transit	Ralph Zaragoza
Dallas County	Micah Baker
Denton County Transportation Authority	Jonah Katz
Ellis County	Joseph Jackson
Rockwall County	Lee Gilbert
Tarrant County	Joe Trammel
Town of Addison	Michael Kashuba
Town of Flower Mound	Kari Biddix
TxDOT Dallas District	Shelley Pridgen
Wise County	Chad Davis

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

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>
Blue Zones Project	Stephanie Jackson
Circuit Trail Conservancy	Rick Perdue
City of Dallas	Jason Ney
City of Duncanville	Bart Stevenson
City of Fort Worth	Mirian Spencer
City of Fort Worth	Jeremy Williams
City of Garland	Rebecca Beckham
City of Irving	Cody Owen
City of Lake Dallas	Renee O'Neill
City of Lake Dallas	Devin Shields
City of Lancaster	Bester Munyaradzi
City of Richland Hills	Jason Brown
City of Southlake	Jerod Potts
City of Westworth Village	Dan Novak
City of Wylie	Brent Stowers
Dallas Area Rapid Transit	Victor Ibewuike
FHWA Texas Division	Amelia Hayes
Friends of Katy Trail	Robin Baldock
Friends of Santa Fe Trail	Brad Grist
Halff Associates	Bud Melton
Halff Associates	Dean Stuller
Shield Engineering Group	Luke Canan
Shield Engineering Group	Emily Gilbert
The Davis Advocates	Katie O'Brien
Trust for Public Land	Robert Kent

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

Nicholas Hernandez
Kevin Kokes
Gabriel Ortiz
Kathryn Rush
Daniel Snyder