



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

December 16, 2024

ATTENDEES

COMMITTEE

Chair Katherine McDonnell, Vice Chair Matt Hertz, AJ Haney, Ashleigh Wilson, Carey Rogers, Hal Martin, KJ Garner, Liz Riggs, Nate McDowell

STAFF

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

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Anas Saba, Courtney Ross, John Norris

1. Call to Order

- The December 16, 2024 meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission was called to order at 5:02 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
- Absent: Anas Saba, Courtney Ross, John Norris

3. Public Comment

- No public comments were made.

4. Approval of Minutes

- November minutes were approved unanimously

5. Review of Agenda

- The agenda was approved as proposed with no modifications.

6. Administrator Updates - Matthew Cushing, NDOT

- **Meeting Space Updates**
 - Previous discussion involved search for a location for BPAC to meet where access to active transportation was easier. Mr. Cushing stated that WeGo Central conference room is an option for a potential relocation, but the courthouse jury rooms are not. WeGo Central would most likely be harder to broadcast meetings from
 - Discussion ensued about virtually hosting the commission for members who may not be able to attend, which Mr. Rogers said would be in violation of the "Open Meetings" Act and was only allowed by Executive Order during the pandemic
- **Data Requests from Prior Meeting on East Bank Boulevard**
 - East Bank project management team responses to last meeting's questions were emailed and presented briefly for Commission members to review
 - Mr. Hertz wants to have further access to and involvement by the East Bank team so that "hopes don't remain simply hopes". Chair McDonnell mentioned that, because the planned East Bank Boulevard is a six lane arterial road, even if there are dedicated transit lanes, she has concerns about safe access for vulnerable users. To ensure positive outcomes, she wants to know what the public engagement process will be for ongoing efforts on the East Bank and how the Commission can be involved
 - Mr. Rogers says he remembers there being multiple design concepts and would like to hear from the actual designers. Ms. Riggs brought up that there is active redesign of other Nashville streets (such as Gallatin Road) to improve pedestrian access and that building a new road should present an opportunity to build such roads correctly
 - Chair McDonnell commented that that statement: "bike lanes increase pedestrian risk/exposure" in the East Bank team's response received is a flawed and demonstrably false statement. Ms. Wilson mentioned access to Davidson Street has been a concern of hers since the initial plan was released
 - Mr. Cushing offered to send plan maps to Commission post-meeting

7. Subcommittee Report Outs

• Rules, Process, and Reporting Subcommittee

- During discussion on the Annual Report to the Mayor's Office, Ms. Garner asked about the Spanish translation timeline. Mr. Rogers asked about whether the update can be distributed as a Press Release. Mr. Hertz asked, if not, if it can be publicly posted. Mr. Cushing said posting it on the BPAC website is likely a possibility. A motion was approved, seconded, and passed to approve the letter.

• Community Engagement Subcommittee

- The goal of the first meeting (planned for 12/19) is to plan what community engagement looks like, letting people know that the commission exists. Mr. Hertz asked if the subcommittee meetings can be recorded. Mr. Cushing said recording the meeting should be fine and there are no requirement to use a metro-hosted web-platform to host the meeting, as long as there is a publicly available link posting according to public notice policies.

• Plan / Engineering Review Subcommittee

- Ms. Wilson spoke about the scheduled virtual meeting (planned for 12/17), during which they would like to discuss frequency of meetings and possible site visits, to be planned with Community Engagement subcommittee participation. Mr. Hertz wants to set up and plan recurring subcommittee meetings with advanced notice to allow maximum participation.

8. Programmatic Updates

• Connect Downtown, Brent Schultz, NDOT

- Mr. Schultz presented about the Connect Downtown Plan for Downtown Nashville
 - Connect Downtown plan approved by Metro Council, April 2024
 - Plan Phasing:
 - Phase 1: 2024-2026
 - Phase 2: 2027-2029
 - Phase 3: 2030+
 - Plan area inside the I-65/I-40 Loop has goals to:
 - Address and manage downtown congestion
 - Improve safety
 - Complete network with "mobility lanes"
 - Maximize flexible curb use
 - Develop adaptive signals and transit priority lanes
 - Updates on active and proposed projects in the plan, including:
 - Ongoing scooter and bike corral installation
 - Will approach 300 bike parking spaces in the loop before moving on to Germantown
 - Over 1500 scooter parking spaces have been installed and are in active use
 - Traffic Management Center (opened 2024)
 - Curb Management pilot with Automotus

○ Discussion and Questions

- Ms. Garner asked if the mobility lanes' purpose is to avoid taking travel lanes or widening sidewalks. Mr. McDowell asked for a concrete definition of "mobility lane" - Ms. Dearman and Mr. Schultz responded that the effort to define the term has been ongoing, but that it involves providing safe access for smaller vehicles other than just bicycles. Mr. Schultz invited location-specific discussion, and said he is always considering the sidewalk when doing his projects
- Mr. Rogers asked about the reason for installing scooter-only corrals - Mr. Schultz said the companies are being guided to encourage customers to corral micro-mobility vehicles. Mr. Rogers says he takes issue with restrictions to "scooter-only" corrals
- Ms. Riggs asked about possibility of pedestrianizing Broadway, and believes that this group, with knowledge of the stakeholder/political push back, can plan to address it. Mr. Schultz stated there is no plan to do so at the moment

• Tactical Urbanism, Matthew Cushing, NDOT

- Mr. Cushing presented about the NDOT Tactical Urbanism Program
 - Projects are community-led temporary measures to test solutions to roadway challenges in public spaces
 - First call for projects for the funding program occurred in Summer 2024, 17 projects awarded so far

○ Discussion and Questions

- Mr. Hertz asked how robust the applicant process is, and Mr. Cushing said it's not prohibitive in terms of design but there needs to be documentation of commitment to ongoing maintenance, documentation of

community support, and preparation for the road/sidewalk closure staffing costs in addition to project concept and design

- Mr. McDowell asked what the community engagement efforts of the program are like, and about data considerations and the pathway to permanence - Mr. Cushing said he is happy to come to organized meetings to publicize the program, and said the level of public engagement required for a project will depend on the "controversiality" of project.
- Mr. Hertz asked how the process will take community feedback into account after projects have been complete. Mr. Cushing said that BPAC's feedback on any plan for receiving feedback about the installations would be welcome. Ms. Dearman said a lot of that depends on the critical commitment of the neighborhood organizations who organize and support the project

9. Adjournment

The December 16, 2024 meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission was adjourned at 6:40 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, but will need to be rescheduled because of the MLK Day Holiday. Commissioners expressed preference that space be reserved for one of the adjacent Mondays.