



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

BPAC Regular Meeting Summary

August 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

NAME	REPRESENTATION
James Allen (JA)	Vice Chair, Orange County
Beth Bell (BB)	City
Courtney Dunkerton (CD)	Alamance County
Katy Jones (KJ)	Chair, At Large
Casey Robertson (CR)	City
Allison Tate (AT)	City
Ashley Ownbey (AO)	Development Director
Isabelle Christiansen (IC)	City Planner
Aaron Davis (AD)	Recreation and Parks Director
Franz Holt (FH)	City Engineer
Jospeh Moody (JM)	Police Officer
Chuck Smith (CS)	Public Works Director
Yanisa Techagumthorn (YT)	Nelson\Nygaard
Miranda Adams (MA)	Nelson\Nygaard

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PLANNER

KJ called the meeting to order. She asked IC to introduce herself to BPAC. IC said she is new to Mebane and the position of city planner and is excited to work with BPAC as she enjoys running and walking. Members then went around the table and introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

KJ asked if any public comments were submitted. AO indicated there were none.

APPROVAL OF JULY 7, 2024, MEETING SUMMARY

KJ said the July meeting summary had been circulated and asked if anyone had any edits or questions. JA motioned to approve the meeting summary from the July 7th meeting and CD seconded the motion.

A unanimous vote (5-0) supported approval of the meeting summary.

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATES

KJ indicated that FH would discuss some of the City's projects. FH summarized progress on the existing greenway project and shared the current estimated completion date of December 2024. He said this could change depending on what the contractors say. CS shared that he heard the project is ahead of schedule. FH said that the connection between Havenstone/Retreat at Lake



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Micheal and Lake Micheal Park will begin concrete work soon and that the existing grit trail between Lake Micheal Ct. and Kayak Way will eventually be hard surface as City Council included that in their most recent budget. He also noted that with the completion of the multiuse path from Stagecoach Rd. to Lake Michael Park, the City will have a good east-west connection and that you will be able to get all the way into town using sidewalks and the path.

FH then discussed the near completion of the parking lot at Woodlawn Rd. at Mebane Community Park. KJ asked if this would interrupt the walking path. CS said it would not and the lot was part of the original project bid. JA asked what will be done with the greenway at Saddle Club Rd. and Lebanon Rd. FH said there will eventually be a connection that goes all the way to the Saddle Club neighborhood, but it was only recently approved and is not part of the current project. JM asked how many street crossings there are along Lebanon Rd. FH indicated there is a visibility issue on some of the crossings. JM expressed concern that the speed limit on Lebanon Rd. is 35. FH said there are 3 crossings and an additional crossing at the intersection of Stagecoach Rd. and 9th St.

FH said the City is doing a good job of working with developers to fill in sidewalk and greenway gaps. AO agreed. AO mentioned the recent sidewalk completion along N 2nd St. FH said better prices can be secured by timing projects appropriately as they can be grouped in as part of the public works contract. FH mentioned the City's goal of securing an easement from Arrowhead Blvd. to the 5th St. Pocket Park. CS confirmed the Board approved and the City is working on the easement. KJ said this would make the route official and keep parkgoers out of the intersection. FH said there is a resurfacing project currently out for bid. AO asked for a list of the City's proposed sidewalk improvements to be sent to her and IC. FH agreed. KJ asked if there is an exact date for the greenway completion so that BPAC could plan an event. FH said it will be done sometime in December.

FY25 DISCRETIONARY FUNDS DISCUSSION

CS brought printed images of sharrows to pass around. He said 2 existing white sharrows on E Clay St. were replaced with a more visible painted green and white design. CS said that the sharrows on N 5th St. are thermoplastic, which is applied with heat and creates sharp lines. He shared that painting sharrows with a stencil is unsuccessful. CD asked how much they cost. CS said 4 sharrows costs \$1,062. Public works can now apply the sharrows themselves. CS said application is fast and that traffic can be back on the road within 20 minutes. He said sharrow application can be done now until November 1st and can resume in April.

CS then discussed share the road signs and said the typical cost is \$200-\$225 for one posted sign. However, Public Works already has some available. The signs they have are green. CS said there are some adjustments planned to the existing signage on N 5th St. JA said that in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, signs tend to say "bikes can use full lane" as "share the road" can be misinterpreted or ignored. Other members expressed agreement with this. JA mentioned BPAC had discussed making bike boulevards on 4th St. and 8th St with improved signage and sharrows.



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Discussion then moved to a potential curb ramp on N. 2nd St. near the Mebane Public Library. AO said this could potentially coincide with new development in that area. AT said this could be useful because she often walks there with a stroller. CR said lots of people park near there and walk for events. CS said this sidewalk is not up to standard and that an update of that nature typically costs \$4,000. JA asked why the project would be so costly. CS indicated that sidewalk and curb ramp updates are very site specific and require individualized discussion with the contractor. CD asked if it would be cheaper to extend the sidewalk and then add a curb ramp. CS said that is a more expensive option. He offered to get estimates for a curb ramp at that intersection.

CS introduced the idea of flexible crosswalk signs placed in the middle of the road. KJ shared that she recently read an article about these signs in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. The signs have not fared well in nearby towns as they are frequently run over. JA asked if signs could be made to break off and be re-installed. CS says S 3rd St. is owned by NCDOT so the signs would have to be breakaway. FH noted that the Fire Department has trouble maneuvering their trucks around such signs and that the best place for them would be crossings in the middle of neighborhood blocks. AO asked if there are any crossings like that on Corregidor. CS suggested a pilot study near the Mebane Arts and Community Center. AO asked CS if Public Works trucks would observe flexible crosswalk signs if placed there. JA inquired about speed monitoring devices he has seen around the City. JM explained these devices are enforcement and complaint driven and get moved around accordingly.

KJ suggested that BPAC should try to make discretionary funding decisions by September. KJ expressed she is not interested in delineator posts. JA indicated if the cost is low and there is a good location for a trial run, then he would support the idea. CS noted that any project on a NCDOT maintained road would require their approval. JA inquired about how long that would take. CS responded that it would take 2-3 months for an encroachment agreement. After looking at GIS and Google Maps, AO said that the crosswalks on Corregidor appear to be maintained by the City. CS agreed. It was decided that more research needs to be done to determine where NCDOT maintenance ends on Corregidor. CS shared that Public Works spends \$20,000-\$25,000 a year to maintain city sidewalks.

KJ asked JM for his input. He shared that sidewalks and signage are good ideas. He supports efforts to enforce speed limits as well. CS mentioned a previous BPAC project that included sidewalks and crosswalks around the City's athletic fields. JA asked if Public Works monitors wear on crosswalks. CS confirmed they do. CR suggested an artistic crosswalk as seen in other communities and asked about the application process. CS shared that Public Works had searched for a contractor willing to create colorful crosswalks. He said it was difficult to locate a contractor and was quoted to be very costly. KJ said a colorful crosswalk would be good in downtown Mebane. CS said it would be difficult to match the Mebane branding and colors. KJ thanked FH and CS for their time.

PRESENTATION ON THE ORANGE COUNTY SHORT- RANGE TRANSIT PLAN



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AO introduced YT and AM from Nelson\Nygard. YT presented about the proposed transit changes in Orange County. Specific attention was given to the proposed Mebane circulator route. MA presented engagement strategies and upcoming events around the county. After the presentation, AO explained the circulator route YT discussed aligned with what was included in Mebane's Comprehensive Transit Plan. She explained the route included downtown, shopping centers, and high-density areas, specifically apartments. CR inquired about the number of stops. YT indicated that there are roughly 24 stops, which may begin as just a post in the ground until capital improvements are made and stops include shelters and signage. YT noted that Cone Health, making use of the existing park and ride, will serve as a transfer hub for the area. CR asked if the buses would have bike racks. YT was unsure but said the smaller buses usually lack bike racks. JA was curious about what data Orange County is collecting and if it could indicate where bus riders are accessing transit services. YT said they are collecting zip codes but no other location data. MA said sometimes they receive feedback on intersections or locations with walkability issues, which may be the information JA is looking for. AO added that Orange County has said the new transit service could be implemented quickly once approved. She also noted the route could be adjusted based on community or City Council input.

FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

KJ brought up the Mebane Activity Challenge and said there had not been many participants so far. She asked the group how they could improve participation. She noted that past years have had an average of 25-30 total participants. CR asked what the end date for the challenge is. KJ said the last day is October 1st. KJ said reusing a lot of the same social media posts from previous years could be an issue. She also mentioned she had met with Mebane Main Street in hopes of securing gift cards for a participant raffle, but the idea was not executed. JA suggested posting about the BPAC stickers. KJ responded that the City had done so already, and AO pulled up the Facebook post to illustrate what marketing has been done so far. CD mentioned BPAC could run a newspaper ad, which AO acknowledged had been done in the past with the Bike Rodeo. A few members responded with concern that Mebane lacks a newspaper of its own. AO explained that the Activity Challenge is beneficial for new residents and suggested targeting them through posters in city buildings where people go to pay bills. CR suggested posting in various Mebane community Facebook groups as residents seem to be very active on such pages. CD suggested a social media push or posting flyers in gyms or apartment buildings. JA recommended giving posters to downtown businesses. It was decided that IC and AO would ensure Laura received some posters to distribute. CD brought up postcards to increase participation. KJ, citing low response rates from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan, said postcards aren't worth it. KJ suggested that the mayor do the Activity Challenge. JA said it could go on the City's YouTube account. Several members offered ideas on local figures that could promote the challenge, such as city staff, members of the Fire Department, and Police Officers.

The conversation moved to Autumn Fest and KJ said that BPAC would like a table at the event. AD explained that Autumn Fest would be different from previous years. He said the Mebane Business



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Association is now responsible for the event, but he will ask his connections if BPAC can have a table. AO indicated the City would also like a staff presence at the event for community engagement related to updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Therefore, she suggested a joint booth for BPAC and the City. KJ asked about the date, which was confirmed to be October 5th. She mentioned which materials BPAC should bring, including stickers, bicycle maps, and copies of the transportation plan. AO said a sign-up sheet for Autumn Fest will circulate soon. KJ inquired about Activity Challenge prize pickup. AO said that participants can either come to Autumn Fest or stop into the Planning office to see IC for their prizes.

AO introduced the idea of an event to commemorate Safe Streets Week and World Day of Remembrance. She said she attended an online session about Safe Streets and can get a toolkit if BPAC is interested. She noted that in the past, BPAC had talked about a group ride or event downtown. KJ offered the idea of a modified critical mass ride with kids. JA asked if KJ was thinking of the shorter route on the City's bicycle map. AO pulled up the route map. KJ mentioned that critical mass rides are typically not sanctioned by law enforcement but that the Mebane event could benefit from police presence or escort. JM recommended that. JA said the short purple route would keep riders off high traffic roads. CR agreed. KJ suggested a weekend event given the time of year. JA mentioned the timing of the event would coincide with the time change. JM suggested a Saturday morning event for low traffic and better police coverage. He asked for a few weeks' notice if BPAC wanted officers for the event. JA recommended that the event congregates at Holt St. Park. JM said that everyone could meet at the library. AO gauged if there was any interest in combining this event with another bike rodeo. JM said that wasn't a bad idea but that it might be hard to advertise with short notice. JA said it could be good to reach other neighborhoods since this event would be in a different spot than past bike rodeos. JM mentioned that the City could let BPAC use one of its parking lots. He shared that it's a transitional period at the Police Department and a new community engagement team is emerging. It could be good for those officers to be involved in this event. JM said it would not be difficult to coordinate with the Police Department on this event. KJ said she has been in conversation with the new Chief and is working on a time to meet with him. JM asked if the rodeo would be on the same day as the ride. KJ responded that it would be the same day because the ride will only take 15 minutes so it would be good to have other activities available. CR agreed that combining the events was a good idea. AO said that the Safe Streets idea came from the MPO, which may have more ideas the BPAC could consider including in their event. KJ said BPAC will need to have the bike maps printed. JA asked if the stickers on the table were all that BPAC has. IC indicated that those were all the stickers. CD suggested that BPAC create t-shirts. There was a consensus that BPAC will need more stickers, especially after Autumn Fest.

ADOPT-A-STREET PARTICIPATION

AO explained that the City is considering implementing an Adopt-a-Street or Adopt-a-Spot program and would like to know if BPAC is interested in participating. She specified the differences between the two programs. Many members expressed enthusiasm for this idea. KJ was curious



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about what spots or streets would be available for adoption. JA asked if any spots would be crosswalks. AO was unsure but would communicate BPAC's interest with Preston.

NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS

AO offered information about the NC BikeWalk Summit taking place in Chapel Hill in late September. She said she would send an email with additional information if anyone was interested. JA noticed one of the sessions is about Vision Zero and expressed interest in that. JM mentioned that the new Chief is interested in that movement and says he has been looking into it. He acknowledged that the City has been growing a lot and traffic is hard to manage. AO noted that the summit is 'pay what you can' so the commission can afford to send multiple people or send members for just one day if needed. JA expressed interest in some of the sessions.

AO discussed the updates to the comprehensive plan and the community engagement that goes along with that process. She said that the BPAC's help in getting the word out would be appreciated. CD asked if the City was still accepting applications for the advisory committee. AO indicated the committee had been set and that KJ is part of it. KJ shared that some meetings will be open to the public. AO said the first of these would be after Autumn Fest and that there would be online engagement opportunities similar to those used in the past. Several members seemed interested in participating in this process.

KJ said that discretionary funding decisions should be made at the next meeting. AO said she will share the sign-up sheet for Autumn Fest soon. KJ briefly mentioned the work on the mission statement and acknowledged the feedback received. She said BPAC should work on something design wise to communicate the mission at Autumn Fest, perhaps on the folding sign. CR offered to help with the design. KJ brought up t-shirts again as sometimes she gets taken for an employee while wearing City branded clothing at BPAC events.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Meeting summary prepared by Isabelle Christiansen, City Planner.