

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

Community Room
215 North Mason Street
Fort Collins, CO 80522

FOR REFERENCE:

Chair, Sylvia Cranmer	970-493-5277
Staff Liaison, Tessa Greegor	970-416-2471

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Todd Dangerfield, Downtown Development Authority
Bruce Henderson, Parks and Recreation Board (alternate)
Kelly McDonnell, Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition
Ryan Nicholson, Fort Collins Bike Co-op

AT LARGE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sylvia Cranmer, Chair
Patrick McCarty, Member at Large

ABSENT

Ragan Adams, Parks and Recreation Board
Cathy Busch-Kinkaid, At Large Member
Mark Houdashelt, Air Quality Advisory Board
Chris Hunt, Poudre School District
Chris Johnson, Bike Fort Collins, Director
Edward Reifsnnyder, Land Conservation & Stewardship Board

CITY OF FORT COLLINS STAFF PRESENT

Tessa Greegor, FC Bikes Program Manager
Jamie Gaskill-Fox and Nick Heimann, FC Bikes
Paul Sizemore, FC Moves Program Manager

GUESTS and CITIZENS PRESENT

Mike Kase, Citizen
Kristi Savig, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was preceded with dinner provided by Spoons (5:45 – 6:00), and called to order by Chair Sylvia Cranmer at 6:04 p.m.

AGENDA REVIEW

Chair Cranmer briefly introduced the presentations and introduced speakers scheduled for the evening. The order of the agenda was changed slightly to have FC Bikes update prior to Pitkin Corridor presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Kase (Citizen Guest) introduced himself and informed us of his previous position with the Austin Texas Bike Advisory Council. No public comments were made at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of January 25, with minor correction to the meeting date (2016). One (1) member abstained as they were not present on January 25th.

FOLLOW-UP FROM PRIOR MEETING/FUTURE BUSINESS

Committee Member Changes: Joe Halseth of the Natural Resource Advisory Board is no longer on the Board and therefore has vacated this position on the BAC. Greg Oakes is no longer on the Transportation Board and has also vacated this position on the BAC. Joy Childress (Colorado State University) has given up her position on BAC. The Chair (Sylvia Cranmer) suggested that she could be the future CSU representative and vacate the "At Large" position for a new candidate. No issue with the proposed "At Large" position change was made. Other outstanding BAC positions needing to be filled include the University Connections position (vacated several months ago) and the Senior Advisory Board position (recently held by Lawrence Bontempo).

Chair Cranmer proposed that the Member at Large position be opened for future applicants. The final appointment to the position will be made by the City Manager, Darin Atteberry.

- It was mentioned that the application process is quite lengthy. It was suggested that the Chair contact 2015 applicants to enquire about continued interest in the Member at Large position.
- The Chair will announce the opening in the Bike Fort Collins newsletter and on the City's website.

ACTION ITEMS

None mentioned.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

FC Bikes Program Update (Jamie Gaskill-Fox, Nick Heimann)

Nick Heimann provided an update on seasonal FC Bikes campaigns and asked for BAC comments/input regarding 4 selected 2016 Open Streets routes (2 North/Central routes and 2 South routes). Jamie Gaskill-Fox followed sharing FC Bikes updates on FC Bike Plan education initiatives as well as progress and growth of the Bicycle Ambassador Program (BAP). Both presentations and the discussion that followed are summarized below.

Seasonal FC Bikes Campaigns are evolving for 2016, including social media presence, seasonal components to classes, one overall theme/marketing for the year, and large seasonal events. More than 2,000 survey responses are helping to drive marketing decisions

Bike Winter – 2015/2016

- Record attendance this year for Bike to Work Day
- Photo Contest connected with social media. Photos currently displayed at city building (~30 participants)
- Seasonal classes

9th annual Winter Bike to Work Day – Wednesday, December 14, 2015

- 1,755 participants-5.3% increase over 2014
 - o Increase in female participants, slight decrease in new participants
- 29 stations hosted by 67 businesses

Bike Spring 2016 campaign plans include:

- Scavenger Hunt by Bike ; social media, self-paced event (April and May)
- Bike Safety Week
- Women’s Month is May; emphasis with weekly classes, challenges, etc.
- Open Streets; Sunday June 5th
- Social media campaign
- Seasonal classes

Events will begin April 1st

Open Streets Planning for Sundays, June 5 and September 18 – Nick briefly described the characteristics and structure of Open Street events and surveyed BAC members input for consideration when the City makes a final selection of the two Open Street areas/routes for 2016.

- FC Bikes hosted two Open Street events in 2015:
 - W. Elizabeth-7,000 participants; Remington-5,000 participants
- Two events planned for 2016 (June 5 and September 18, 2016).

A handout was distributed to BAC members on the goals, process to date, 20 routes originally considered, and map locations for the top 4 routes being considered at this time (see below).

- SWOT Analysis, objective criteria prioritized
- Stakeholder meetings with city transportation, neighborhood services, and traffic operations staff; as well as BAC and Transportation Board members.
- 2016 Routes are selected in an informed and objective approach.

Possible routes narrowed to two routes in North/Central Fort Collins and two routes in Southern Fort Collins. BAC discussion/comments regarding the pros and cons are noted below. A straw poll of BAC members’ preferred routes is summarized with each route considered.

North/Central Routes

1. Redwood/Linden: Willox to Jefferson & Walnut (2 members preferred this route)

Pros:

- Todd Dangerfield (Downtown Dev. Authority) and Nick discussed business participation
 - o Consider dates of old town square events and upcoming construction/development planned for the area.
 - o Engage Downtown Business Association with decisions.

Cons:

- Con for business participants would be loss of parking and vendor tents conflicting/taking away from established business traffic.
- Railroad crossings (Safety concerns within 25’ of railroad crossing; Jefferson and Vine). Terminating at Willox would remove this concern. The Chair mentioned using this railroad crossing as an educational opportunity
- Todd felt that much of focus is often downtown; avoid festival fatigue (5 events planned for 2016)
- Hotel construction may effect routing.

2. Stover: Mulberry to Prospect (3 members preferred this route)

Pros:

- Pretty area of town

Cons:

- A portion of this route is currently closed with construction (utilities project)

South Routes

1. Corbett: Kechter to Harmony (3 members preferred this route)

Pros:

- Appealing given pedestrian type of area and mixed use
- City and Front Range Village relationship is good to support this type of event

Cons:

- Crossing over Harmony to Front Range Village

2. Lady Moon: Ziegler to Harmony

Pros:

- Open space feel

Cons:

- None mentioned

Other Open Streets 2016 routes considered but ruled out included:

- Swallow – Dunbar to College and Fossil Creek Parkway – College to Lemay (logistics of routes difficult)
- Boardwalk – Harmony to Power Trail (railroad crossing safety concerns – Keenland Dr.)
- Dunbar – Drake to Horsetooth (Good place to consider but would not provide alternate route for vehicles)

Discussion included comments on why T-shaped routes were not considered. Nick noted that linear routes are superior over T-shaped routes with visibility of the full route. Other types of routes may be considered in future years.

Q. Mike Kase (Guest) asked why these Open Street events were not in May, during National Bike Month.

A. Nick clarified that June is the bike month designated by the Governor and State of Colorado.

Jamie shared current updates on Education initiatives, including a description of the Bicycle Ambassadors Program (BAP) education process.

2014 Bicycle Master Plan Recommendations that address education.

1) Grow Community Involvement

- Increased BAP participation (grown to 90 participants)
- Class Participation of close to 500 participants
- Education at events included interaction with over 3000 participants.

2) Relate to Low Stress Network

- Education related to new bicycling infrastructure
- Instructional videos (Roundabout at Laurel and Remington) – website availability
- Laurel and Mason crossing
- Social media and classes used for training purposes

3) Collaborate

- Poudre School District (PSD)- (Safe Routes to School, Bike Rodeo, Local Schools)
- Neighborhood Services (Neighborhood Night Out, interacted with over 100 participants)
- Local businesses

4) Innovative approach to Education

- Ride Smart/Drive Smart – education and enforcement for both bikes and vehicles
- Bike Safety Week social media campaign; education at key safety concern areas

Jamie passed out new FC Bikes flyers on the BAP, and Bicycle Friendly Driver programs

- Bicycle Friendly Driver (Unique Business program developed by FC Bikes and in collaboration with Bike FC) - Participants receive vehicle decals that show they have taken the course and passed the test. Only 2 questions can be missed to pass the test.

Approximately 550 are already planned to participate for 1st quarter of 2016. Businesses and city drivers, PSD drivers etc. are all signing up to participate in class and certification process. The League of American Cyclists will be promoting this program nationally. Classes are also being offered by the Cities' Recreation department.

5) School Bicycle Ambassador Program

- o High School student ambassadors (e.g. Rocky Mtn HS Bike Club, Ft. Collins HS, and Fossil Ridge HS)
- o School events for students to educate others
- o Ft. Collins High School – 1st National Bicycle Friendly Business

Jamie shared, "Education is changing people's lives and saving lives, including providing the gift of the ability to ride a bike and ride safely."

Bikes Program Discussion and Q&A

Q. Are city employees given incentives to participate in the Friendly Driver class?

A. Yes through wellness programs, but some businesses and city folks are requiring participation.

- People are asking to gain this information and showing good response.

Q. If fleet certification is given; what percent of drivers are participating?

A. FYI, Green Ride is developing BAP education and then train the trainer. Most businesses are striving for 100% participation.

Pitkin Bikeway Corridor Project (Tessa Greeger)

Tessa Greeger, FC Bikes Program Manager updated meeting attendees on the timelines, scope, goals, and key issues and arterial crossing concerns for the Pitkin Bikeway Corridor project. Members viewed images and engineering and design concepts for the project, offering their input and suggestions for Tessa to take back to City staff for consideration.

The 2014 Bicycle Master Plan includes goals for the Low Stress Network to be completed by 2020. Pitkin is a major east-west route across the city, with several challenging arterial crossings. FC was awarded \$741,250 for the Transportation Alternatives program grant to design and construct four miles of the Pitkin Bikeway (from Overland Trail to Riverside). Details of the Pitkin project follow:

Timelines:

- Design and Public Outreach Jan - Feb
- Final Design and Public Outreach Feb-June
- Construction & Education- June-Sept

Project Scope:

Overland to Riverside with arterial crossing Improvements:

- Taft Hill, Shields, College and Lemay
- Transition, signals, striping
- Signage and wayfinding

Goals

- Safety and connectivity for bikes
- Spot intersection improvements
- Coordinate work with CSU for sections through campus (CSU partnerships)
- Design improvements throughout corridor

Key Issues

- Bike direction of travel
- Intersection alignments
- Signal modifications

Arterial Crossings Concerns (1-4 represent corridor intersections west to east across town)

The Corridor will be implemented in Fall 2016 as long as all approvals can be made.

Clearview crossing at Taft Hill

- Signal updates (*Hawk* type signal, not fully signalized)
- Close review of turning concepts
- Transition bikes to one side of street at crossing (still under review).

Example of Tucson AZ crossing shown

1. Springfield to Pitkin offset crossing at Shields

- Transition bikes to one side of street for crossing Shields at Springfield
- No left turn for vehicles exiting campus would be allowed at Pitkin and Shields.
- Diagonal crossing of Shields
- Two Way protected bike lane on south side of Pitkin (through campus); as well as the east side bike lane of Shields (from Pitkin to Springfield crossing)

2. Pitkin and College

- Looking into additional right of way for widening the bike lane on Pitkin, east of College
- The underpass south of this intersection is also an option for crossing.
- Bike boxes and crossing paint, similar to Swallow and Shields intersection design.

3. Pitkin and Lemay crossing west onto Lory Street (considering two options)

- Transitions to two-way bike lane on the south side of Pitkin.
- *OR*, *Toucan* type crossing design with crossing in the middle of intersection; left turns are restricted/ straight through vehicle crossing to Lory Street would also be restricted.
- May require FHWA configuration approval.

Examples of Salt Lake and Tucson shown.

Q. How much vehicle traffic flows through the Pitkin and Lemay crossing?

A. Minimal

Another Pitkin project open house will be in April or May.
Completion is hoped for Fall 2016.

Pitkin Bikeway Corridor Project General Discussion and Q&A

Bike Fort Collins (Bruce Henderson) had a ride through area/region recently. He thought the new plan addressed concerns quite well.

Ryan Nicholson (Fort Collins Bike Co-op) saw a preference for stop sign at the Pitkin and Lemay intersection. Other BAC members talked about need for signal here during periods of high traffic volume. Further suggestion was made to sync the signal crossing with other signals (Lemay/Prospect and Lemay/Robertson) should be considered.

Bike boxes and restricting right turn on red are often introducing new conflicts; especially as additional cyclists and pedestrians approach the intersection. Ryan also talked about the complexities of lane changes and maneuvering for riders.

Q. Do any of these changes “lock the city in” to these bike intersections or designs? Could later changes (e.g. Shields underpass) be implemented?

A. There is always an opportunity to change if needed. Painting and striping can always be changed easier than physical structures. Crossing improvements at Pitkin/Springfield are moving forward independent of the grade-separated crossing plans/studies for Shields (not one or the other).

Q. Can you clarify the funding for aspects of the design?

A. Most painting, striping, signals can be included with given budget. Depending on the scale of physical improvements, e.g., moving medians, the given budget may not cover everything.

2016 BAC Work Plan (Draft provided with Agenda, 2/17/16)

Chair Cranmer and Tessa Greegor (FC Moves) received few if any comments or changes regarding the 2015 Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Work Plan draft provided for members’ review at the January 2016 meeting. Given the following discussion points, it was decided to table further review or changes until the March 28th meeting. BAC members were encouraged to submit written suggestions and comments to Chair and Tessa before the next meeting.

Discussion Points:

- Ryan Nicholson posed a question regarding the BAC’s “advisory” role to the Transportation Board versus the Committees’ capacity to proactively make resolution/recommendations to the Transportation Board and/or City Council.
 - o The Chair gave examples of issues that were researched, reviewed, and then brought forward for vote of the BAC’s approval.
 - o She mentioned that the committee’s advisory relationship with the Transportation Board and the BAC’s authority to make recommendations autonomous of the Transportation Board needs to be clarified.
- Ryan further expressed that he would like to see unified BAC representation regarding bike-related guidance made to presenting city planners at monthly meetings. Others present felt that BAC recommendations are sufficient.
- Most present agreed that it would be helpful to have on-site reviews and/or additional opportunity to evaluate and clarify BAC-related suggestions/recommendations in the future.

A bulleted list handout of 2016 BAC Work Plan Discussion Items was distributed to meeting participants. Members should review this list as well as the Draft Work Plan before the next meeting.

Work Plan Q&A

Q. Has the Transportation Board adopted a Work Plan that included BAC work items?

A. Yes

STAFF REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair again encouraged BAC members to attend Transportation Board meetings if possible, especially since there is no current BAC representative from the Transportation Board.

MEMBER REPORTS OF IMPORTANCE

Kelly McDonnell (Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition) –Kelly encouraged meeting participants to mark their calendars for the upcoming velo swap sponsored by the Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant and Bike Fort Collins. RioSwap 2016 will take place on Wednesday March 2nd at the Rio.

NEW BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next month staff will give an update on the bike share program, planned for release in Spring 2016. The presentation of bike parking reports may be postponed to give more time in the March meeting to review the 2016 BAC Work Plan.

ADJOURN

Kelly motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.