

## NASHVILLE DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION & MULTIMODAL INFRASTRUCTURE

# BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION

## **Minutes**

August 18, 2025 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

## Howard Office Building Sonny West Auditorium, Rooms A/B 700 2nd Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37210

### **Committee Overview**

This 13-member group serves to increase collaboration between the Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County to ensure a commitment to increasing safety and the use of bicycle, micro mobility devices, and pedestrian travel as significant and beneficial modes of transportation and recreation.

#### **Notice to Public**

Agendas are posted online before each meeting at:

https://www.nashville.gov/departments/transportation/boards/bpac

#### Speaking to the Committee

Anyone can speak before the committee during a public hearing. An NDOT staff member presents each item, followed by public comment period, then committee discussion. Community members are asked to speak for two minutes each, at the discretion of the chair, and direct their comments to the committee.



## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION

1) Call to Order – 5:00pm by Chair McDonell

### 2) Roll Call

**Present:** Alvin Haney, KJ Garner, Katherine McDonell, Carey Rogers, Courtney Ross, Liz Riggs, Mathew Hertz, Ashleigh Wilson & John Norris

Absent: Anas Saba

**Staff Present:** Brent Schultz (NDOT), Erica Haber, Phylinda Ramsey & Ann Michelson (Metro Legal), Erin Williams (Mayors Office), JD Lane (NDOT), Anna Dearman (NDOT), Robert Johnson (WeGo)

## 3) July 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes

a) July 21, 2025 minutes approved unanimously

## 4) Approval of Agenda

a) approved unanimously

## 5) Public Comments

- a) The public is invited to speak regarding any issue. Members of the public are asked to limit testimony to three (3) minutes
  - Julie Mattes East Nashville resident expressing gratitude and support for the East Bank concepts developed by CDC. Says it's a thoughtful and realistic approach that takes actual people into consideration instead of mythical numbers. Walkability, bikeability, and safety of all road users, practical consideration of event days, as well as the overall active neighborhood feel is what Nashville should be aspiring to. This plan really needs to be on the table if we want to be serious about making Nashville walkable and bikeable.
  - Charlie Weingartner East Nashville resident on VZAC. Thanks everyone for coming out to Open Streets and the critical mass ride yesterday and gives a reminder for the next one on September 7th. Notes that he rode over KVB bridge tonight understanding was that there would be bicycle facilities in both directions but this was not the case. Both the sidewalk and bike lane were closed heading into town with no accommodations. He also notes that another pedestrian was hit on 3rd Ave at the greenway crossing on Friday evening. Emailed CM Kupin and NDOT leadership about it today. He states that this is a clear and present danger, and the burden



## **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION**

of duty lies on NDOT leadership to fix the issue. Stakes are high and we need leadership. Finally, he reports that the speed limit was recently lowered on Ewing from 40 to 35mph, which he does not feel is adequate. VZAC is going to address this issue and would encourage BPAC to as well. Per Strava data there are 3x the amount of bicycle journeys on Ewing than there are on 12th Ave S.

• Manaen Hall - Open Streets had a large section that was open to cars this time, which was really disappointing. Encourages improving signage and traffic control instead of making this a turnaround zone. Would echo reducing speed limit on Ewing to 30mph. Disappointed with the suggestion that we are floating ideas about doing something on 3rd instead of just doing something. There's an urgent need for action on this road - speed humps in front of the crosswalk, narrowing the road, stop sign. This is a dangerous place and the city is choosing to keep it that way. We need to do the alternative now. If people are going to continue to be injured and die we should close the road. City signed onto Vision Zero but has chosen to do nothing for months after a death.

## 6) Subcommittee Report Outs (20 min)

## a) Subcommittee Report Outs

- Rules, Process, and Reporting Katherine McDonell provided an update.
  The subcommittee met August 4th. Discussed agenda items for this
  meeting and also discussed appointing a member to serve on Multimodal
  Access Closure Committee. As of now, we are going to try to have one
  member rotate to attend each meeting. Carey attended August 14th. We
  also discussed nominating someone else to attend on our behalf if we
  cannot make it.
- Community Engagement and Outreach Courtney Ross is the new chair.
   The subcommittee met on August 7<sup>th</sup> and discussed working with NDOT staff on developing improved outreach/engagement and promotion strategy development for BPAC.
- Planning/Engineering Review Ashleigh Wilson brought up several
  intersections to be brought before the commission to ask about potential
  upgrades. Asking about potential for LPI's outside core of downtown Buena Vista and Trinity, Shelby and 10th. She also attended the Jefferson
  St study engagements that happened in July and noted that no one from
  BPAC or VZAC was on the advisory board or in attendance. Wondering
  how we should be involved with this. Also asked whether WeGo had been



## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION

involved in these discussions as well. She would also like the subcommittee to move forward with reviewing projects at the 30-60% design stage, but asked where we can find these projects and how they will be brought before the subcommittee for review.

## 7) Programmatic Updates

## a) Working Group for NDOT Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) Application – Brent Schultz (NDOT)

Mr. Schultz reported on the 2024 BFC report findings from the League of California Cyclists and the recommendations to improve our score. Mr. Schultz further recommended that BPAC form a working group to submit a new BFC application. Commissioner Garner, Commissioner Hertz, Commissioner Norris and Commissioner Wilson agreed to work with staff on a new application in June 2025. Mr. Schultz said he would reach out to the working group to develop a schedule for regular meetings.

## b) Metro Legal Presentation – Eric Haber, Phylinda Ramsey & Ann Michelson (Metro Legal)

Ann Michelson, Attorney with Metro Legal gave the presentation. She stated that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) is created by ordinance, Metropolitan Code of Laws (MCL) 2.153. That BPAC is purely advisory commission. BPAC duties include: promoting cycling related issues to the mayor, council and departments; coordinating with other commissions; working with local entities to encourage cycling; developing and distributing educational materials; and providing guidance to Metro regarding increasing micromobility, cycling, and walking.

She further stated that BPAC had responsibility to ensure that all items are discussed in open/public meetings. That conducting business at virtual meetings was not allowed under state law and all meetings must be in public. She also discussed the Open Meetings Act agenda item noticing regulations. Also discussed were Public Records Act and Roberts Rules of Order.

She discussed that all Metro commissioners are bound by the Metro ethics ordinance, MCL 2.222. That they cannot accept or solicit any outside benefit, privilege, exemption (gifts, meals, tickets) for you or your family/friends that might reasonably influence your commission work. Exceptions: food/drink under \$25 from single source in a calendar year; awards of trifling value given



## **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION**

in recognition of public service; tickets to annual fundraising events for nonprofits if tickets are gifted by that organization

## c) HUB Nashville Process – Erin Williams (NDOT)

Ms. Williams manages the Hub Nashville Process and explained to the commission how HUB requests are submitted and processed through completion. She noted that if a request is closed incorrectly, you can respond directly to the email to alert their team and they will look into it. She also noted that the hubNashville request dashboard provides data and trends for all requests.

## d) Bikeway Sweeping Update – JD Lane, Beautification Manager (NDOT)

Mr. Lane introduced himself. He is the manager of the Bikeway Sweeping program. He informed BPAC that both NDOT and TDOT sweep approximately 131 miles of buffered bike lanes (66 miles for NDOT and 65 miles by TDOT) and shared a map of the sweeping areas. Starting September 1<sup>st</sup>, these will all be swept biweekly. Demonbroomin is already sweeping protected bikeways bi-weekly and will continue to do so.

## 8) Regular Agenda

(No items)

#### 9) Administrative Updates/Next Meeting/New Business

Mr. Schultz shared that starting in September that BPAC meetings would be live streamed. Also discussed BAPC calendar for 2026. Only date change requested was Feb. 16, 2026 date to Feb. 23, 2026.

10) Adjournment – Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:30pm