



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

BPAC Regular Meeting Summary
September 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

NAME	REPRESENTATION
James Allen (JA)	Vice Chair, Orange County
Katy Jones (KJ)	Chair, At Large
Jennifer Nunez (JN)	City
Casey Robertson (CR)	City
Shawna Joplin (SJ)	Parks Superintendent
Ashley Ownbey (AO)	Development Director
Isabelle Christiansen (IC)	City Planner

CALL TO ORDER

KJ called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 26, 2024, MEETING SUMMARY

KJ asked if there were any changes or edits for the August minutes.

A unanimous vote (4-0) supported approval of the meeting summary.

FY25 DISCRETIONARY FUNDS DISCUSSION

KJ said BPAC should make decisions on discretionary funding. She acknowledged BPAC needed some additional details after last month's meeting and shared that the August participation from Public Works and Engineering was helpful. AO shared the library curb improvement details provided by Chuck Smith. The project could be done in house if BPAC would fund the materials cost. The estimated cost would be \$2500 if completed by City staff and \$8000 if constructed by an outside contractor. KJ asked if \$2500 is just the cost for materials. AO confirmed.



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AO relayed that Chuck is obtaining quotes for signs with the new language BPAC proposed. AO said that Chuck has no objections to the new language and proposed to order new signs once Public Works has used all their existing signs. JA suggested that BPAC contact Chuck about the placement of signs and green sharrows. He said if the green paint was alternated in the lane, there would be better visibility. KJ said she noticed the painted areas were close together. JA gave an example of those driving north out of town who may not see the paint until the bottom of a blind hill. He suggested placing it before the hill so that those cresting the hill are more aware of bikes.

AO shared the cost for thermoplastic sharrows. The estimated cost for 4 sharrows is \$1100. AO followed up on the Corregidor St. questions from the last meeting. NCDOT maintenance limits end at about the cardboard recycling center near the back corner of the MACC. AO said there are some crosswalks on city-owned parts of that street so BPAC could test the flexible crosswalk signs there if desired. This option would avoid an encroachment agreement with NCDOT. JA asked if there would be any cost for this project. AO said Chuck did not provide a sign estimate but it could be found online. CR asked if this would be a pilot project and mentioned that increased signage would bring more awareness in general. JA said it would be a low-cost road diet that encourages people to slow down.

KJ asked about current bike signage levels and wondered when Public Works would exhaust their stock. AO shared an estimate for 10 of the 'bikes may use full lane' signs. The cost would be \$735. AO looked back at the August minutes to see if Chuck mentioned how many signs were left. JA said BPAC would use at least 3 or 4 on 8th St. KJ said it would be good for Public Works to have the signs in stock when needed and suggested BPAC go ahead with ordering them. AO asked if there were any spots where the 'Share the Road' signs would be of more benefit. JA responded that high vehicular traffic areas would benefit. He said an intersection downtown on 5th St. would be a good spot for signs and sharrows. He noted that BPAC will have to decide on placement to maximize impact. JA said that there are currently 2 on 5th St. and 2 on Clay St. AO stated that Clay St. will get more soon as the resurfacing project was approved by City Council. JA and AO clarified that those sharrows won't come from the BPAC budget.

AO introduced the idea of bike lanes and Burlington's green box test. JA said he liked the conversation but isn't sure Mebane has the infrastructure to make such a project worthwhile. AO noted that when she first started in Mebane, bike lanes were a big topic, and it was difficult to reach a consensus within the City. JA said the bike lane that goes across the bridge was made with good intentions but goes nowhere. He suggested it could be continued down Arrowhead Rd. and over to the bike boulevard.

KJ went through each proposed budget item and asked for objections. First, she mentioned the curb improvements by the library to make it ADA compliant. JA said this was a good project as it has been on BPAC's list for a while. Next, KJ discussed the sharrows and signs. She wanted to determine how many would be needed. AO pulled up a map of Mebane. CR said he wasn't sure what BPAC's priority is but that it should probably be bike traffic. JA suggested S 5th St. AO said



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that street is owned by NCDOT so improvements would be difficult there. AO pulled up a map of roads maintained by NCDOT. AO mentioned that BPAC might consider the greenway and how people would get to it. JA said Corregidor St. would be a good opportunity given the greenway. CR agreed that it's a big center of activity. He then asked about his street, Crawford St., and mentioned how narrow it is. JA said it could be a good option since it crosses 3rd and 5th. CR said the street is a big connector for the north part of Mebane. AO noted there is also a school and park nearby. Clay St. was also considered, with AO mentioning Charles St. and Wilba Rd. as other options for those travelling to the park or school. JA asked about projects south of the tracks. AO said the development on S 2nd St. is responsible for constructing a bike boulevard. JA suggested placing sharrows on Roosevelt St. JA said that for cyclists coming into town, McKinley St. is a good route and might benefit from improvements. KJ said there are a lot of cyclists there. JN asked if sharrows were intended more for cars or for cyclists. JA responded that they're more for cars. JN said there aren't many cars on McKinley. JA said for BPAC purposes, they can also be directional for bikes. AO said in the Bicycle & Pedestrian plan, Roosevelt was designated as a bike boulevard. KJ asked how much of the discretionary budget was left to spend. AO replied that BPAC has the full amount to spend. JA said they should purchase between 8 and 12 sharrows. CR and KJ agreed. KJ said more advertising materials could be beneficial, but AO said that can come out of the department's advertising budget. KJ summarized the recommendations so far and JA added the sandwich mission statement sign to that list.

AO listed the recommended items as 10 signs, the curb ramp improvement, the flexible crosswalk sign, and sharrows. She said planning will handle the sandwich sign and can provide City Council with a prioritized list of streets for sharrow application.

AO asked if BPAC wanted to prioritize improvements at S 8th to the greenway or S 5th to the Community Park. JA said he felt both projects have the same objective of connecting people to parks and schools. AO said both spots are close to the Mebane circulator route. KJ asked if City improvements would encourage improvements on DOT-maintained roads. AO said it's a slow process to get encroachment agreements so it may be worth starting now. JN asked for clarification about the term sharrow and how far apart they are placed. CR wondered the same. JA and KJ discussed the meaning of sharrows and what they indicate to cars. JN proposed that the sharrows go up Hawfields Rd. To McKinley and continue down the street. JA suggested they go in the middle of the block on McKinley. JN and JA discussed prioritizing locations based on traffic. KJ suggested BPAC keep equity in mind and think about the location of past improvements. JA said that Officer Moody has mentioned trying to reach out more into other areas of town and suggested it would be good to communicate that BPAC is building infrastructure there. JA asked if the City must ask DOT for permission to place signage on certain roads. AO confirmed this and said the City is going through the process right now on NC 119. JN asked if it's worth pursuing an agreement with DOT for S. 5th now so BPAC can make future improvements. CR and KJ supported the idea.



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The BPAC reviewed some of their street options and KJ asked AO to go through the list of recommended improvements before a formal vote could be taken. AO listed a flexible crosswalk sign, sandwich board sign, curb ramp improvements near the library, signage with updated language, and sharrow application of at least twelve sharrows. AO said a memo would be written and recommended to Council this fall. The recommendations were supported unanimously.

FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

KJ said there have been a few new Activity Challenge participants and that she'd be following up with Autumn Fest pickup information. She noted participation was lower. JN asked if the challenge was discussed on Mebane on the Mic. KJ said no. KJ suggested changing up the graphics for next year.

KJ said that a sign-up sheet was circulated for Autumn Fest. AO said additional volunteers from the Community Advisory Committee will be joining BPAC. KJ asked about ordering more maps, which AO said she could do. KJ asked for clarification on how the booth would be shared. AO said it would be split between BPAC and Comprehensive Plan engagement centered around the survey.

There was discussion about the sandwich board design and if the sign would be interchangeable or fixed. AO said it could be printed for now on the plotter but could be laminated or replaced with a more permanent version later. JA said he would like to see it designed with a watermark of the City logo. KJ asked if something could be designed and tested out on paper. AO pulled up the draft of the mission and KJ asked for comments. Nobody had any suggestions. AO said IC would take care of printing more maps and stickers.

KJ asked if Officer Moody should be contacted about the event on the 16th. AO confirmed it would be good to follow up. KJ summarized the event as a critical mass ride supported by police escorts so kids could join. JN asked if the event location was Holt St. Park or the library. KJ said she'd reach out to City police for more details. AO mentioned safe streets week and the potential for advertising and engagement opportunities associated with that.

ADOPT-A-STREET PARTICIPATION

KJ asked what street BPAC would be assigned. AO said it's in the works. She asked if BPAC had an interest in being the face of the program for the City. CR asked for clarification. AO said they could serve as an example to encourage other groups to join. CR and KJ expressed support of the idea. KJ said the greenway should be added to the list in the future. AO said she'd report BPAC's interest back to the City.

2024 NORTH CAROLINA BIKEWALK SUMMIT SUMMARY

IC gave a summary of what she learned at the NCBikeWalk Summit and offered to speak about the presentations in depth if any BPAC members had interest. She mentioned that she would be going



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to a walk audit in Chapel Hill the following day and was excited to apply that skill in Mebane in the future.

NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS

KJ said she had one item and thanked James for speaking up about the e-bike and scooter ordinance. She said she would e-mail Officer Moody about the November event, said the brochures and stickers would be printed, and reminded BPAC members to sign up for Autumn Fest.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Meeting summary prepared by Isabelle Christiansen, City Planner.