



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

August 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

NAME	REPRESENTATION
Rebecca Brouwer (RB)	City
Matt Engwall (ME)	City
Katy Jones (KJ)	At-large
Chelsey Morrison (CM)*	Orange County
Sylvia Sichi (SS)	City
Jason Smith (JS)	Alamance County ETJ
Cy Stober (CS)	Development Director
Aaron Davis (AD)	Recreation & Parks Director

**Chelsey Morrison joined by conference phone.*

Sarah Elder had an excused absence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AO read aloud the following written comment from Brenda Adams of 1150 Hudson Drive, Mebane, NC:

Proposal for Installing Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) in the Intersection of Prospect / Foust and S 5th/119. [Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System](#)

The Unified Development Ordinance, UDO, states as its purpose "to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the City of Mebane"

Applying these 3 tenets, health, safety, and general welfare

- Traffic speed limit is 45mph on S 5th/119.
- Left turns from Foust to 5th create confusion as pedestrians attempt to cross 5th
- Mebane Towne Center, a mixed use development, will intensify numbers of autos, bicyclists, and pedestrians
- Villas on 5th geared toward 55+ residents. Wheelchairs, canes, walkers, as well as, slower gaits and reaction times
- Many residents in the Villas walk dogs once or twice daily
- Post Office is a short walk from Villas
- Bicycling to downtown on 3rd from Foust less traffic than 5th street
- Community Center
- Have seen an increase of bicyclists and pedestrians circling through the Villas from 5th. A light would enable them to cross safely
- The walk through Foust, Skyview, and 3rd is primarily shaded
- No traffic control system is planned for intersection



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A PHB is also in line with Mebane's Comprehensive land development plan 2017 (CLP)

- "2.1.1 Improve safety and confidence of pedestrian access across major streets, including I-40/85, US-70, NC-119, Mebane-Oaks Road and other highly traveled roadway"
- " Encourage more compact and walkable development to support aging in place, thereby reducing sprawl, protecting natural areas, improving access, promoting walkability, and reducing infrastructure cost and maintenance over time;"

Crosswalk lines are planned. State law says pedestrians have the right of way. Each year more than 2200 pedestrians are killed or injured by cars on North Carolina streets (watchformenc.org). Being proactive and installing a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) would warn and control traffic at marked, un-signalized crosswalk.

Kudos to BAPC for parklet construction downtown. Difficult as the pandemic has been, we have learned to embrace our open spaces.

Which brings me to another topic....

The property once owned by Bob Hupman off 5th has been sold. It is 15+ acres of woods and streams. This property has been used for years by the public as a greenway. It has also been utilized by the schools as a nature hike. Is this on anyone's radar to create a non-motorized park? Access from 5th to 3rd by foot or bicycle. Mebane's own little Central Park? Parking for handicap could possibly be worked out with the Baptist church off 3rd?

Appreciate your efforts,

Brenda Adams
1150 Hudson Dr
Mebane, NC

ME asked if a traffic signal was proposed at the intersection of Foust and 119.

CS replied a traffic signal is not proposed for the intersection. A high-visibility crossing is planned along with sidewalk. CS added a traffic signal will be installed at the London Lane intersection.

ME seconded Mrs. Adams comment on the ability to travel by existing sidewalk on Foust Road as opposed to London Lane, which has no sidewalk. He suggested a signal at Foust would be beneficial.

CS responded a signal warrant analysis would be required and commented on the costs and funding associated with a new signal. He mentioned a speed limit reduction would be something to achieve more quickly and reviewed the process for making the request to the NCDOT.



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SS remarked on sidewalk location and the planned crossing of 119.

The BPAC reviewed a map and discussed sidewalk and new development in the area.

JS asked if a traffic study was completed for the Villas on Fifth and if it included a signal warrant analysis.

CS replied he would look through the files.

RB asked if Mrs. Adams knows of the plans for a traffic signal at London Lane.

The BPAC discussed how a traffic signal at London may assist with pedestrian travel in the area.

SS expressed her support for recommending a speed limit reduction.

The BPAC discussed current and future land use in the area.

CS suggested the BPAC recommend staff ask the NCDOT to evaluate the speed limit in the area. He cautioned the NCDOT may wait until the 119 bypass project is completed before reviewing.

ME asked about a sidewalk from London Lane to Foust Road on the north side of S Fifth Street.

CS commented on the need to assess right-of-way and receive approval from the NCDOT.

APPROVAL OF JULY 26, 2021, MEETING SUMMARY

RB moved to approve the July meeting summary.

A unanimous vote (5-0) supported approval of the meeting summary. CM did not vote due to her absence at the last meeting.

OCTOBER BIKE RODEO CHECK-IN

AO reported Corporal Ward from the Mebane Police Department would not be able to attend the meeting due to a police call.



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RB reminded the BPAC of the bike rodeo scheduled for October 2. She reported on distribution of the bicycle helmets received through a grant from the NCDOT. The helmets have been distributed through Mebane Pediatrics and an event by the Burlington-Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The remainder of the helmets will be distributed at the Mebane bike rodeo.

RB polled the BPAC to gauge who would assist at the event.

KJ, ME, SS, and JS all indicated they could attend.

RB commented on the activities for the bike rodeo – bike registration by the Mebane Police Department, an obstacle course, and bike maintenance – and asked the BPAC members to indicate preferences for assisting with the different stations.

AD reported he has shared the event with the RPAC and will report back on any volunteers.

ME mentioned he could assist with bike maintenance and suggested the BPAC members serve wherever they feel most comfortable.

RB suggested the BPAC complete more planning on-site at the American Legion with Corporal Ward.

The BPAC agreed and briefly discussed the types of obstacles and skills to include at the event.

SS asked for the time of the event.

RB suggested either 11:00—2:00 or 10:00—1:00.

The BPAC decided on 10:00—1:00.

RB asked about marketing the event.

AD commented he would work with Planning staff to create a flyer for the event.

CS reported a traffic study is on file for the Villas on Fifth. The study was completed in 2016 when Mebane was smaller, and a signal at the subdivision's entrance on 119 was not found to be warranted.



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BETTER BLOCK TRAILER UPDATES

RB provided an update on progress on the Downtown parklet, commenting on the initial construction, planned painting of the palettes by MUSE, and adding the bike rack. She reported MUSE expects to be finished painting by the end of August.

The BPAC reflected on construction of the parklet and community reaction.

KJ commented on being more intentional early on with communication about future projects and asked for information about when certain aspects would be achieved, such as the addition of plants and painting to the parklet.

CS commented on work by staff to prepare informational material to assist with public engagement. He asked for a timeline from the BPAC.

RB replied she would coordinate with MUSE and report back to staff and KJ.

The BPAC discussed gathering during Labor Day weekend at the parklet for an official opening.

AD suggested arranging for a food truck near the parklet, remarking the Farmers Market and Makers Market will also be active on Saturday, September 4.

CM said she would share a list of food truck vendors with AD.

The BPAC agreed to meet at the parklet at 10:00 on Saturday, September 4.

AD agreed to be present and promote on social media.

CS added Planning staff would issue a press release.

ME asked why the mobile parklet from Graham was not used, noting safety concerns.

AD commented on the space required for the wheelchair ramp associated with Graham's mobile parklet.

CS added it was deemed the City having its own parklet was the better option.

The BPAC reviewed the online evaluation form for the parklet.

The BPAC agreed to use stars as a method for asking users to rate the parklet and to ask different questions to those with negative and positive reviews ("what did you not like" and "what did you like").



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The BPAC transitioned to the Ashbury project and discussed the type of paint and process to be used for the temporary crosswalks.

CM commented members of the Ashbury HOA may be available to assist with installation of the temporary crosswalks. She suggested yard signs could assist with alerting travelers in Ashbury of the changes along with Facebook posts and emails.

JS added general signage to be reused with other Better Block projects could be beneficial to the City.

AO reported on a conversation with the Ashbury HOA President and his efforts to recruit volunteers from the neighborhood.

JS questioned if permanent crosswalks should be pursued.

CS replied justification is needed for the number and location of the proposed crosswalks, remarking the Better Block project can better support justifying a permanent project.

KJ commented she will draft a post to give proper notice to Ashbury neighbors.

AO suggested staff could do more research and practice with different methods of painting crosswalks.

SS asked if the crosswalks would be the standard, parallel lines, or ladder/zebra-style crosswalks.

CS responded the two parallel lines would be simpler. The BPAC agreed and considered how final crosswalk design recommendations may differ from the temporary installation.

The BPAC discussed the logistics of installing the crosswalks and agreed to meet in Ashbury at 5:30 on Sunday, August 29.

AD asked KJ to draft a standard response to comments on Better Block social media posts.

JS suggested editing the end of the survey response to include a link to more information about the BPAC.



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AD agreed to provide materials from Recreation and Parks to support the installation of the temporary crosswalks.

CM suggested the BPAC meet at the gazebo at the intersection of Blue Lake Dr and Ashbury Blvd.

The BPAC reviewed the online evaluation form for the Ashbury project.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

RB suggested the BPAC provide general ideas of capital projects. If the BPAC decides not to meet in September, a more detailed conversation would occur in October.

SS asked why the BPAC would not meet during September given the ongoing projects.

RB replied the BPAC would be having intermittent meetings about Better Block projects and the bike rodeo, so the BPAC may not need to convene to discuss the items in September.

RB reviewed a comment she received from a Mebane resident for improvements on W Carr Street. A sidewalk gap exists at the entrance of E.M. Yoder Elementary beginning at the corner of N Charles Street.

The BPAC discussed the flow of traffic at the school.

AO reviewed W Carr Street is maintained by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and encroachment agreements would be required for installation of a sidewalk in the right-of-way. Planning staff has discussed the possibility of acquisition of an easement on the school's property, which requires further conversation with school representatives.

ME expressed concern due to the number of driveways on the property.

CS and RB commented on how individuals currently walk in the area and the safety concerns.

The BPAC discussed the ditch/drainage, unsafe conditions, and the sidewalk's location.



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RB commented on a project recommended in the Bike/Ped Plan on page 3-27. She asked about a connection from W Holt Street to the Mebane Community Park at Moore and Woodlawn.

CS discussed the submission of the project to NCDOT and the unavailability of funds for the current round of prioritization projects. He mentioned the change in connections for Woodlawn Road due to the 119 bypass project. CS commented the need has been recognized by the NCDOT.

RB asked if the project should be considered by the BPAC as a capital project recommendation given the previous request to NCDOT.

CS commented on complications caused by the crossing of the railroad and the North Carolina Railroad's desire to avoid pedestrian crossings in that area.

RB asked about the connection of the recommended multi-use path on W Holt Street and the 119 bypass.

CS replied there is no pedestrian access on the bypass at this time. He added the City Engineer has had reservations of a multi-use path along W Holt Street due to smaller front setbacks of older homes in the area.

ME suggested the BPAC review a dedicated bike lane from Fifth Street to the Community Park. He commented on making Ruffin a one-way street and incorporating either a multi-directional bike lane on one side or bike lanes on either side.

RB summarized the BPAC could consider the W Carr sidewalk and Downtown bike lane at the October meeting and advised further discussion with the City Engineer.

REVIEW OF NEW CITY WEBSITE & MAPS

The BPAC reviewed the new City of Mebane website and GIS tools, including the Citizen Problem Reporter.

KJ asked how the BPAC would receive requests for bicycle and pedestrian improvements through the Citizen Reporter App.

CS replied those would be routed to Planning staff, who would share with the BPAC, and/or sent to bpac@cityofmebane.com.

CS encouraged the BPAC to request website and mapping improvements to staff.

RB suggested incorporating bikeability and walkability scores.



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RB asked about posting the parklet opening and bike rodeo to the City's online calendar.

AO indicated she would coordinate those additions.

The BPAC reviewed how to set up the new City of Mebane email addresses.

NEW & ONGOING BUSINESS

The BPAC had no new business to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Meeting summary by Ashley Ownbey, City of Mebane Planner