



- MINUTES -
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION
Sonny West Conference Center

January 13, 2025

ATTENDEES

COMMITTEE

Chair Katherine McDonnell, Vice Chair Matt Hertz, AJ Haney, Ashleigh Wilson, Carey Rogers, Hal Martin, KJ Garner, Nate McDowell, Anas Saba, Courtney Ross

STAFF

Matthew Cushing, Anna Dearman, Robyn Strain, Shandira Edgecombe, James Guthrie (Metro Planning Commission Staff), Logan Elliott (Metro Parks Staff)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

John Norris, Liz Riggs

1. Call to Order

- The January 13, 2025 meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission was called to order at 5:06 PM by Chair Katherine McDonnell.

2. Roll Call

- Present: Chair Katherine McDonnell, Vice Chair Matt Hertz, AJ Haney, Ashleigh Wilson, Carey Rogers, Hal Martin, KJ Garner, Liz Riggs, Nate McDowell, Anas Saba, Courtney Ross
- Absent: John Norris, Liz Riggs

3. Public Comment

- Charlie Weingartner, a member of the Vision Zero Advisory Council, shared his concern on the potential loss of a mountain bike trail at Percy Warner park, to create a new Cheekwood access drive. He also mentioned his concerns have general consensus with and are supported by the "Nashville Mountain Bike Facebook Group" which has around 10k members. Mr. Rogers commented that he thinks the approval decision has already been made by Metro Planning, but that the group making the decisions should be invited to present to BPAC.

4. Approval of Minutes

- Ms. Garner motioned, Mr. Hertz seconded, and December minutes were approved unanimously

5. Review of Agenda

- There were no objections to the new additions, and the agenda was approved as proposed.

6. Administrator Updates - Matthew Cushing, NDOT

- **Meeting Space Updates**
 - Previous discussion involved the search for a location for BPAC to meet where access to active transportation was easier. Continued discussion occurred, and WeGo Central meeting room has been confirmed as available to host the next scheduled meeting, although it would most likely be harder to broadcast meetings from. This action would need a motion and vote (deferred). Several commissioners are opposed to moving the meetings around on a trial basis and are proponents of a regularly determined location.
- **Distribution of Annual Report**
 - Chair McDonnell shared that the Mayor's Office and Metro Council have received and some have responded to the content of the report.
 - Spanish translation of the report draft will be available January 21st. BPAC discussed the potential of hosting and posting of documents on Nashville.gov/BPAC, but there limitations to what can be posted on the website. A BPAC-hosted resources may be linked on the site, and can be considered for archival of the products created by the commission.

7. Subcommittee Report Outs

- **Rules, Process, and Reporting Subcommittee**

- Chair McDonnell reported movement on action items from the annual report, along with confirming the contact person who will track accomplishments. a meeting has been scheduled between some members of subcommittee and Walk/Bike Nashville.

- **Community Engagement Subcommittee**

- Mr. McDowell reported on discussions in the subcommittee. Regular meetings will be scheduled for the Thursday after BPAC. Subcommittee has plans to create action items around:
 - Creating materials: informational pamphlets, mock tickets, handouts, digital publications, maps;
 - Raising awareness: logo and branding discussions, publicizing the BPAC, hosting public events;
 - Partnerships: identifying aligned and potentially invested organizations, facilitation of public feedback
- Next meeting, February 23, 2025

- **Plan / Engineering Review Subcommittee**

- Ms. Wilson shared that the meeting followed a "getting to know you" format, in which they discussed an upcoming site visit and performed visioning on the role of the subcommittee including what recommendations they can make.
- Next meeting February 10, 2025.

8. Nashville Ciclovía Presentation, Wesley Smith, Walk/Bike Nashville

- Walk/Bike Nashville has received approval from NDOT Leadership and begun planning a 4-8 week series (over the summer) where their typical "Open Streets" format starts to emulate the Argentinian Ciclovía concept. The agency wants to highlight good cycling infrastructure as built, and point out the gaps present. Routes and timelines are yet to be decided but two options were presented for feedback:
- Route A – East to Farmer's Market ~4 mile
Potentially closing all but two lanes of Woodland, more people would have to drive or bus to the route footprint
- Route B – Inner-city Loop, ~16 miles
Greenway connected (5.8 miles), more neighborhood access points, more vast
 - Discussion & Questions:
 - Mr. Haney commented that the more ambitious route would be a good base, with adjustments made as needed. Mr. Hertz asked if the intention is more geared towards promoting the safe biking to/through downtown to more riders in general, or to demonstrate the routing to riders who may be more hesitant to ride when there is auto traffic. Mr. Smith said the goals are still being formed, and that it will not take full closure to accomplish incremental success.
 - Ms. Garner, Mr. Sabas, and Ms. Wilson are proponents of a hybrid approach to the proposed routing, with potential seeding from local bike groups. A question was posed from the audience whether Walk/Bike Nashville had considered blocking different routes each time – Wes responded that the operational organization of that concept would be more prohibitive with NDOT. Mr. McDowell said that it seems like a good opportunity to check out newly constructed infrastructure and connecting neighborhoods.
 - Ms. Montgomery (of Walk/Bike Nashville) stated that many or most of the routes are part of the proposed bike network so it would demonstrate what's possible and increase opportunities for engagement with the business community along with activation of the spaces along the route. Mr. Sabas commented that this idea would be a nice way to explore the amenities in a different neighborhood than where you live. An audience member mentioned that it would help if the Ciclovía would occur in the evening since many businesses open late on Sundays. Kickoff would be intended to begin around Tour de Nash in May.

9. Programmatic Update - uGo / Countywide Bikeways Map Discussion – Anna Dearman, NDOT

- Feedback was solicited from Commissioners on the creation of a "Neighborhood Bike Map", a county-wide bikeways map in development meant to include qualitative rider stress and comfort measures, institutional locations, and educational components.
- Ms. Dearman discussed existing rider resources including the "Groove Map" created/led by Walk/Bike Nashville -copies of the "Groove map" were presented to Commissioners for discussion.
- NDOT has mapped the technical aspects of the bikeways county-wide, but those maps are more planning-focused and have gaps in the qualitative comfort and stress aspects. Online survey is still open for feedback with 62 participants so far, and Ms. Dearman will send out the survey link post-meeting.
- Ms. Dearman said NDOT may be able to contract with the creator of that map, who also created and updated the Greenways maps. NDOT and WalkBike Nashville primarily distribute the maps, and they have been offered to the BPAC commissioners to distribute elsewhere. Ms. Dearman also asked for suggestions on locations for distribution.
- Next steps include: Summarizing the feedback received, updating the scope with consultants, and returning for more feedback from BPAC.

- Discussion & Questions:

- Mr. Haney advised making the details scalable so that people can filter what information they want to see, including landmarks, historical places, universities, tourist destinations, etc. Other commissioners asked for potential on digitizing, a greater variety of colors, elevation designations, symbology updates. Ms. Wilson asked for the educational components to reflect all users.
- Mr. Cushing asked if the engagement subcommittee would be a useful contact point for BPAC with the check-ins, to which Mr. McDowell agreed. Audience members commented that there are business and other destinations not mentioned where some demarcation may be useful, and Ms. Dearman said there are some land use designations where that may be possible. Ms. Dearman asked about Mr. McDowell's process with creating the B-Cycle bike ride maps, which he said was based on leading group bike rides of various lengths with riders of various experience and expertise.

7. Adjournment

The January 13, 2025 meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission was adjourned at 6:35 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10th, 2025.