



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Agenda
January 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of December 21, 2020 Minutes
3. Greenway Update
4. Capital Projects & Budget Discussion
5. Better Block Trailer Check-In
6. 2021 Bike Rodeo
7. New & Ongoing Business
 - a. FY21 Improvement Funds
 - b. City Projects Updates
 - c. BPAC Member Transitions
8. Adjournment



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary
December 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

NAME	REPRESENTATION
Rebecca Brouwer (RB)	City
Sarah Elder (SE)	City
Matt Engwall (ME)*	City
Andy Lynch (AL)	Alamance County ETJ
Chelsey Morrison (CM)	Orange County
Sylvia Sichi (SS)	City
Cy Stober (CS)	Development Director
Aaron Davis (AD)	Recreation & Parks Director
Audrey Vogel (AV)	City Planner

Public Participation: Sean Ewing and Jason Smith joined the Zoom call.

** ME joined the meeting during the Better Block discussion. He was not present for the first two votes.*

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 23, 2020, MEETING SUMMARY

RB moved to approve the minutes.

A unanimous vote supported the motion.

FY21 IMPROVEMENT FUNDS – CONTINUED DISCUSSION

AO reviewed a drafted proposal for use of the improvement funds. The proposal is based upon action taken by the BPAC at the last meeting. AO noted the Public Works Director recommended budgeting \$2,500 for curb ramp improvements at a Jackson St intersection. She also remarked the request for benches will likely require input from the Manager's Office and City Council.

RB asked how the benches convert to a picnic table and if one person could convert a bench.

AO replied the website suggests a single person can convert the bench to a table.

AD commented the bench/table combo was the first option he found and better options may exist.

SS expressed concern about the longevity of the bench included in the proposal.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary
December 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

SE asked if instructions would need to accompany the benches to ensure it is known how to convert the bench to a table.

RB asked if possible to find a bench that people do not have to touch.

AD replied benches with a tabletop exist, but these might not offer back support. He suggested someone might be able to handcraft a bench for the City. AD remarked the proposal can suggest more of an idea than the exact specifications.

RB suggested the proposal not include a specific bench, instead including the BPAC's comments on not requiring too much knowledge of the user and longevity.

AD added the style of the proposed bench may fit best Downtown or near the dog park but might not be the best fit for the Cates Farm Trails. He suggested allocating dollars to benches and staff decides what goes where.

RB agreed and asked the BPAC if they were comfortable allocating funds and leaving the rest to be determined.

The BPAC agreed.

SS asked to increase the amount allocated toward benches to accommodate a better quality of bench.

RB asked if the BPAC still had \$1,500 to spend.

AO confirmed and added the line item for benches is \$2,000.

CM asked for trash cans to be included in the budget to accompany the picnic-style benches. She asked who would be responsible for emptying the trash.

CS responded Public Works would be responsible, though Recreation and Parks staff would be responsible for those located in their facilities.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary
December 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

AD remarked his Department is considering budgeting for benches and trash receptacles at Cates Farm.

RB suggested to review the budget and determine what is best for the BPAC to recommend, noting AD's comment that some items may be addressed in his budget.

The BPAC agreed to defer to staff to determine which Jackson St intersections are in most need of curb ramp improvements.

CS commented Public Works has crosswalk money, which the BPAC would be matching. He remarked staff is aware of the BPAC's priorities – crosswalks, then curb ramps, then benches. He asked for the BPAC to let staff know of any changes in those priorities.

RB suggested adjusting the curb ramp allocation to \$4,000 to allow for two full curb ramps.

CS added the curb ramps do not include the new sidewalk and would be retrofits.

SE made a motion to move forward with the proposed plan with the increase to \$4,000 for curb ramp improvements.

SS seconded the motion.

A unanimous vote supported the motion.

SS asked when the striping would occur.

CS replied he was uncertain. He felt the crosswalk improvements would likely be bundled.

RB asked if that meant the summer.

CS noted many of the crosswalks are high-visibility and the application of thermoplastic cannot happen in cold weather.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary
December 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

BETTER BLOCK TRAILER – CONTINUED DISCUSSION

The BPAC discussed their visits to view the Better Block Trailer, agreeing any use of the trailer for this first reservation would need to adopt a scaled-down approach.

Additionally, the BPAC discussed the need to use this time for a communication campaign and to socialize the community to the idea of tactical urbanism and demonstration projects. During the discussion, CS remarked on the need to coordinate with the NCDOT for certain streets (South Third, Fifth, Center, etc.) to receive any necessary approvals for temporary encroachments. The BPAC considered ideas for demonstration projects in the following areas:

- Cates Farm Park – AD recommended waiting since the primary connection is currently via a gravel driveway.
- Subdivisions near Lake Michael Park – AD referenced recent staff discussion of connections.

- AD commented on a proposed crosswalk across Lebanon Road to Lake Michael Park.

CS replied Lebanon Road is maintained by the NCDOT and an encroachment agreement would be needed. He suggested coordinating with the developer once an encroachment agreement from the NCDOT is received and the BPAC could then consider a temporary crosswalk. CS noted the timing would be an issue, with the earliest time for experimentation this summer.

- SS expressed concerns about visibility in the area, noting fears about the safety of a crosswalk without traffic calming measures.

CS provided an update on greenway/trail progress in the area, noting the Bike/Ped Plan is working. He commented a roundabout request was submitted to the NCDOT at the intersection of Stagecoach and Lebanon but scored very poorly and was deemed not warranted.

ME suggested a lighted crosswalk at the intersection, suggesting lights away from the crosswalk to notify drivers and asked about the expense of a hawk signal.

CS replied hawk signals are around \$400,000 and the roundabout was estimated at \$1 million.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary
December 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

- City Easements – ME suggested that using City easements might be easier for making something happen.
- Public Input:
 - SS suggested asking the Mebane community to provide input.
 - RB agreed and referenced ideas in the Bike/Ped Plan. She suggested this is a time to generate ideas and consider the opportunities. She asked if the City might be able to put forward photos or ideas to solicit input.
 - AD suggested the BPAC come up with a list of ideas and then post polls on social media or send out a brief survey, with write-in options.
 - ME cautioned that soliciting public input may leave the BPAC spinning its wheels. He referenced the public input gathered during the development of the Bike/Ped Plan.
 - RB asked if the public input was available for the BPAC to review and referenced newer roadway improvements, such as the bypass.
 - ME replied that recent NCDOT projects were not considered as much during the Bike/Ped Plan process due to unknowns. He commented much of the input was more general, such as increased connectivity, but problem areas are addressed in the Plan.
 - CS commented a public survey would be included with the planned, upcoming update to the Bike/Ped Plan.

RB asked the BPAC if they would be willing to review the Bike/Ped Plan and consider what things the BPAC might accomplish later this year with the Better Block Trailer. She also suggested the BPAC consider attending Downtown meetings in the spring.

The BPAC agreed to review the Bike/Ped Plan by the January meeting.

RB asked when the BPAC could reserve the Better Block Trailer for future use.

CS replied Mebane does have priority preference for the Better Block Trailer but is now behind any requests from Green Level and Graham.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

December 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

RB suggested returning the Better Block Trailer sooner.

CS recommended taking photos and videos of the Better Block Trailer before returning it to allow people to get an idea of what is inside.

SS asked if reservations for the Better Block Trailer are known.

CS replied no, noting Graham is likely to use it again in the spring/summer.

RB asked AD for any ideas about communicating about the trailer.

AD agreed with CS's idea to stage some photos of the BPAC using the contents of the Better Block Trailer. He suggested using video footage to create a time-lapse of project setup that would promote the trailer. AD commented he should be able to shoot the footage himself.

AL expressed a need to better understand the opportunities possible with the Better Block Trailer. He suggested a video would help both the general public and the BPAC better understand the capabilities of the trailer's contents.

RB referenced a link placed in the chat by AO that provides ideas for tactical urbanism and instructions for how to utilize items in the Better Block Trailer.

AD suggested completing the Better Block staging in January and getting a date on the calendar.

RB expressed her interest in participating and asked the BPAC.

All members of the BPAC indicated interest in participating.

RB indicated she would get everyone's availability for the Better Block staging and the BPAC would discuss ideas for future use of the trailer at the January meeting.

CS remarked that many tactical urbanism videos are available on YouTube.

RB recommended CS send any helpful videos.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary
December 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

SS asked if AO could reserve the Better Block Trailer for July and three months after to ensure the BPAC could have the trailer during warmer months.

AO said she would contact the City of Graham Planning Department and ask.

ME suggested scheduling the trailer to coincide with an event.

RB responded the next agenda item – the helmet initiative – is usually coupled with an event.

NEW & ONGOING BUSINESS

NCDOT Bicycle Helmet Initiative

RB reviewed the grant opportunity and described how the BPAC participated in the past (2018). She suggested submitting a similar proposal that includes a bike rodeo – with date flexibility due to covid – and pursues the same partnerships. In 2018, Burlington Pediatrics was the distribution point after the bike rodeo.

SE asked about the final report submission.

RB confirmed the report's due date is 30 days after the event. She noted the importance of community distribution if an official event is not possible. RB suggested a goal to have a bike rodeo in May, at the latest. She asked AD about the Dogwood Festival.

AD replied the committee was contemplating only having the golf department, but that is not official word.

RB advised planning something independent of the Dogwood Festival. In 2018, the event was held at the MACC with bicycle check-up stations along with a bike obstacle course for kids. She mentioned the possibility of hosting events at the American Legion building to be near the Community Park and reflected on the need to adjust plans to be covid-safe. RB asked CS about the City's approach to an in-person event.

CS suggested designing two approaches.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary
December 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

AD commented on the cautions used by the Recreation & Parks Department. He suggested at the very least helmets could be distributed in-person in May, though without some of the hands-on events. He suggested a drop-off/pick-up could be planned for the bike station and recommended still doing events but planning differently.

RB suggested writing the application with what the BPAC hopes to do at an event. She asked if anyone contacted Police Chief Caldwell.

CS replied not at the time.

RB indicated she was happy to contact Chief Caldwell and other partners.

SS asked about Burlington Pediatrics as a distribution point.

RB responded the clinic is more prominent in Mebane and serves lower income households, which is required of the application. She noted the clinic is a community distribution point, not just for patients.

RB asked if she should contact Chief Caldwell.

CS replied outreach by the BPAC Chair makes sense.

BPAC Member Recruitment

AO provided an update. One application has been received. Additional advertisements will run the first two weeks in January. The application deadline is January 19, 2021.

AD suggested using an online application through the Recreation & Parks software. He asked RB if this could be done for the BPAC. An email through the software reaches 1200+ people. The online application allows individuals to easily submit the application, even through a mobile device. AD suggested AO discuss with CS.

RB supported moving forward with an online application.

AO indicated she would check and follow up with AD.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary
December 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

RB reminded the BPAC that new members are selected by City Council.

AL asked when terms end.

RB and AO replied end of January, with the new member being named in February.

AL commented he would be stepping back at the end of his term and is happy to help with transitions.

City Projects Updates

AO reviewed the virtual engagement website for the Lowes Boulevard Corridor Plan and invited the BPAC to provide input.

AD provided an update on the progress on the Cates Farm Trails. He expects a small ribbon cutting to occur in mid-January and invited representation from the BPAC. For now, the trails are restricted to foot traffic. AD recommended members of the BPAC contact him if they want to walk the trails before the official opening.

ME commented on indicating if the trails are open/closed for mountain biking, if pursued in the future.

AD replied signage is being considered and the trails were designed with bikes in mind.

ME suggested posting information on websites and indicated he would share those with AD.

SS asked about the bypass project. Jason Smith asked about the crosswalks on Center after crossing the railroad tracks.

AO replied she would check with CS.

RB suggested discussing the updates at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting summary by Ashley Ownbey, City of Mebane Planner



AGENDA ITEM #4

Capital Projects & Budget Discussion

Summary

Staff has requested the following capital improvement projects be considered for funding in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (FY22):

- Third-Fifth Connector, Design
- W Crawford Sidewalk, Design
- N First Sidewalk & Crossing, Design & Construction
- S Fourth Sidewalk, Design & Construction

The Third-Fifth Connector Design and the W Crawford Sidewalk Design were recommended by the BPAC during last year's budget season. Additionally, the W Crawford project is recommended in the 2015 *Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan*, and the BPAC indicated continued support of exploring the Third-Fifth Connector during its August 2020 meeting. The N First Street sidewalk builds off the BPAC's recommended crosswalk at the intersection with Stagecoach/Mebane Rogers Road but is enhanced to provide a direct pedestrian connection to the First Street Pocket Park, an active Public Works project. The S Fourth sidewalk is an established need and was briefly discussed by the BPAC during the September 2020 meeting.

Staff requests for the FY22 operating budget have yet to be submitted and are expected to include updates to the *Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan*.

Potential Discussion Points

- Inclusion of additional capital improvement projects

Financial Cost

Project costs are described in the attached slides.

Suggested Action

Staff recommends the BPAC formally recommend the four capital improvement projects for FY22.

Attachments

1. Mebane Bicycle & Pedestrian Map – click [here](#)
2. Project Evaluation Slides – click [here](#)