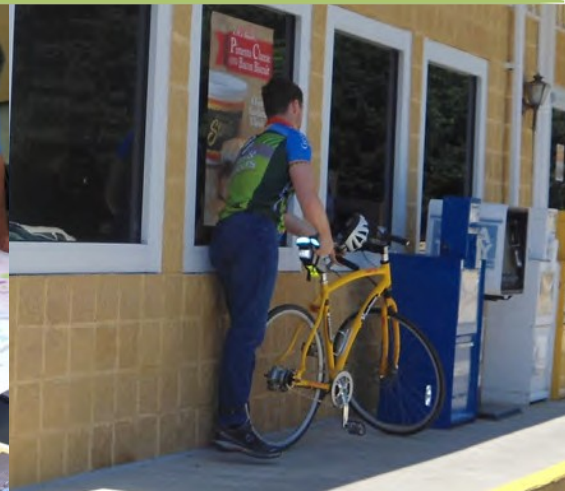


# CITY of MEBANE



## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION

*2020 Annual Report & 2021 Work Plan*







## 2020 IN REVIEW

Like the Mebane community, the Mebane Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) faced new and unexpected challenges in 2020. Events were canceled, plans adjusted, and in-person interactions limited. The COVID-19 pandemic altered everyday life, introducing stay-at-home orders, physical distancing guidelines, and virtual environments. Particular needs have emerged with these new conditions. Among them is an increased demand for public space and outdoor recreation. Public amenities like parks, greenways, and extended sidewalk space for outdoor dining have grown in importance as individuals spend more time locally in their communities and seek distance in large and open environments. Progress toward realizing the connected Mebane envisioned in the *Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan* has become all the more necessary.

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*The City of Mebane will be a clean, connected, healthy, and active community where residents and visitors can experience nature, enjoy exercising, and travel safely by foot or by bicycle to local businesses, services, and schools.*

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## BPAC Members & Meetings

2020 included staff and membership changes for the BPAC. In February, the BPAC welcomed a new City delegate – Matt Engwall. Later in the fall, the BPAC requested an amendment to the BPAC Ordinance to change the City Council delegate position to a seat for another Mebane resident. In November, the City Council voted in favor of the ordinance amendment thus allowing all seven BPAC positions to be filled by residents of the City and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) in the coming year. During 2020, the BPAC also welcomed two new members of the Mebane Planning & Zoning Department. Ashley Ownbey, designated staff to the BPAC, and Audrey Vogel joined the City of Mebane as planners.

### 2020 BPAC Members

Rebecca Brouwer, Chair	City
Sarah Elder	City
Matt Engwall	City
Andy Lynch, Vice-Chair	Alamance County ETJ
Chelsey Morrison	Orange County
Patty Philipps	Council Delegate
Sylvia Sichi	City



The BPAC held nine regular meetings during 2020, with most of those meetings occurring virtually. The BPAC began the year recommending capital projects. One project – the Jackson Street sidewalk and bike boulevard - was supported for funding in the 2020-2021 budget. The adopted budget also included support for the MACC-Holt Street Greenway and the Cates Farm Trails. Other primary discussion points during BPAC meetings included:

- Designing yard signs to promote bicycle awareness and safety
- Coordinating crosswalk and curb ramp improvements with the resurfacing schedule for City streets
- Exploring the Better Block Trailer and brainstorming tactical urbanism project ideas<sup>1</sup>

## 2020 Accomplishments

### PROJECTS

**Cates Farm Trails** – substantial progress was made on trail loops at Cates Farm Park.

**Crosswalks** – the encroachment agreement process began for installation of important crossings of NCDOT-maintained streets.

**Greenway Progress** – initial design of the MACC-Holt St Greenway was completed, and the City began acquiring easements and permits.

**Jackson Street** – design of sidewalk and bicycle improvements for Jackson St was completed and construction funding approved.

### PROMOTION & PROGRAMS

**#mebaneoutdoors** – the BPAC designed, distributed, and displayed yard signs to promote bicycle safety and awareness.

**Better Block Trailer** – the BPAC began exploring the Better Block Trailer and brainstorming ways to test ideas through tactical urbanism.<sup>1</sup>

### POLICIES

**Policy Updates** – the BPAC continued to support Planning staff in upcoming efforts to update the *Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan* and amend the Unified Development Ordinance.

<sup>1</sup> Tactical urbanism refers to low-cost, temporary projects used to explore and test long-term changes to the built environment. Check out [this video](#) of a project in Southport, NC to learn more.



## 2021 WORK PLAN

### Projects

The BPAC is recommending the City Council engage four capital projects in the coming fiscal year:

- Design and construction of a sidewalk and crossing of N First to improve pedestrian and bicycle connections to the N First Pocket Park
- Design of sidewalk and bicycle improvements on W Crawford to promote Downtown connectivity and connections to E.M. Yoder Elementary
- Design and construction of sidewalk on S Fourth to address existing sidewalk gaps and promote connectivity
- Design of the Third-Fifth Greenway Connector to facilitate connections to South Mebane Elementary and the MACC-Holt St Greenway

The BPAC will continue to evaluate where safe crossings are needed and coordinate with staff to pursue them. Additionally, the BPAC will consider how the MACC-Holt St Greenway can be further enhanced.





## Promotion & Programs

The BPAC plans to implement tactical urbanism projects in the summer/fall of 2021 by using the Better Block Trailer. Throughout the process, the BPAC will seek input and guidance from the Mebane community as to where and how projects should occur. Use of the Better Block Trailer will allow the BPAC to evaluate the temporary, demonstration projects and use the evaluation to guide future consideration of permanent infrastructure and improvements.

The BPAC hopes conditions will allow for a bike rodeo or similar event in 2021, to allow distribution of 100 bike helmets awarded through a grant from the NCDOT. The yard signs created in 2020 can be promoted further in 2021. Additionally, potential exists for the expansion of the #mebaneoutdoors campaign, such as through updates to existing urban trail maps and promotion of the three bike boulevards realized in 2019 (N Charles, N Fifth, and Clay).

The BPAC looks forward to working alongside new and emerging City boards and commissions. In particular, the BPAC sees an opportunity to engage with the Recreation and Parks Advocacy Commission (RPAC) to explore and advocate for continued enhancement of the trail networks at Lake Michael and Cates Farm Parks.

## Policies

The BPAC will support efforts to update the *Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan*, which was originally adopted in 2015, and advise on relevant amendments to the Mebane Unified Development Ordinance. Both activities are expected to occur during FY22.



City of Mebane  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission  
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