



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

December 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

NAME	REPRESENTATION
Rebecca Brouwer (RB)	City
Sarah Elder (SE)	City
Matt Engwall (ME)	City
Katy Jones (KJ)	City
Chelsey Morrison (CM)	Orange County
Sylvia Sichi (SS)	City
Jason Smith (JS)	Alamance County ETJ
Aaron Davis (AD)	Recreation and Parks Director
Cy Stober (CS)	Development Director
Ashley Ownbey (AO)	City Planner

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER MEETING SUMMARIES

RB commented on absences for the October and November meetings, remarking only those members present could vote to approve the meeting summary.

KJ, JS, and SS voted to approve the October meeting summary, representing three of the four members present for the October meeting.

RB, SS, SE, and JS voted to approve the November meeting summary, representing four of the five members present for the November meeting.

BETTER BLOCK DISCUSSIONS

Recommendations & Next Steps with 2021 Projects

RB recapped the BPAC was waiting for recommendations regarding traffic calming before proceeding with previously discussed crosswalk recommendations for the Ashbury neighborhood.

AO asked CS to provide the BPAC with an update on the traffic calming review.

CS commented the City's department directors have been completing a technical review of the Better Block projects. The City will be contracting with Ramey, Kemp, & Associates (RKA) to complete a hot spot analysis to provide a professional opinion of intersection safety, accessibility, and traffic/speed conditions. The analysis timeline is approximately three weeks, but it is unclear when the analysis will begin.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

December 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

RB updated the BPAC on her request of local crash data for intersections in Mebane. She is unsure if it will be possible for the BPAC to have easy access to the data.

CS commented on Mebane's rapid growth and its influence on intersection crash data.

SS returned to the subject of the Ashbury hot spot analysis and asked if the consultants would be considering mid-block crossings.

CS replied the City can ask for RKA's professional opinion, though he was not sure how much more information would be provided beyond the assessment by Alley, Williams, Carmen, & King (AWCK). He suggested RKA provide a narrative opinion, with the primary focus remaining on intersections, speed, and volume.

RB asked about the independence of the BPAC's crosswalk and sidewalk recommendations and the consultant's traffic calming analysis.

CS confirmed the two are independent and traffic control is outside of the BPAC's role.

RB commented she wanted to confirm the BPAC was not waiting on the consultant to finalize a recommendation.

CS replied the data from the consultant could be helpful, though the BPAC already has other data to consider (AWCK assessment, survey data, etc.).

RB mentioned the timing of the BPAC making a recommendation to the City Council regarding improvements in Ashbury and the Downtown parklet. She suggested the recommendation may occur in the spring.

CS suggested the BPAC also has an opportunity to request capital funds now for the design of a parklet, with the location to be determined. He mentioned support from City staff, including public safety, and general support from the survey data, given a different design and safer location.

ME commented the BPAC may not wish to replicate the Ashbury Better Block project in other neighborhoods because of the introduction of temporary stop signs that are removed and potential critiques of favoritism for certain neighborhoods. He mentioned neighborhoods similarly designed to Ashbury, such as Governor's Green and Holly Ridge. ME



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

December 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

suggested that in the future the BPAC make a recommendation for a traffic study to be conducted instead of installing temporary measures like stop signs.

CS commented he will be requesting funds in the operational budget for future traffic studies at a neighborhood's request.

RB mentioned there was community support in Ashbury.

CM agreed and supported a channel for neighborhoods to submit requests.

RB asked if the BPAC would couple the recommendations for the Ashbury crosswalks and the Downtown parklet.

Members of the BPAC expressed agreement.

CM asked about the sidewalk gap in Ashbury.

AO commented the sidewalk project would involve community outreach, design, and construction, with CS adding the sidewalk would be on a different timeline than the crosswalks.

RB confirmed the sidewalk and crosswalks would be included with the same recommendation.

CS agreed.

RB asked for the BPAC's thoughts on review of the parklet data and ideas for moving forward.

ME suggested the parklet should be located on N Fourth Street.

CM asked about going down the hill on Fourth towards Ruffin.

The BPAC reviewed and discussed possible opportunities on N Fourth Street.

SS asked if making Clay Street one-way from Fourth to Third was completely off the table.

CS replied he did not believe there was interest from the City to make a portion of Clay one-way. He suggested it was a different project for discussion and would require support from others, particularly emergency services. CS mentioned Clay as a one-way street is not a recommendation of the Downtown Vision Plan.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

December 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

ME mentioned community members had commented on making a portion of N Fourth Street a pedestrian mall, which might be easier than a one-way stretch of Clay Street.

CS reminded the BPAC of upcoming updates to the Bike/Ped Plan.

RB mentioned survey comments regarding off-street spaces that might support the parklet. She commented on the space next to Muffin's Ice Cream Shoppe and asked if it was owned by the City.

CS replied it was not owned by the City.

ME commented on the early desire of the BPAC to avoid serving one individual store or use.

RB referenced other communities and suggested Mebane may considering a process of allowing restaurants to apply for parklets/outdoor seating.

CS reviewed the Downtown Exterior Improvement Grant and how funding from it might support outdoor seating.

The BPAC discussed existing outdoor dining on Downtown sidewalks.

RB remarked on survey comments citing safety and health concerns for seating near intersections. She mentioned she had considered a parklet location on Fourth across from Solgarden, but that would be at an intersection. RB commented the location of a parklet is not necessarily a bicycle and pedestrian matter.

The BPAC discussed possible mid-block locations for a parklet.

KJ commented on the importance of broader outreach if a new parklet location is considered, noting some business owners did not feel included.

CS discussed Mebane's involvement with the Main Street program and how it has progressed since the parklet was considered and installed. He suggested the City's contracted Main Street Coordinator could assist the BPAC.

RB described how this project could transition from a bike/ped project to a Main Street project.

JS agreed and suggested the BPAC could weigh in on the bike/ped aspects of design of a permanent parklet.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

December 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

CS commented on how the parklet project parallels with the BPAC's involvement in planning for the Cates Farm Park.

RB suggested she meet with the Main Street Coordinator, share the data, and review discussions by the BPAC.

CS supported RB's idea and advised the BPAC to still make a broad recommendation on the parklet.

The BPAC agreed.

SE asked if the BPAC would communicate the transition of the parklet from the BPAC to another group.

CS agreed.

RB mentioned she will be in a meeting with the Main Street Coordinator regarding the Mountains-to-Sea Trail in January. She suggested the BPAC discuss a recommendation after that meeting.

SE asked what would happen if the Main Street Coordinator does not want responsibility for the parklet.

RB suggested the BPAC would have further discussion if that occurred.

KJ mentioned the Main Street Coordinator responded to the survey and added the largest barrier to realizing a permanent parklet is additional Downtown buy-in, which would require work by the Main Street Coordinator.

The BPAC agreed a bike rack would be included in the parklet recommendation.

RB commented on the importance of shade and the influence of buildings. She confirmed she could share the survey results with the Main Street Coordinator and mentioned the amount of comments received.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

December 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Ideas for Future Better Block Projects

The BPAC discussed reservations with planning future Better Block projects.

CM suggested transition planning between temporary and permanent projects.

JS recommended asking for permission to allow the project to proceed for a certain period until it is provided “a thumbs up or thumbs down.”

RB remarked the initial three-month period was decided according to the ability to reserve the Better Block Trailer. She reflected the BPAC did not use much from the trailer and could consider a different framework for completing future projects.

CS mentioned the keynote speaker for the North Carolina Main Street Conference is Mark Fenton, who is knowledgeable of tactical urbanism, and suggested the BPAC may request staff to contact him. CS also commented on how staff may do additional research on tactical urbanism ideas.

ME commented he could not imagine a scenario where the idea of a permanent project is approved before the temporary project is completed.

RB suggested providing interim results.

CM commented on the importance of a timeline, adding a successful temporary project could be extended until a permanent project is realized.

RB asked the BPAC for any ideas for future Better Block projects.

CM referenced a recent traffic calming project in the Brentwood neighborhood in Raleigh that includes numerous curb bump-outs.

The BPAC reviewed the webpage for the project.

CS mentioned the Trinity Heights neighborhood of Durham where the street centerline is painted in a way to encourage traffic calming and only allow on-street parking on one side.

AO mentioned the Bike/Ped Plan includes recommendations for curb bump-outs on certain streets.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

December 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

RB asked the BPAC if it would be best to review ideas during the Bike/Ped Plan update process.

The BPAC agreed.

KJ asked about materials to use for temporary curb bump-outs.

The BPAC discussed other projects, such as sidewalks, that would be difficult to test temporarily.

KJ mentioned the signal flags for pedestrians using crosswalks.

The BPAC reviewed previously discussed intersections: Jackson and Fifth; Third and Corregidor.

ME and SS commented on how flags may be lost or stolen.

The BPAC agreed to pause on new Better Block ideas until a better review occurred with updates to the Bike/Ped Plan.

CS reminded the BPAC staff is available to research case studies if they have topics of interest.

KJ mentioned an idea discussed at a previous meeting for a temporary bike lane and one-way direction on a certain road as a way to build momentum or excitement about bike improvements in the City. She mentioned ME's hesitation with providing and then taking away improvements.

ME commented on the nature of the Better Block projects and mentioned the BPAC may have been out of its realm with the parklet.

RB remarked a bike lane project seems very much a BPAC opportunity and may come to fruition within the next year.

KJ commented on the differences between hosting an event with a temporary bike lane and applying more permanent fixtures like pavement paint and stop signs.

RB agreed and mentioned ideas for BPAC participation during a Saturday event.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

December 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

CM commented on how cones signal something is temporary and could also be used for bump-outs.

The BPAC further discussed differences between temporary cones and temporary fixtures, like stop signs.

END-OF-YEAR LOOKBACK

The BPAC reviewed and updated the Trello Board:

- Crosswalks on Fifth, Third, and Brown have recently been completed.
- A crossing of S Fifth (NC 119) at Foust is in progress by the developer of the Villas on Fifth.
- A crossing of N First at Stagecoach is bundled with the N First pocket park.
- Completion of a sidewalk on S First is to be included in the construction bid for the greenway.
- CS will ask about the Jackson Street bikeway, which was part of the original project.
- SS expressed concerns about the lack of warning for new crossings, particularly the crossing of Third at Corregidor.
- Funding is not currently available for NCDOT SPOT projects. Other avenues may become available, particularly with federal infrastructure funding.
- An environmental study is underway to support application for grant funding of the trails at Lake Michael Park. The grant application will be submitted in the 2022 cycle.
- Sidewalk and/or multi-use path connections to the Lake Michael Park entrance are budgeted for the current fiscal year.
- Stop bars on London Lane have been painted.
- CS provided updates on development activity providing connections – the ABC Store on US 70 will provide a sidewalk and wider multi-use path easement; a potential development near Collington Farms could improve pedestrian travel on Wilson Road.
- The BPAC reviewed projects submitted for consideration with the 2022-2023 budget year (E.M. Yoder Sidewalk; Third-Fifth Greenway Connector).
- RB provided an update on distribution of bike helmets. The Burlington-Graham MPO's (BGMPO) bike event was cancelled. Helmet distribution at Mebane Pediatrics has been going well and the BGMPO helmets will likely be distributed there.
- RB commented on how the Recreation and Parks Advocacy Commission (RPAC) Chair is attempting to coordinate a Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST)



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

December 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

under the umbrella of Mebane on the Move. RB will attend a meeting in January about the idea. RB mentioned it could be a roadmap for Friends of the Greenway.

NEW & ONGOING BUSINESS

CS updated the BPAC on the City's public process of revising the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Online engagement will be launched in January. UDO amendments recommended in the Bike/Ped Plan will be included with the revision.

The BPAC reviewed items to be discussed at the January meeting.

RB indicated the BPAC Chair position is opening in February. She confirmed the City Council will appoint two new BPAC members at its February meeting and encouraged BPAC members to attend the Council meeting.

CS asked the BPAC for ideas to better publicize the open BPAC positions.

CM suggested a master HOA list.

RB asked about a PIO for the City.

AD indicated he was not certain of the timing for hiring but the position is funded in the current budget.

SS asked about replacing the trails map at the E Washington/S Fifth trailhead.

AD replied it has been discussed. He described some issues accessing and editing the older map files. AD suggested the BPAC review at the next meeting.

CS commented the map could be completed using GIS.

AD commented on painting of the trail markers.

CS stated staff would provide an update and preliminary design by the next meeting. He and AD will work on getting pricing information for sign replacement.

RB remarked she could find volunteers to walk the different trails (Mebane Walks or BPAC members).



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

December 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

SS asked about adding information to the map, like public bathrooms and places of interest.

CS recommended discussing at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Meeting summary by Ashley Ownbey, City of Mebane Planner